

# Brief Interview for Mental Status

## Examination and Scoring Guide

### **Directions for Administration:**

- The following equipment/items are required to administer the exam:
  - Brief Interview for Mental Status
  - A pencil
- Be sure to note any potential issues with communication:
  - The examination should not be attempted if the individual is rarely/never understood or an interpreter is needed but not available
  - If the individual has a hearing impairment, the examination should be administered using their usual communication devices/techniques as applicable.
- If the participant asks you to repeat a question, merely repeat the question and/or the directions.
- If the participant answers incorrectly, accept the answer. Do not ask the question again (unless prompted within the examination), hint, or provide any physical clues such as head shaking, etc.

### **Provide an Introduction:**

I would like to ask you some questions. We ask everyone these same questions. This will help us to provide you with better recommendations and make sure that we can meet your needs. Some the questions may seem very easy, while others may be more difficult.

### **Repetition of Three Words:**

Prompt the participant by explaining that you will be providing 3 words for recall. Words may be recalled in any order and in any context. Record the maximum number of words that the participant correctly repeated on the first attempt.

### **Sock, Blue, and Bed.**

Immediately after presenting the three words, ask the participant to repeat the three words back.

After the participant's first attempt, if they are unsuccessful you may repeat the words using cues:

- *Sock – Something to Wear*
- *Blue – A Color*
- *Bed – A Piece of Furniture*

You may repeat the words up to two more times.

## **Temporal Orientation:**

Ask the participant each question separately. Record their answer and determine the appropriate selection.

You may allow up to 30 seconds for each answer.

Do not provide clues.

## **Recall:**

Prompt the participant by reminding them that you had previously given them 3 words to remember. Record their answers and determine the appropriate selection.

### **Sock, Blue, and Bed.**

Ask the participant to repeat the three words. Allow up to 5 seconds for spontaneous recall of each word.

For any word that is not correctly recalled after 5 seconds, provide a cue. Cues should only be used when the participant is unable to recall one or more of the three words. Use the same cues as you did previously.

- *Sock – Something to Wear*
- *Blue – A Color*
- *Bed – A Piece of Furniture*

\*\*If on the first try, without cueing, the participant names multiple items in a category, one of which is correct, it should be coded as correct for that item.

\*\*If the Supports Coordinator provides the participant with a cue and the participant then names multiple items in that category, it should be coded as "could not recall" for that item, even if the correct item was in the list.

## **Scoring:**

- Add scores for each question and fill in the total score. Possible scores range from 0-15.
- Nonsensical responses should be coded zero. A nonsensical response is any response that is unrelated, incomprehensible, or incoherent.
- Refusal to answer a specific question is coded as 0.
- Code 99 if the individual chooses not to participate or 4 or more items were coded 0 because the individual chose not to answer or gave a nonsensical response.

**Interpretation of Results:**

| <b>Score</b> | <b>Degree of Impairment</b> |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>13-15</b> | Cognitively Intact          |
| <b>08-12</b> | Moderately Impaired         |
| <b>00-07</b> | Severe Impairment           |

**Resources:**

BIMS Score Role in Identifying Dementia – Heerema, Esther May 2023

Brief Interview for Mental Status – BIMS – Maryland Department of Health