Section L
Oral/ Dental Status

Objectives

At the conclusion of this unit, the student will be able to:

- State the intent of Section L Oral/ Dental Status.
- Describe the steps for the oral assessment.
- Code Section L correctly and accurately.

Methodology

This lesson uses lecture and a video.

Training Resources

- Instructor Guide
- Slides 1 to 12

Instructor Preparation

- Review the Instructor Guide.
- Review learning objectives for the lesson.
- Rehearse with slide presentation and video.

SLIDES	INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDANCE

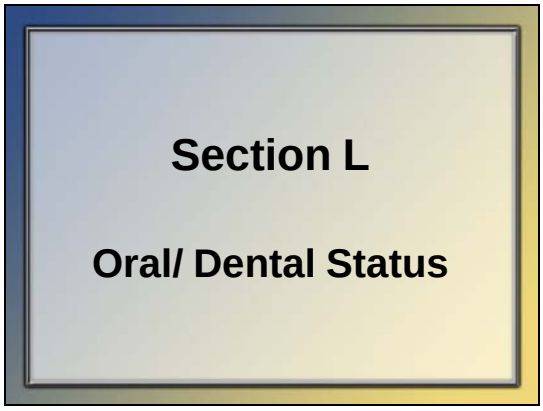
Instructor Notes

Notes

Direct participants to turn to Section L in the MDS 3.0 instrument.

Notes

Instructor Notes

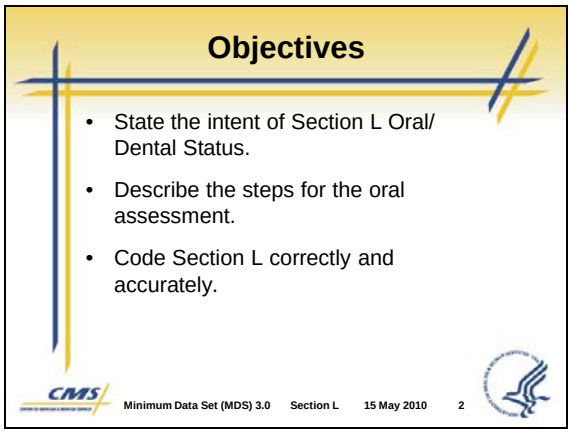


Slide 1

I. Section L Oral/ Dental Status

A. Section L addresses oral and dental status issues for the resident.

B. This section has been revised in collaboration with the American Dental Association and the Special Care Dentistry Association to enhance the evaluation of any oral and dental issues a resident may be experiencing.

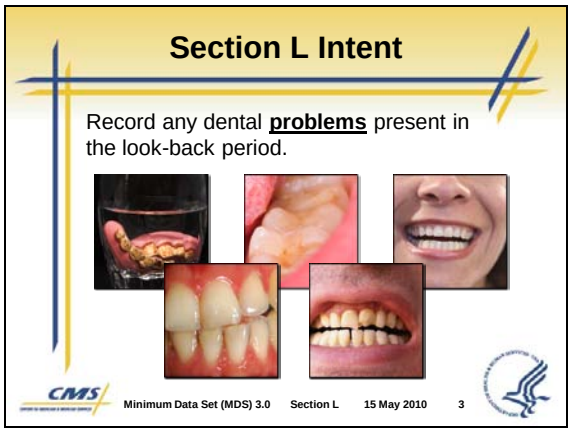


Slide 2

C. Objectives

1. State the intent of Section L Oral/ Dental Status.
2. Describe the steps for the oral assessment.
3. Code Section L correctly and accurately.

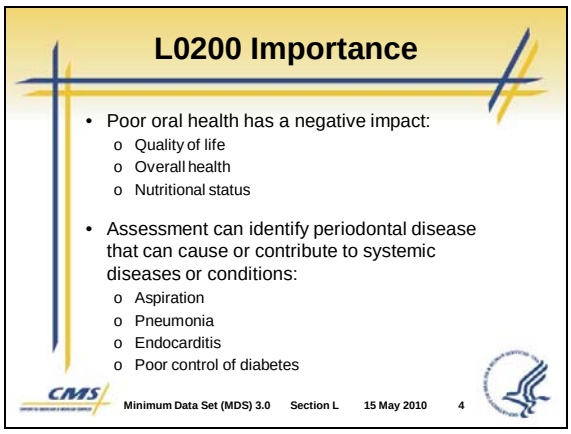
SLIDES	INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDANCE



Slide 3

D. Section L Intent

1. This assessment is a screening for dental and oral problems.
2. The intent of this section is to record any dental **problems** present in the look-back period.
3. This section does not document whether a resident has dentures, partials, or any other dental appliances.
4. The assessment for this section is not intended to replace regular dental examinations and care.
5. Any problems identified are to be referred for further evaluation as needed by the appropriate professional.

