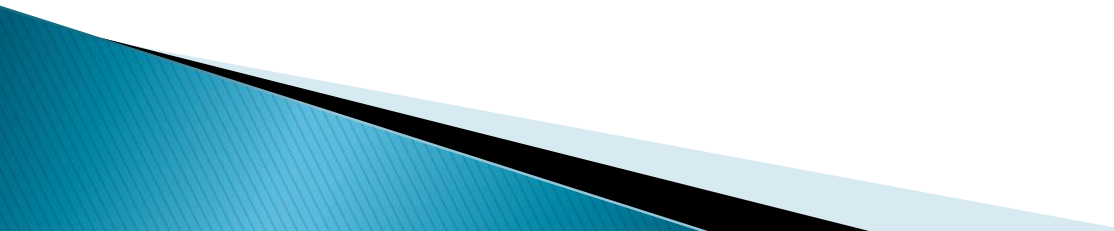


Feasibility of using the Mental Capacity Assessment Support Toolkit (MCAST) in clinical practice

Dr Mark Jayes

Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist
HEE / NIHR Clinical Doctoral Research Fellow

Contents

- ▶ Background to research
 - ▶ MCAST
 - ▶ Feasibility study methods
 - ▶ Feasibility study results
 - ▶ Potential impact
- 

Background: mental capacity

- ▶ The ability to make an **informed decision**
- ▶ **Mental Capacity Act (2005)**: framework for assessing mental capacity in adults (>16y)
- ▶ **Two stage test**:
 - **Impairment/disturbance** of mind or brain
 - Functional assessment of **decision-making**: ability to understand, retain, weigh up information and communicate a decision
- ▶ Contributes to **shared decision-making / patient-centred care** agendas

Background: mental capacity

- ▶ **34% medical patients** may lack capacity ¹
- ▶ Assessment is **subjective, complex**
- ▶ Current practice is **inadequate** ²
- ▶ Inaccurate assessment risks **excluding** people from **autonomous** decision-making / asking people to make **uninformed** decisions

1. Lepping, P. *et al.* (2015)

2. House of Lords Select Committee on the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (2014)

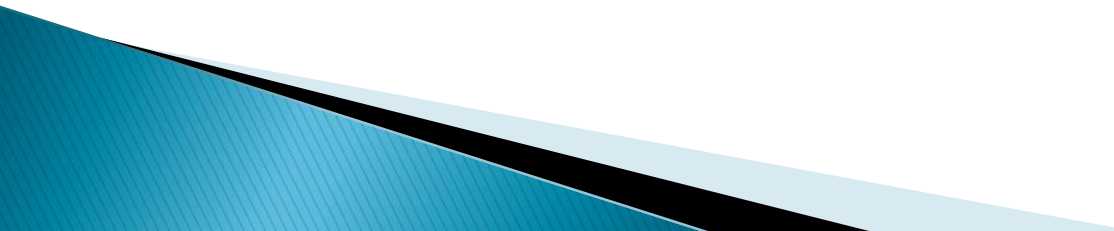
Patients with communication difficulties

- ▶ Mental capacity may be **masked** by communication difficulties
- ▶ MCA requires **adjustments** to assessment process
- ▶ Assessors may not **recognise** or know how to **support** communication difficulties ³
- ▶ Assessors may not always refer to **SLTs** for specialist support ⁴

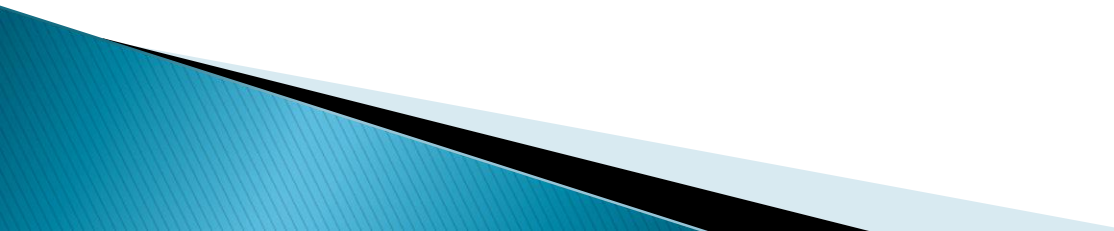
³ Hemsley & Balandin (2014)

⁴ Jayes, Palmer & Enderby (2016)

Research aims

- ▶ To develop a **toolkit** to support **multidisciplinary** staff to assess **mental capacity**
 - ▶ To evaluate the **feasibility** of using the toolkit in clinical practice
- 

Specification for toolkit

- ✓ Structure
 - ✓ Documentation aid
 - ✓ Prompts to help assessor do a thorough job
 - ✓ Ways to identify and support communication needs
 - ✓ Ways to check understanding
 - ✓ Quick and easy to use
 - ✓ Portable / easily accessible
- 

The Mental Capacity Assessment Support Toolkit (MCAST)

▶ 3 components

- 1. Support Tool
- 2. Communication Screening Tool
- 3. Resource Pack

▶ **Paper** format....**digital** coming soon!

