

Decision-Making Capacity Assessment Education

Charles L¹; Parmar J¹; Brémault-Phillips S²; Kilkenny T³; Johnson M¹; Dobbs B¹; Tian P¹; Babenko O²

¹Division of Care of the Elderly, Dept. of Family Medicine, University of Alberta (U of A); ² Department of Occupational Therapy, U of A; ³ Covenant Health; ⁴Dept. of Family Medicine, U of A

CONTEXT

- With an increasing elderly population, the number of persons with dementia and persons needing decision-making capacity assessments will increase.
- Many health care professionals do not feel ready to provide DMCA.
- Since 2006 we have been training allied healthcare professionals and, since 2013, physicians on DMCA.
- Allied healthcare professionals are offered a 4-hour workshop.
- Physicians are offered a 3-hour workshop or 2-day training accredited by both the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

OBJECTIVE

To evaluate the effectiveness of a 3-hour and a 2-day DMCA workshop on self-reported competencies.

METHODS

Design

Pretest posttest design.

Settings

DMCA Workshops for physicians and allied healthcare professionals.

Participants

822 allied healthcare professionals and 281 physicians.

Outcome Measures

Pre- and post-workshop ratings on 15 competencies using a 4-point scale.

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

RESULTS

Ten 3-hour workshops were held in 2014-5, with 166 participants. Seven 2-day workshops were held in 2014-8, with 115 participants. There have been 822 recorded allied HCPs participants.

	3-Hour Workshop (N=166)	2-Day Workshop (N=115)
Age in years (SD)	46.7 (10.9)	45.6 (11.4)
Sex-Females (%)	53.9	41.7
Years in current work: n (%)	≤1 year: 11 (6.7%) 2-5 years: 49 (29.7%) ≥6 years: 105 (63.6%)	≤1 year: 7 (11.5%) 2-5 years: 42 (31.9%) ≥6 years: 87 (56.6%)
Past Training in Capacity Assessment	None: 90 (54.6%) Workshop: 11 (6.7%) Talks: 64 (38.8%)	None: 51 (46.4%) Workshop: 13 (11.8%) Talks: 46 (41.8%)

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

	3-Hour Workshop n/N (%)	2-Day Workshop n/N (%)
I am aware of the legislative acts pertinent to assessments of capacity.	131/159 (82.4%)	97/115 (84.4%)
I understand the concept of "trigger" and would be able to apply it in practice.	141/165 (85.5%)	99/115 (86.1%)
I am aware of problem-solving techniques to diffuse the need for capacity assessments.	147/164 (89.6%)	100/113 (88.5%)
I am aware of a system of organization and documentation of information pertinent to assessments of capacity.	136/164 (82.9%)	92/115 (80%)
I am confident in my knowledge and skill-set in regards to capacity assessments.	138/162 (85.2%)	94/115 (81.7%)

Similar results were seen among allied healthcare professionals: an increase in ratings post-workshop. Also, participants agreed that they followed the Model's guiding principles (90%), used problem-solving (92%), understood discipline-specific roles (87%), and were confident in their knowledge of DMCA's (75%) and pertinent legislation (72%).

DISCUSSION

- The information provided in the workshops is valuable for physicians.
- The pattern of findings provided important feedback on modifications to delivering future workshops.

CONCLUSION

There is a need for DMCA training for physicians and allied healthcare professionals. The content and method of the workshops are effective.