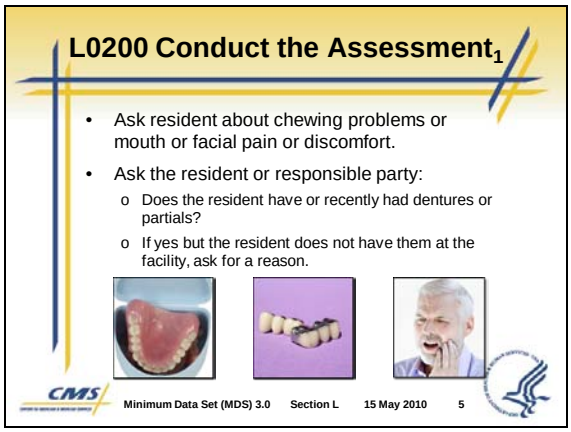


Slide 4

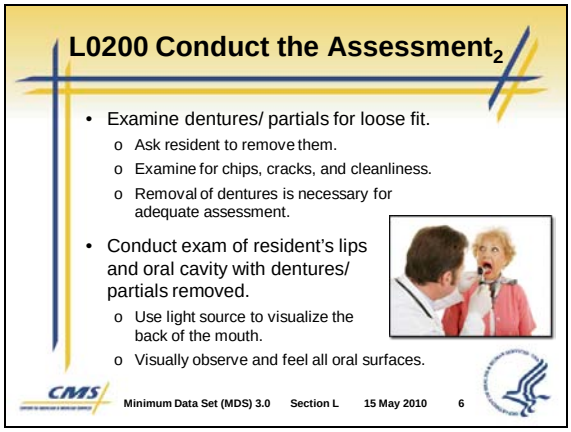
E. L0200 Importance

1. Poor oral health has a negative impact on:
   a. Quality of life
   b. Overall health
   c. Nutritional status
2. Assessment can identify periodontal disease that can contribute to or cause systemic diseases or conditions:
   a. Aspiration
   b. Pneumonia
   c. Endocarditis
   d. Poor control of diabetes

