

## 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

1. Listen to the resident.
2. Ask primary assigned caregivers about the resident's speech pattern.
3. Review the medical record.

## B0600: Speech Clarity (cont.)

4. 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.