

# B0800: Ability to Understand Others

## B0800. Ability To Understand Others

Enter Code

**Understanding verbal content, however able** (with hearing aid or device if used)

0. **Understands** - clear comprehension
1. **Usually understands** - misses some part/intent of message **but** comprehends most conversation
2. **Sometimes understands** - responds adequately to simple, direct communication only
3. **Rarely/never understood**

## B0800: Ability to Understand Others (cont.)

### Item Rationale

#### Health-related Quality of Life

- Inability to understand direct person-to-person communication
  - Can severely limit association with others.
  - Can inhibit the individual's ability to follow instructions that can affect health and safety.

#### Planning for Care

- Thorough assessment to determine underlying cause or causes is critical in order to develop a care plan to address the individual's specific deficits and needs.
- Every effort should be made by the facility to provide information to the resident in a consistent manner that they understand based on an individualized assessment.

#### DEFINITION

##### ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND OTHERS

Comprehension of direct person-to-person communication whether spoken, written, or in sign language or Braille. Includes the resident's ability to process and understand language. Deficits in one's ability to understand (receptive communication deficits) can involve declines in hearing, comprehension (spoken or written) or recognition of facial expressions.

### Steps for Assessment

1. Assess in the resident's preferred language or preferred method of communication.
2. If the resident uses a hearing aid, hearing device or other communications enhancement device, the resident should use that device during the evaluation of the resident's understanding of person-to-person communication.
3. Interact with the resident and observe their understanding of other's communication.
4. Consult with direct care staff over all shifts, if possible, the resident's family, and speech-language pathologist (if involved in care).
5. Review the medical record for indications of how well the resident understands others.

### Coding Instructions

- **Code 0, understands:** if the resident clearly **comprehends** the message(s) and demonstrates comprehension by words or actions/behaviors.
- **Code 1, usually understands:** if the resident misses some part or intent of the message **but** comprehends most of it. The resident may have periodic difficulties integrating information but generally demonstrates comprehension by responding in words or actions.
- **Code 2, sometimes understands:** if the resident demonstrates frequent difficulties integrating information, and responds adequately only to simple and direct questions or

## B0800: Ability to Understand Others (cont.)

instructions. When staff rephrase or simplify the message(s) and/or use gestures, the resident's comprehension is enhanced.

- **Code 3, rarely/never understands:** if the resident demonstrates very limited ability to understand communication. Or, if staff have difficulty determining whether or not the resident comprehends messages, based on verbal and nonverbal responses. Or, the resident can hear sounds but does not understand messages.