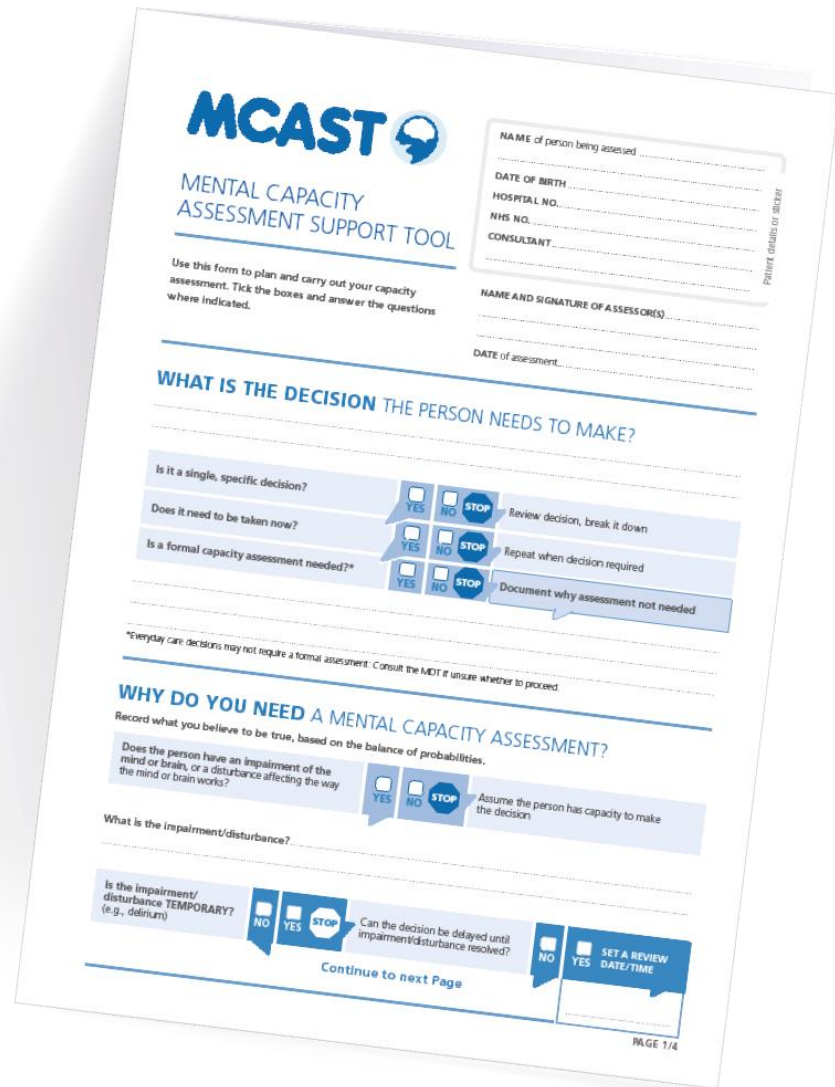



Support Tool

Helps assessor to:

- ▶ prepare
- ▶ complete
- ▶ document

any assessment



MCAST 

MENTAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT SUPPORT TOOL

Use this form to plan and carry out your capacity assessment. Tick the boxes and answer the questions where indicated.

NAME of person being assessed _____
DATE OF BIRTH _____
HOSPITAL NO. _____
NHS NO. _____
CONSULTANT _____

NAME AND SIGNATURE OF ASSESSOR(S) _____
DATE of assessment _____

WHAT IS THE DECISION THE PERSON NEEDS TO MAKE?

Is it a single, specific decision? YES NO STOP *Review decision, break it down*

Does it need to be taken now? YES NO STOP *Repeat when decision required*

Is a formal capacity assessment needed? YES NO STOP *Document why assessment not needed*

*Everyday care decisions may not require a formal assessment. Consult the MDT if unsure whether to proceed.

WHY DO YOU NEED A MENTAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT?

Record what you believe to be true, based on the balance of probabilities.

