

Development and Use of MCA web based capacity tool

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Learning Disabilities
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Why develop and evaluate the MCA Assessment tool?

Mental Health Foundation MCA review found:

- *‘Risk averse’ and ‘paternalistic’ health and social care practice has prevented the Mental Capacity Act 2005 from achieving its objective of empowering vulnerable adults to take decisions for themselves.*
- More than half of health and social care professionals are failing to comply with the Mental Capacity Act 2005’s requirements when conducting assessments of capacity.

CQC feedback to us:

- ‘Most members of staff were aware of the need to assess capacity and the need to conduct best interest meetings where appropriate. However, we found recording of decision specific capacity assessments were not always taking place.’
- ‘They also said that they could not see evidence of how we had enhanced people’s capacity.

Process

- Wanted to develop a method of recording Mental Capacity Act assessments
- Wanted to ensure that factors that affect capacity are considered and recorded
- Wanted to guide professionals in the assessment process
- Wanted to produce a written record of the assessment

Originally worked with UCL Computing students to develop a prototype

Applied to the Nurse Technology fund to develop the assessment tool.

Awarded £85,000 for the development process

How we introduced this

- Developed an evaluation plan – pre and post measures of knowledge, confidence, ease of use
- Our research assistant met with people either individually or in groups to complete the pre-use questionnaires
 - Knowledge of MCA Assessment
 - Confidence
 - Satisfaction with current method
- Demonstrated to people how to use the Assessment tool
- Once people have used it – repeated the questionnaires and analysed the data.

Search person



The Mental Capacity Act specifies that capacity is decision specific. A person may have capacity to make some decisions and not others. The Act says that you should assume capacity unless there are indications that the person may not have capacity. If you are unsure, then you must do a capacity assessment and this assessment tool will help you decide whether the person has capacity to make the specified decision.

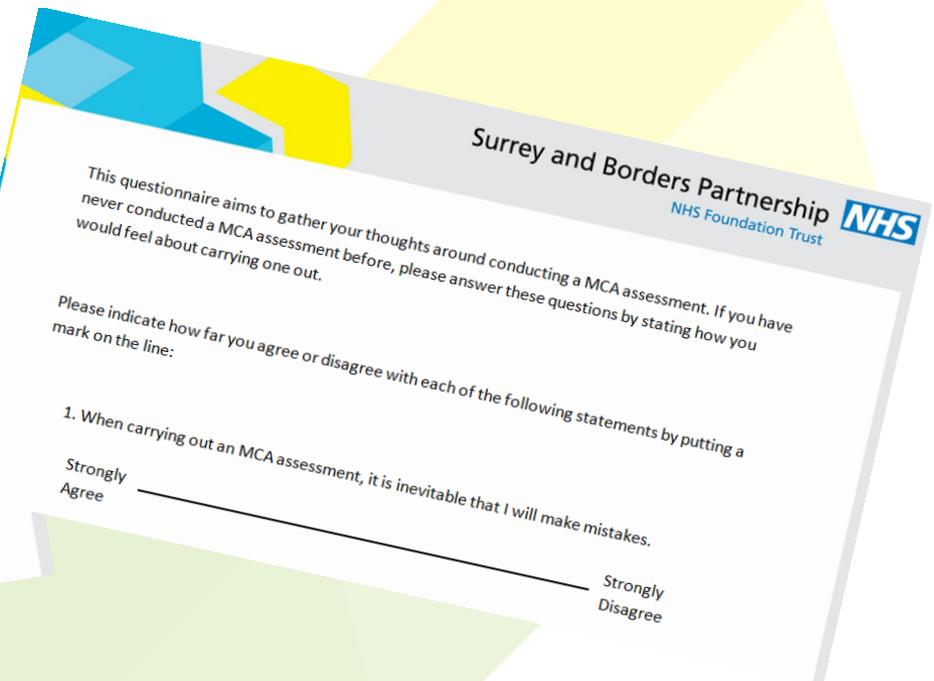
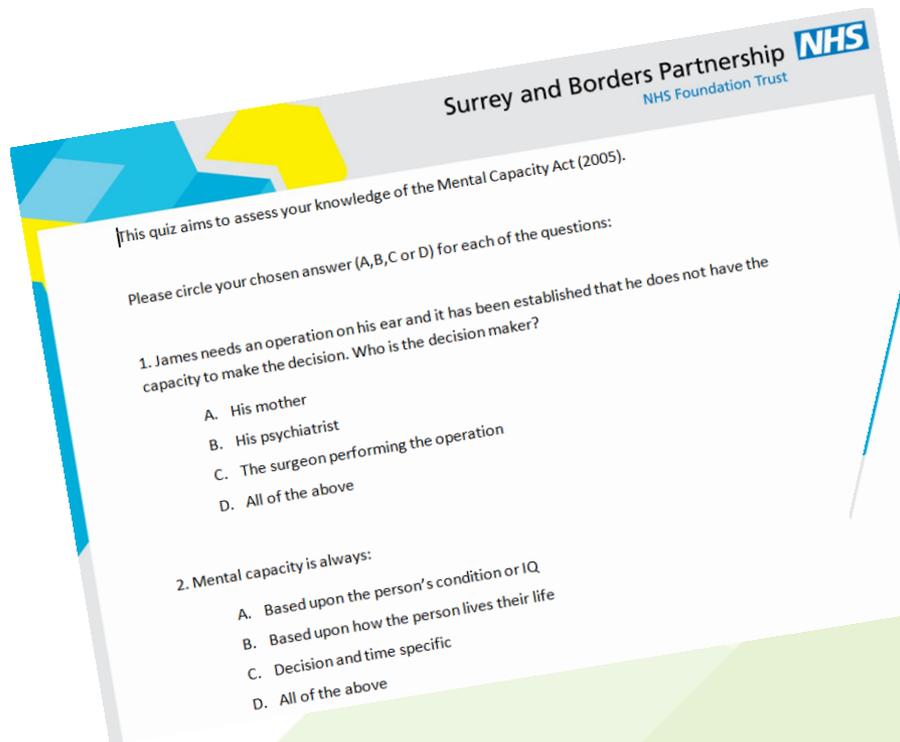
This application will help you, as the decision maker or the person advising the decision maker, to assess whether the person has the capacity to make the identified decision, using the principles of the Mental Capacity Act. The app takes you through the principles of the Act and allows you to record accurately all aspects of the capacity assessment process, giving you prompts to assist you in the process.

