

# Decision-Making Capacity Assessment Training for Physicians

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- Physicians play a key role in Decision-Making Capacity Assessment (DMCA).
- Yet, many physicians are not confident in doing these assessments.
- To address this deficiency, a DMCA Workshop for physicians was developed.

## OBJECTIVES

To determine the effect of the DMCA Workshop on physicians' confidence and comfort with decision-making capacity assessments.

## METHODS

### DMCA Workshops

Ten 3-hour workshops were delivered across Alberta in 2014-5. The DMCA Workshop was accredited by the College of Family Physicians of Canada for up to 3 Mainpro-C credits.

### Sample

Physicians (n=137) in the DMCA workshops.

### Instrument

We developed pre- and post-workshop questionnaires, consisting of 15 core concepts of capacity. Participants were asked to rate their awareness, understanding, or confidence of these concepts using Likert-like scales.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)

### Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics ( $\bar{x}$ , SD); Sign Test to compare post- vs. pre-workshop ratings; Analysis of Variance to determine differences in ratings across demographic characteristics.

## RESULTS

- Participants: Mean age of 46 ± 11 years; 55% females
- 64%: worked ≥ 6 years in their current setting
- 46%: previously attended DMCA presentations

### Effect

- There was a significant improvement (p<0.001) in the post- compared to pre-workshop ratings for all the items.
- Those without prior DMCA training had the larger change in pre- versus post-workshop ratings (p<0.05).

**≥ 80%** of participants rated the following statements positively relative to pre-workshop ratings.

I am aware of <b>problem-solving techniques</b> to diffuse the need for capacity assessment.	89%
I understand the concept of " <b>trigger</b> " and would be able to apply it in practice.	88%
I am <b>confident</b> in my knowledge and skill-set in regards to capacity assessments.	86%
I am aware of a <b>standardized approach</b> to capacity assessment.	85%
I am aware of a <b>system of organization &amp; documentation</b> of information pertinent to assessment of capacity.	83%
I am aware of the <b>legislative acts</b> pertinent to assessments of capacity.	83%
I am familiar with the <b>domains</b> of decision-making.	81%

## DISCUSSION

- The results indicate that the information provided in the workshops is valuable for physicians regardless of years worked in the current setting.
- The pattern of findings provides important feedback on modifications to delivering future workshops.
- The workshops will continue to be held in the same format with a greater focus on capacity interviewing.

**70-79%** of participants rated the following statements positively relative to pre-workshop ratings.

I understand the <b>interplay of roles</b> of all disciplines involved in the capacity assessment process.	78%
I understand <b>my discipline's role</b> in the capacity assessment process.	76%
I understand the <b>role</b> of functional assessments in assessments of capacity.	76%
I would feel <b>comfortable</b> being involved in assessment of capacity.	76%
I am aware of circumstances requiring a <b>full, formal assessment</b> of capacity, including Guardianship.	70%

**59-69%** of participants rated the following statements positively relative to pre-workshop ratings.

I am aware of the possible <b>pitfalls</b> of capacity assessments.	69%
I understand the <b>role of cognitive assessments</b> in assessments of capacity.	67%
I understand the <b>concept and definition</b> of capacity.	64%

## CONCLUSION

- There is a need for DMCA training for physicians.
- The content and method of the workshop is effective.
- Next step: Establish what Family Physicians want to strengthen DMCA training; Customize the workshop for Family Physicians.