Does the person have an impairment of the mind or brain, or a disturbance affecting the way the mind or brain works? YES NO STOP *Assume the person has capacity to make the decision*

What is the impairment/disturbance? _____

Is the impairment/disturbance TEMPORARY? (e.g., delirium) NO YES STOP *Can the decision be delayed until impairment/disturbance resolved?* NO YES *SET A REVIEW DATE/TIME*

Continue to next Page

PAGE 1/4

Communication Screening Tool

Helps assessor to identify if P has a communication difficulty

- ▶ If yes, helps assessor decide what to do next

The image shows two overlapping forms for the MCAST Communication Screening Tool. The top form is the 'SUMMARY OF COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES' and the bottom form is the 'COMMUNICATION SCREENING TOOL'.

MCAST SUMMARY OF COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

NAME of person being assessed: _____
DATE OF BIRTH: _____
HOSPITAL NO.: _____
NHS NO.: _____
CONSULTANT: _____
NAME AND SIGNATURE OF ASSESSOR(S): _____
DATE of assessment: _____

Tick the boxes to show which strategies suggested by family / friends / carers / you will use:

TO HELP YOU TO UNDERSTAND THE PERSON BETTER

Consider inviting someone who knows the person well and can support their communication during the capacity assessment.

Ask questions requiring one word or yes/no answers.

Write useful words down for the person to point to.

Provide photos corresponding to key pieces of information for the person to point to.

Encourage the person to write down their answers.

Encourage the person to use a slow rate of speech, one word at a time and break longer words into bits.

Encourage the person to mouth words slowly.

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICAL EXAMPLES.

Page 1/4

MCAST COMMUNICATION SCREENING TOOL

NAME of person being assessed: _____
DATE OF BIRTH: _____
HOSPITAL NO.: _____
NHS NO.: _____
CONSULTANT: _____
NAME AND SIGNATURE OF ASSESSOR(S): _____
DATE of assessment: _____

Use this form to find out if the person has any communication difficulties and how you could support them. Tick the boxes and answer the questions where indicated. You can use the "Summary of Communication Strategies" sheet to note down any strategies you will use during the capacity assessment.

PREPARATION: Prepare yourself, the person and the environment.

MAKE SURE:

- You have blank paper and pens.
- You have reduced any distractions (e.g. shut open doors/avoided busy areas).
- The person being assessed is seated comfortably.
- They are wearing clean dentures (if needed to speak clearly).
- They can hear you (check if they have working hearing aids).
- They can see you and any information materials clearly (check they have clean glasses if they need them). Complete SECTION 5 if unsure.

STOP IF YOU CANNOT TICK A BOX: Address the specific issue before continuing. You may need to liaise with the MD/17/family/carer.

Complete Section 4 to see if you can write things down to help them understand.

Consider referring them for a cognitive or vision assessment before continuing.

SECTION 1 THE PERSON'S ABILITY TO SPEAK: Check how the person will communicate with you during the capacity assessment. Have a conversation with the person about something (e.g., their family, home, hobbies, working life). If they have difficulty hearing, write down your questions in clear large letters.

DO THE FOLLOWING:

TICK BOXES, based on what you observe.	HOW THIS WILL AFFECT THE CAPACITY ASSESSMENT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No obvious difficulties speaking	<input type="checkbox"/> The person can talk to you without extra support (GO TO SECTION 2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Difficulties speaking	<input type="checkbox"/> Continue "SECTION 1" on PAGE 2

Page 1/4

Resource pack

- ▶ **Photographs and simplified language** related to discharge / treatment decisions

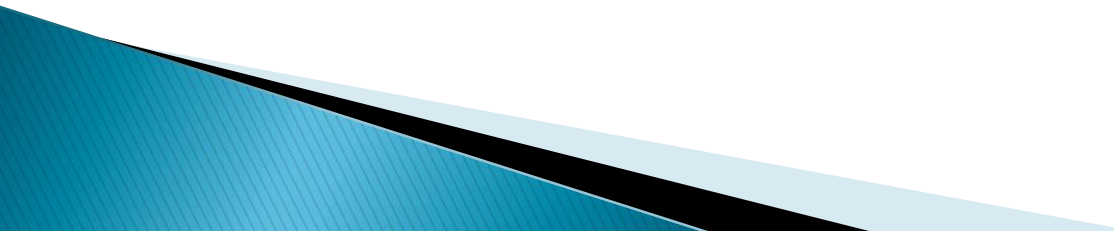


- ▶ Ways to test **decision-making** abilities

Feasibility study

Aims

To investigate:

- ▶ feasibility of the MCAST materials and processes
 - ▶ effects of using the MCAST on compliance with MCA
 - ▶ effects of using the MCAST on assessor confidence
 - ▶ Communication Screening Tool's validity and reliability
 - ▶ feasibility of recruitment and data collection methods
- 