NHS Number

Search

Number of people trained

- 349 staff in LD services have undertaken the pre use questionnaires and shown how to use the assessment tool



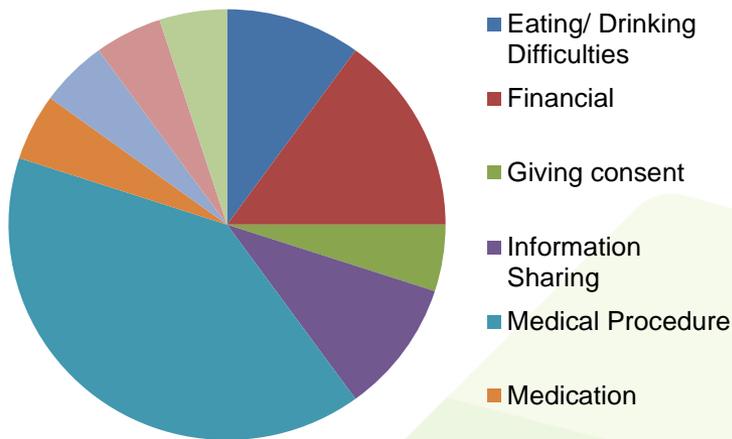
Results from Pre- knowledge questionnaire

- 12 questions multiple choice questionnaire
- Data from 262 staff in our LD division was analysed.
- The overall average score on the MCA knowledge questionnaire was 64 per cent.
- Qualified staff all scored higher than non-qualified staff, with an average score of 72 per cent to 55 per cent respectively.
- Staff performed best on Category 3, with 60.69 per cent of staff giving the correct response to the question on the five principles of the MCA.
- The question about who is the decision maker gave rise to the most concern, with only 23 per cent of respondents answering this question correctly

Use of the Assessment tool

➤ 2321 assessments carried out by 117 people across LD social care homes and CTPLD

➤ Use by CTPLD



- Food being cut up/ softened to reduce choking risk
- To continue having thickener added to drinks
- Managing finances
- Managing money
- Managing all aspects of finances
- Consent to photographs being taken
- Sharing information
- Sharing clinical records with police relating to a mental health assessment
- Having tonsils removed
- PEG feed incision
- Decision around radiotherapy treatment
- Appropriateness of having surgery on shoulder
- Undergoing a mammogram
- Having blood taken in preparation for kidney scan
- Having kidney scan
- Having a cystoscopy
- Sedation prior to dental treatment
- Decision around healthy eating/ dietetic input
- Use of restrictive practice when client bites herself
- Walking into Epsom alone

