

MDS Alert

Reader Question: Use 'None of the Above' For this Situation

Question: I am trying to fill out item L0200 (Dental) for a resident who is missing a lot of teeth but whose remaining teeth seem whole and pretty healthy. She doesn't have partial dentures or anything besides a couple of whole, natural teeth.

Georgia Subscriber

Answer: Figuring the correct description on L0200 may seem tricky because the choices cover a lot of situations but don't explicitly mention your resident's circumstances.

However, the RAI Manual provides some guidance.



"The dental status for a resident who has some, but not all, of his/her natural teeth that do not appear damaged (e.g., are not broken, loose, with obvious or likely cavity) and who does not have any other conditions in L0200A-G, should be coded in L0200Z, none of the above," says the RAI Manual, on page L-3.

However, make sure you or a colleague observes the resident while she eats to check in on whether she has any difficulty chewing, and make sure you care plan for any special dietary needs.