SLIDES



Slide 5



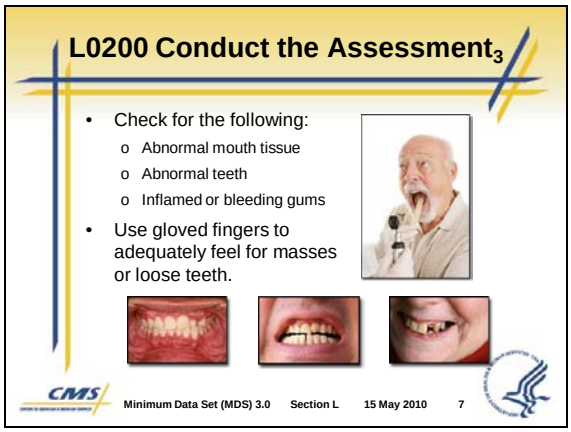
Slide 6

INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDANCE

F. L0200 Conduct the Assessment

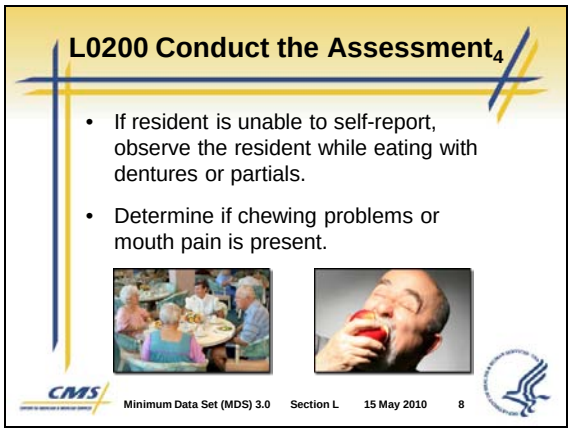
1. Ask resident about the presence of chewing problems or mouth or facial pain/discomfort.
2. Ask the resident or a responsible party whether the resident has or recently had dentures or partials.
3. If resident or family reports the resident has dentures or partials but does not have them in the facility, ask for a reason.
4. If resident has dentures or partials:
   a. Examine for loose fit.
   b. Ask resident to remove them.
   c. Examine for chips, cracks, and cleanliness.
   d. Removal of dentures and/or partials is necessary for an adequate assessment.
5. Conduct exam of resident's lips and oral cavity with dentures or partials removed.
   a. Use a light source that is adequate to visualize the back of the mouth.
   b. Visually observe and feel all oral surfaces.
      - Lips
      - Gums
      - Tongue
      - Palate
      - Mouth floor
      - Cheek lining

SLIDES	INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDANCE



Slide 7

6. Check for the following:
   a. Abnormal mouth tissue
   b. Abnormal teeth
   c. Inflamed or bleeding gums
7. The assessor should use his or her gloved fingers to adequately feel for masses or loose teeth.



Slide 8

8. If the resident is unable to self-report, then observe him or her while eating with dentures or partials, if indicated.
9. Determine if chewing problems or mouth pain are present.

Instructor Notes

Notes

Cavity

A tooth with a discolored hole or area of decay that may have debris in it.

Notes

Instructor Notes

Instructor Notes

Notes

Broken Natural Teeth or Tooth Fragment

Very large cavity, tooth broken off or decayed to gum line, or broken teeth (from fall or trauma).

Notes

Instructor Notes

Instructor Notes

Notes

Oral Lesions

A discolored area of tissue (red, white, yellow, or darkened) on the lips, gums, tongue, palate, cheek lining, or throat.

Notes

Instructor Notes

SLIDES	INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDANCE

Instructor Notes

Oral Mass

A swollen or raised lump, bump, or nodule on any oral surface. May be hard or soft and with or without pain.

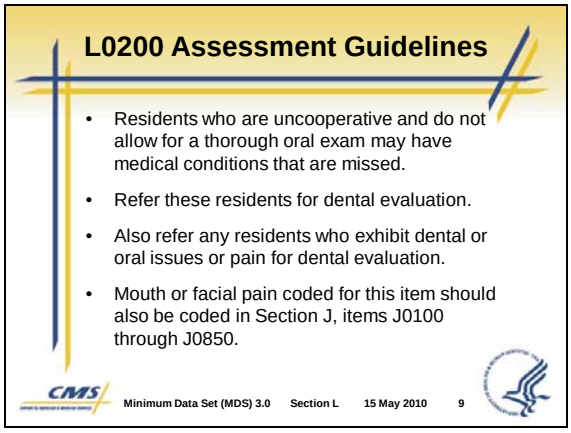
Instructor Notes

Instructor Notes

Ulcer

Mouth sore, blister, or eroded area of tissue on any oral surface.

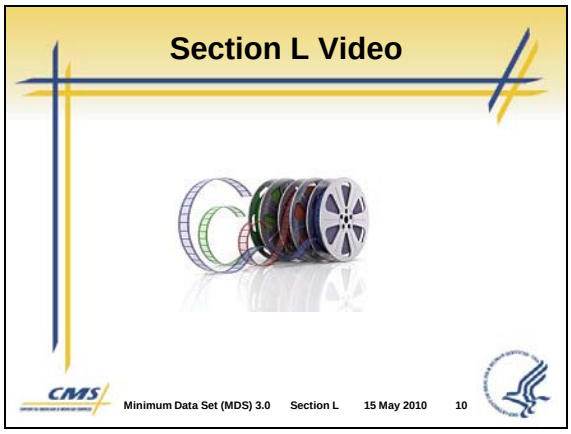
Instructor Notes



Slide 9

G. L0200 Assessment Guidelines

1. Residents who are uncooperative and do not allow for a thorough oral exam may have medical conditions missed.
2. Consider referral for dental evaluation for these residents.
3. Mouth or facial pain coded for this item may need to be coded in Section J, items J0100 through J0850.