Use in Social Care Homes

- Medication
- Activities & holidays
- Finance
- Health appointments, blood tests, flu jabs, screening, dental treatment,
- Assistance with personal care
- Photographs being taken
- Room monitor, bed rails
- Harness in car
- Information sharing

Example report

MENTAL CAPACITY ACT - CAPACITY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Name: Patient Test

D.O.B.: 13 October 1989

NHS NUMBER:

Assessment Start Date: 15 December 2015

NHS Number: 1234567780

Assessor's Name: Ashley Chapman

Role: Decision Maker

Section 1 - Defining the decision to be made.

DECISION TO BE MADE:

should the patient have their tonsils removed?

Section 2 – Impairment or disturbance of mind or brain.

Is there an impairment of, or disturbance in, the functioning of the person's mind or brain that is preventing them from making the decision at this time?

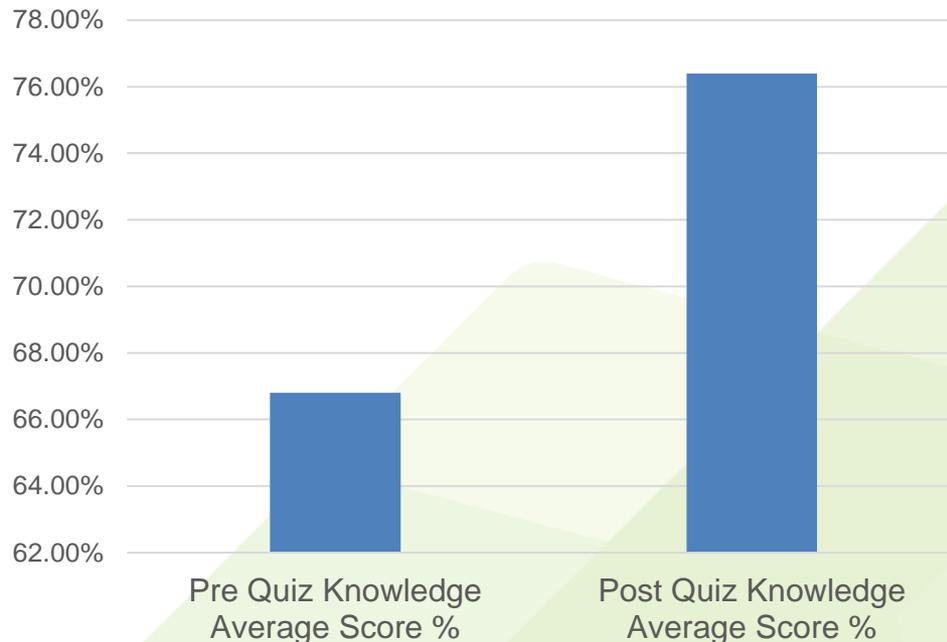
Yes. The patient has a learning disability

Is the impairment likely to be temporary or permanent?

Permanent [For a better life](#)

