

Brief Interview for Mental Status (BIMS): Clinician Guide

Introduce the interview: “I would like to ask you some questions. We ask everyone these same questions. This will help us provide you with better care. Some of the questions may seem very easy, while others may be more difficult. We ask these questions of everyone so we can make sure that our care will meet your needs.”

NOTE: If the resident’s primary method of communication is in written format, the [BIMS can be administered in writing](#).

Repetition of Three Words: “I am going to say three words for you to remember. Please repeat the words after I have said all three. The words are: sock, blue, and bed.” Immediately after presenting the three words, say to the resident: “Now please tell me the three words.”

Number of words repeated after **FIRST** attempt: None One Two Three

- If the resident **correctly stated** all three words, say, “That’s right, the words are sock, something to wear; blue, a color; and bed, a piece of furniture”
- If the resident recalled two or fewer words, say to the resident: “Let me say the three words again. They are sock, something to wear; blue, a color; and bed, a piece of furniture. Now tell me the three words.”
 - If the resident still does not recall all three words correctly, you may repeat the words and category cues one more time.

Temporal Orientation (YEAR): “Please tell me what year it is right now”

Able to report correct year: Missed by >5 years or no answer Missed by 2-5 years Missed by 1 year Correct

Temporal Orientation (MONTH): “What month are we in right now?”

Able to report correct month: Missed by >1 month or no answer Missed by 6 days to 1 month Accurate within 5 days

Temporal Orientation (DAY): “What day of the week is today?”

Able to report correct day: Incorrect or no answer Correct

Recall: “Let’s go back to an earlier question. What were those three words that I asked you to repeat?”

- Allow up to 5 seconds for spontaneous recall of each word.
- For any word that is not correctly recalled after 5 seconds, provide a category cue (something to wear; a color; a piece of furniture)
 - Allow up to 5 seconds after category cueing for each missed word to be recalled

Able to recall “Sock” No - could not recall Yes, after cueing (“something to wear”) Yes, no cue required

Able to recall “Blue” No - could not recall Yes, after cueing (“a color”) Yes, no cue required

Able to recall “Bed” No - could not recall Yes, after cueing (“a piece of furniture”) Yes, no cue required

Scoring Considerations:

- If the resident chooses not to answer a particular item, accept their refusal and move on to the next questions and code item as None, No answer, or No
- If responses are nonsensical code items as None, No answer, or No
- If administering in writing, please refer to the [RAI manual](#) (Appendix E-8)

Adapted from *Long-Term Care Facility Resident Assessment Instrument User’s Manual for Version 3.0* by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)