

MDS Alert

Reader Questions: Don't Count Teeth as Bones After Fall

Question: If a resident falls and breaks a tooth, does that count as a fracture when coding J1700 (Fall History on Admission/Entry or Reentry)?



Answer: Even though teeth and bones are comprised of similar components, they are different and treated differently in most healthcare situations. Do not consider teeth as bone for MDS item J1700, says **Carol Maher, RN-BC, RAC-MTA, RAC-MT, RAC-CTA, RAC-CT, CPC**, director of education at Hansen Hunter & Co.