



3rd Annual Quality & Patient Safety Conference Improving the Healthcare Journey for Patients & Staff



TITLE

Preparing for the commencement of the Decision Making Capacity Act 2015

SUBMITTED BY

Siobhán O'Neill, Occupational Therapist, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda

ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION

The Decision Making 'Capacity' Act (2015) will commence in 2022 and will have significant implications for Health Care Professionals, including Occupational Therapists (OTs).

Within Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda, the OT team undertake a wide range of assessments of cognitive, physical and functional ability. As a consequence there is variation in the assessment process and the format of documenting assessment outcomes in relation to decision making ability.

There is a need to streamline the recording of comprehensive and holistic assessment outcomes for easier access and interpretation during the interdisciplinary assessment of Decision Making Capacity (DMC) for independent living.

METHODOLOGY

The Model for Improvement was employed, which incorporates the plan, do, study, act methodology.

AIM

Aim to communicate outcomes of the OT assessment in a succinct and consistent format, for easy access and interpretation by the MDT during the DMC assessment for independent living.

CHANGE IMPLEMENTED

Current practice of the OT team was reviewed in relation to assessments used, format of recording and knowledge of the DMC act. A working document was formulated and reviewed with medical staff. Team education on the DMC act was provided.

MEASUREMENT

A qualitative questionnaire was circulated among the OT staff to ascertain the educational needs of the department. Perceptions of current practice in DMC assessment of independent living were gathered.

RESULTS

- 100% of questionnaire respondents identified need for further training and education on the DMC Act 2015.
- No respondents agreed that the relevant assessment outcomes were easily accessible.
- 67% of respondents were unsatisfied with the current process in place for DMC assessment of independent living.
- 45% of respondents do not feel confident in completing assessments contributing to DMC assessment of independent living.
- There was no consistency in the format of recording assessment outcomes.

VALUE

The group developed a clinical document to improve easy and consistent interpretation of OT assessment. This ensures person-centred, comprehensive DMC assessment to enhance the patient journey. The OT team are better prepared for the commencement of the DMC act and have identified future training needs.

SUSTAINMENT

This project will extend to gathering the perceptions of other MDT members using the document. Education sessions prior to the commencement of the DMC Act in July of this year will be organised for these staff members as needs identified.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The clinical document shall be evaluated following publication of the Decision Making Support Service Code of Conduct in mid-2022.