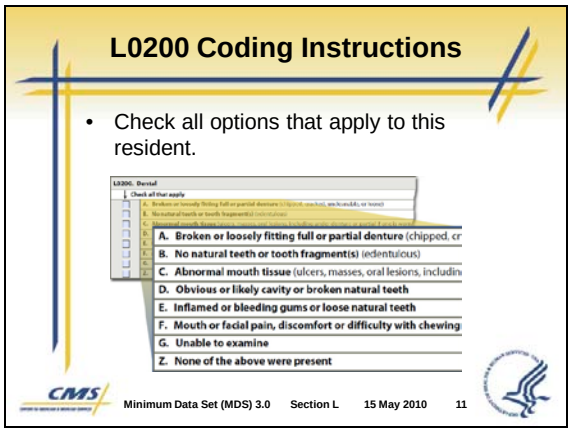


Slide 10

H. Section L Video

1. Play Section L Video.

SLIDES



Slide 11

INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDANCE

I. L0200 Coding Instructions

1. Check all options that apply to this resident.

- **L0200A. Broken or loosely fitting full or partial denture** (chipped, cracked, uncleanable, or loose)
- **L0200B. No natural teeth or tooth fragment(s)** (edentulous)
- **L0200C. Abnormal mouth tissue** (ulcers, masses, oral lesions including under denture or partial if one is worn)
- **L0200D. Obvious or likely cavity or broken natural teeth**
- **L0200E. Inflamed or bleeding gums or loose natural teeth**
- **L0200F. Mouth or facial pain or discomfort with chewing**
- **L0200 G. Unable to examine**
- **L0200 Z. None of the above**

SLIDES **INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDANCE**

Instructor Notes

Detailed Coding Instructions for L0200

Check all that apply.

- **L0200A. Broken or loosely fitting full or partial denture**

  If the denture or partial is chipped cracked, uncleanable, or loose.

  A denture is coded as loose if the resident complains that it is loose, the denture visibly moves when the resident opens his or her mouth, or the denture moves when the resident tries to talk.

- **L0200B. No natural teeth or tooth fragment(s) (edentulous)**

  If the resident is edentulous or lacks all natural teeth or parts of teeth.

- **L0200C. Abnormal mouth tissue (ulcers, masses, oral lesions)**

  Select if any ulcer, mass, or oral lesion is noted on any oral surface.

- **L0200D. Obvious or likely cavity or broken natural teeth**

  If any cavity or broken tooth is seen.

- **L0200E. Inflamed or bleeding gums or loose natural teeth**

  If gums appear irritated, red, swollen, or bleeding. Teeth are coded as loose if they readily move when light pressure is applied with a fingertip.

- **L0200F. Mouth or facial pain or discomfort with chewing**

  If the resident reports any pain in the mouth or face, or discomfort with chewing.

- **L0200 G, unable to examine**

  If the resident's mouth cannot be examined.

- **L0200 Z, none of the above**

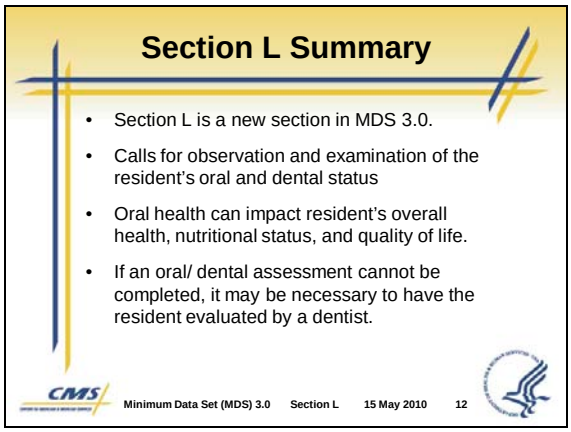
  If none of conditions A through F is present.

Instructor Notes

Notes

Notes

SLIDES	INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDANCE



Slide 12

II. Section L Summary

A. Section L is a new section.

B. It calls for observation and examination of the resident's oral and dental status.

C. Oral health can impact resident's overall health, nutritional status, and quality of life.

D. If an oral/dental assessment cannot be completed, it may be necessary to have the resident evaluated by a dentist.