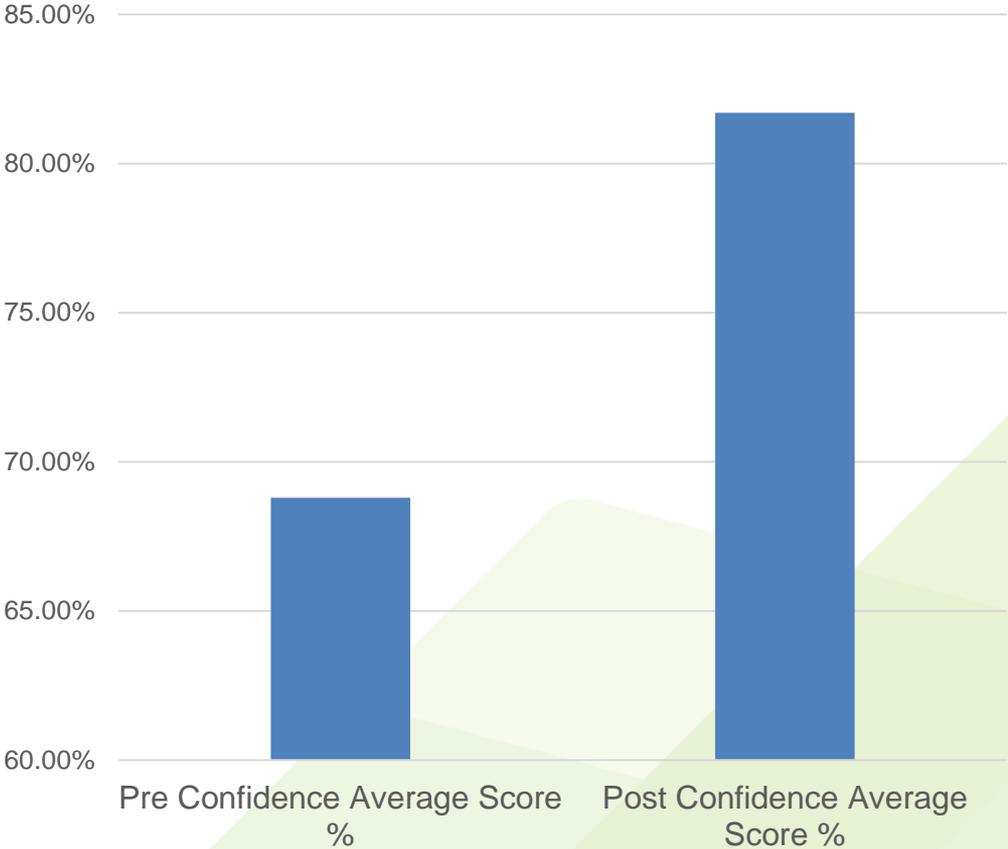
Post knowledge scores

- Are currently following up people to complete the post use questionnaires
- 84 people have completed



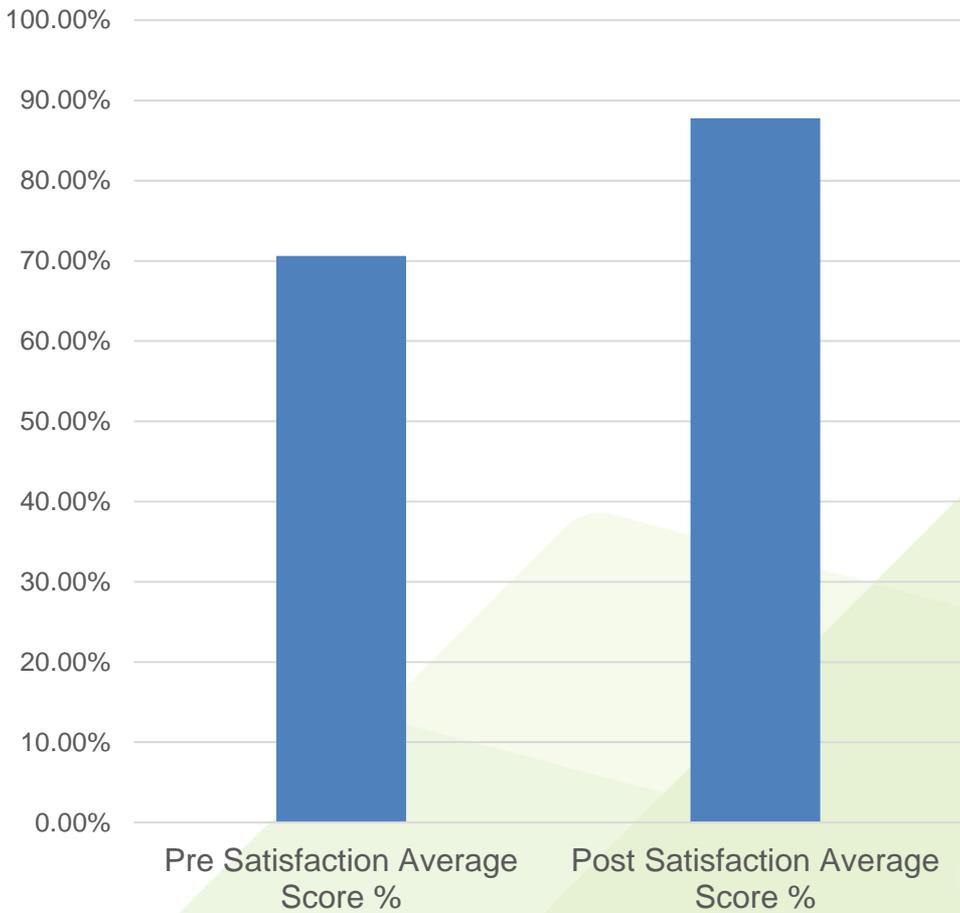
Pre Quiz Knowledge Average Score %	Post Quiz Knowledge Average Score %
66.80%	76.40%

