Section L

Oral/ Dental Status
Objectives

• State the intent of Section L Oral/Dental Status.

• Describe the steps for the oral assessment.

• Code Section L correctly and accurately.
Section L Intent

Record any dental **problems** present in the look-back period.
L0200 Importance

• Poor oral health has a negative impact:
  o Quality of life
  o Overall health
  o Nutritional status

• Assessment can identify periodontal disease that can cause or contribute to systemic diseases or conditions:
  o Aspiration
  o Pneumonia
  o Endocarditis
  o Poor control of diabetes
L0200 Conduct the Assessment

- Ask resident about chewing problems or mouth or facial pain or discomfort.

- Ask the resident or responsible party:
  - Does the resident have or recently had dentures or partials?
  - If yes but the resident does not have them at the facility, ask for a reason.
L0200 Conduct the Assessment

- Examine dentures/partial for loose fit.
  - Ask resident to remove them.
  - Examine for chips, cracks, and cleanliness.
  - Removal of dentures is necessary for adequate assessment.

- Conduct exam of resident’s lips and oral cavity with dentures/partial removed.
  - Use light source to visualize the back of the mouth.
  - Visually observe and feel all oral surfaces.
L0200 Conduct the Assessment

- Check for the following:
  - Abnormal mouth tissue
  - Abnormal teeth
  - Inflamed or bleeding gums

- Use gloved fingers to adequately feel for masses or loose teeth.
L0200 Conduct the Assessment

- If resident is unable to self-report, observe the resident while eating with dentures or partials.
- Determine if chewing problems or mouth pain is present.
L0200 Assessment Guidelines

- Residents who are uncooperative and do not allow for a thorough oral exam may have medical conditions that are missed.

- Refer these residents for dental evaluation.

- Also refer any residents who exhibit dental or oral issues or pain for dental evaluation.

- Mouth or facial pain coded for this item should also be coded in Section J, items J0100 through J0850.
L0200 Coding Instructions

- Check all options that apply to this resident.

- A. Broken or loosely fitting full or partial denture (chipped, cracked, uncleanable, or loose)
- B. No natural teeth or tooth fragment(s) (edentulous)
- C. Abnormal mouth tissue (ulcers, masses, oral lesions, including under denture or partial if one is worn)
- D. Obvious or likely cavity or broken natural teeth
- E. Inflamed or bleeding gums or loose natural teeth
- F. Mouth or facial pain, discomfort or difficulty with chewing
- G. Unable to examine
- Z. None of the above were present
Section L Summary

- Section L is a new section in MDS 3.0.
- Calls for observation and examination of the resident’s oral and dental status.
- Oral health can impact resident’s overall health, nutritional status, and quality of life.
- If an oral/dental assessment cannot be completed, it may be necessary to have the resident evaluated by a dentist.