

# B0600: Speech Clarity

## B0600. Speech Clarity

Enter Code

☐

Select best description of speech pattern

0. **Clear speech** - distinct intelligible words
1. **Unclear speech** - slurred or mumbled words
2. **No speech** - absence of spoken words

## Item Rationale

### Health-related Quality of Life

Unclear speech or absent speech can hinder communication and be very frustrating to an individual.

Unclear **speech or absent speech can result in physical and psychosocial needs not being met and can contribute to depression and social isolation.**

### Planning for Care

If speech is absent or is not clear enough for the resident to make needs known, other methods of communication should be explored.

Lack of speech clarity or ability to speak should not be mistaken for cognitive impairment.

## DEFINITION

### SPEECH

The verbal expression of  
~~articulate words~~

## Steps for Assessment

Listen to the resident.

Ask primary assigned caregivers about the resident's speech pattern.

Review the medical record.

## B0600: Speech Clarity (cont.)

Determine the quality of the resident's speech, not the content or appropriateness—just words spoken.

### Coding Instructions

**Code 0, clear speech:** if the resident usually utters distinct, intelligible words.

**Code 1, unclear speech:** if the resident usually utters slurred or mumbled words.

**Code 2, no speech:** if there is an absence of spoken words.