Feasibility study: methods 1

Research question	Methods
Are assessments more compliant with the MCA (2005) when MCAST used?	Case note audit (n=10)
Do staff feel more confident about capacity assessment when they use the MCAST?	Confidence survey (n=17)
Do staff find the toolkit usable and acceptable ?	Usability survey (n=19)
Do patients and carers find the toolkit acceptable ?	Semi-structured interviews (n=6)

Feasibility study: methods 2

Research question	Methods
Can staff use the MCAST Communication Screening Tool to accurately and reliably identify patients with communication difficulties and methods to support them?	<p>Case series (n=9) Data compared across assessors for 2 subtests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes/No response reliability (Y/N)• Spoken Comprehension (SC) <p>Criterion validity: Researcher v Staff participant A</p> <p>Inter-rater reliability: Staff participant A v Staff participant B</p>

Results

Participants

- ▶ 21 members of staff
 - Medicine, Nursing, OT, Physio, SLT
 - Varied experience and training in mental capacity
- ▶ 17 patients
 - Stroke / cognitive difficulties (brain injury, delirium, dementia)
 - 13/17 had a communication disorder
- ▶ Acute and intermediate care settings:
 - Stroke unit, neurorehabilitation, dementia unit, elderly care

Feasibility study: results 1

Research question	Methods	Result
Are assessments more compliant with the MCA (2005) when MCAST used?	Case note audit (n=10)	Significant improvement in documentation (p=0.007)
Do staff feel more confident about capacity assessment when they use the MCAST?	Confidence survey (n=17)	Significant increase in reported confidence levels (p=0.008) Staff associated increased confidence with use of MCAST

Feasibility study: results 2

Research question	Methods	Result
Do staff find the toolkit usable and acceptable ?	Usability survey (n=19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100% found it easy to use• >80% found it useful• >90% said it helped them to assess capacity• 100% would use it again• 100% would like to use MCAST to document
Do patients and carers find the toolkit acceptable ?	Semi-structured interviews (n=6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All reported MCAST materials and processes were acceptable• Recognised potential to improve access to decision-making

Usability / acceptability: staff participants' comments

before using the MCAST I rushed into a capacity assessment without doing the necessary preparation

Using MCAST has given me a structure to follow

I'm doing a better and more thorough assessment

a really reliable way of recording a capacity assessment and decision

Gave the patient the best possible chance to demonstrate capacity

Your patient is paramount and using this tool I felt kept me patient centred

Really enjoying using the MCAST – it's increased my confidence

Feasibility study: results 3

Evaluation question	Methods	Result
<p>Can staff use the MCAST Communication Screening Tool to accurately and reliably identify patients with communication difficulties and methods to support them?</p>	<p>Case series (n=9) Data compared across assessors for 2 subtests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes/No response reliability (Y/N) • Spoken Comprehension (SC) <p>Criterion validity: Researcher v Staff participant A</p> <p>Inter-rater reliability: Staff participant A v Staff participant B</p>	<p>Criterion validity: Y/N: 9/9 consistent SC: 2/9 consistent</p> <p>Inter-rater reliability: Y/N: 9/9 consistent SC: 5/9 consistent</p> <p>8/17 patients were not screened</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/8 no comm'n needs • 3/8 known to SLT • 4/8 required SLT input

Potential impact of MCAST

- ▶ Promotes **patient-centred** care
- ▶ May increase autonomous / supported **decision-making**
- ▶ Promotes awareness of **communication / SLT**
- ▶ May increase access to **communication support / SLT**
- ▶ Appears **usable, acceptable**
- ▶ Appears to **facilitate and improve** practice
- ▶ Potential for **national roll out**
- ▶ Applicable to **different populations / settings**



Thanks for listening

Any questions?

mark.jayes@sth.nhs.uk

 @MCAsupporttool



Supervisors: Dr Rebecca Palmer, Professor Pam Enderby

This is a summary of independent research funded by Health Education England (HEE)'s and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)'s Integrated Clinical Academic Programme.

The views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the NHS, the NIHR or the Department of Health.

References

1. Lepping, P., Stanly, T. & Turner, J. (2015) Systematic review on the prevalence of lack of capacity in medical and psychiatric settings. *Clinical Medicine*, 15(4), 337-43.
2. Hemsley, B. & Balandin, S. (2014) A Metasynthesis of Patient-Provider Communication in Hospital for Patients with Severe Communication Disabilities: Informing New Translational Research. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 30(4), 329-343.
3. House of Lords Select Committee on the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (2014) *Mental Capacity Act 2005: Post-Legislative scrutiny*, HL (2013-14) 139. Available from:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/mental-capacity-act-2005/>

References

4. Jayes, M., Palmer, R. & Enderby, P. (2016 online) An exploration of mental capacity assessment within acute hospital and intermediate care settings in England: a focus group study. *Disability & Rehabilitation*. Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09638288.2016.1224275>