### Steps for Assessment

1. Interact with the resident using his or her preferred language. Be sure he or she can hear you and/or has access to his or her preferred method for communication. If the resident appears unable to communicate, offer alternatives such as writing, pointing, sign language, or cue cards.

2. Determine if the resident is rarely/never understood verbally, in writing, or using another method. If rarely/never understood, skip to C0700–C1000, Staff Assessment of Mental Status.

3. Review Language item (A1100), to determine if the resident needs or wants an interpreter.
   - If the resident needs or wants an interpreter, complete the interview with an interpreter.

### Coding Instructions

Record whether the cognitive interview should be attempted with the resident.

**Code 0, no:** if the interview should not be attempted because the resident is rarely/never understood, cannot respond verbally, or in writing, or using another method, or an interpreter is needed but not available. Skip to C0700, Staff Assessment of Mental Status.

**Code 1, yes:** if the interview should be attempted because the resident is at least sometimes understood verbally, or in writing, or using another method, and if an interpreter is needed, one is available. Proceed to C0200, Repetition of Three Words.

Page length changed due to revised content on C-1–C-2.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>C0100</td>
<td>C-2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Coding Tips**

- Attempt to conduct the interview with ALL residents. This interview is conducted during the look-back period of the Assessment Reference Date (ARD) and is not contingent upon item B0700, Makes Self Understood.

- If the resident needs an interpreter, every effort should be made to have an interpreter present for the BIMS. If it is not possible for a needed interpreter to participate on the day of the interview, code C0100 = 0 to indicate interview not attempted and complete C0700-C1000, **Staff Assessment of Mental Status**, instead of C0200-C0500, **Brief Interview for Mental Status**.

- Includes residents who use American Sign Language (ASL).

- If the resident interview was not conducted within the look-back period (preferably the day before or the day of) the ARD, item C0100 must be coded 1, Yes, and the standard “no information” code (a dash “-”) entered in the resident interview items.

- Do not complete the Staff Assessment for Mental Status items (C0700-C1000) if the resident interview should have been conducted, but was not done.

- There is one exception to completing the Staff Assessment for Mental Status items (C0700–C1000) in place of the resident interview. This exception is specific to a stand-alone, unscheduled PPS assessment only and is discussed on page 2-60. For this type of assessment only, the resident interview may be conducted up to two calendar days after the ARD.

- When coding a stand-alone Change of Therapy OMRA (COT), a stand-alone End of Therapy OMRA (EOT), or a stand-alone Start of Therapy OMRA (SOT), the interview items may be coded using the responses provided by the resident on a previous assessment only if the DATE of the interview responses from the previous assessment (as documented in item Z0400) were obtained no more than 14 days prior to the DATE of completion for the interview items on the unscheduled assessment (as documented in item Z0400) for which those responses will be used.