

OASIS Alert

Education: Lend Your Ear To This Much-Needed M0 Guidance

Hint: In M0 questions, every word counts.

Test Your OASIS Savvy ...

Question: True or False. In answering M0400, if you assess a patient who is deaf but can understand what you are saying because she is proficient at lip reading, she would still be scored a "4" (Unable to hear and understand familiar words or common expressions consistently, or patient nonresponsive).

Answer: True. M0400 - hearing and ability to understand spoken language in patient's own language - assesses both hearing and understanding spoken language, the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** instructs. That is, if a patient can understand what you're saying, but can't actually hear what you're saying, you should score him as a '4,' says CMS official **Mary Weakland** in a series of questions and answers provided to the **OASIS Certificate and Competency Board** and posted on its Web site, www.oasiscertificate.org.