Post confidence scores



Pre Confidence Average Score %	Post Confidence Average Score %
68.80%	81.70%

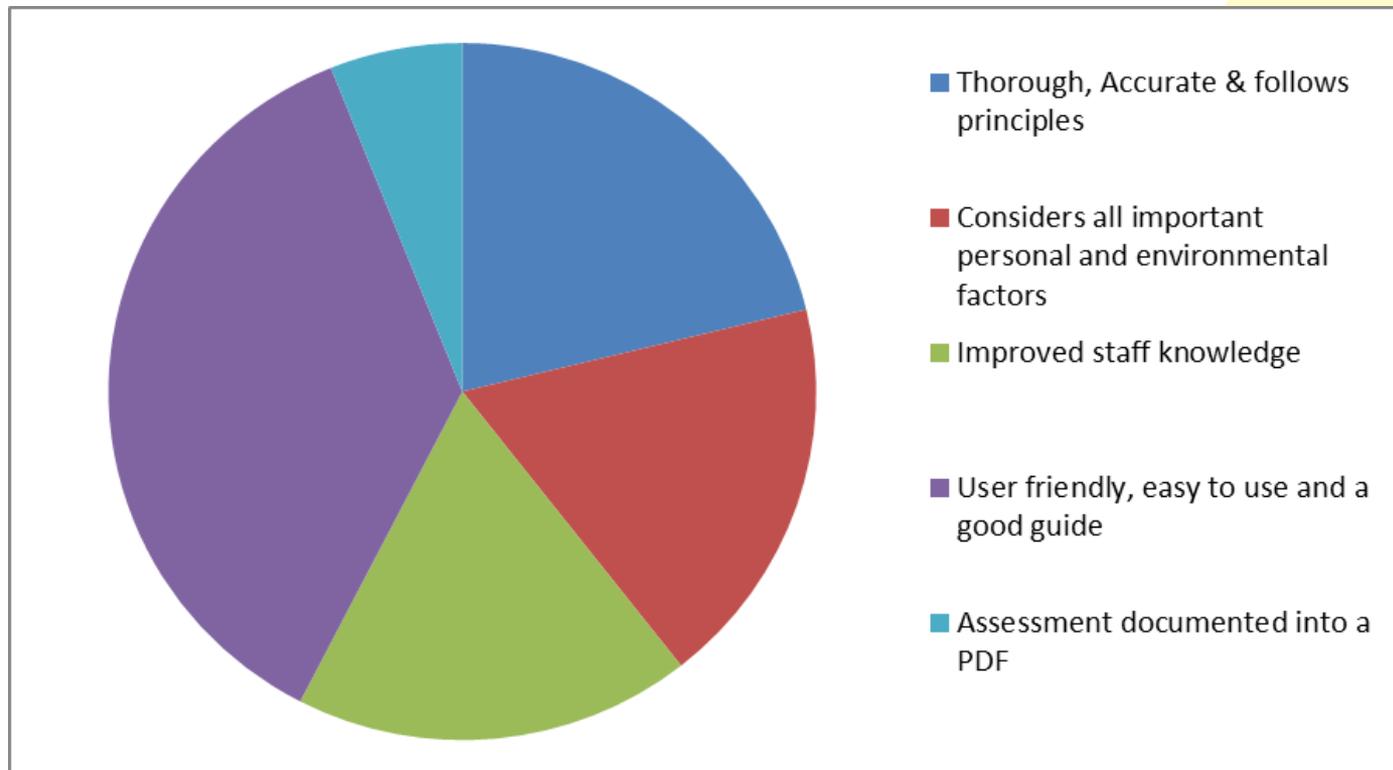
Post satisfaction scores



Pre Satisfaction Average Score %	Post Satisfaction Average Score %
70.60%	87.80%

Qualitative results

➤ What do you like most about the MCA Assessment tool (54 comments)



What next?

- CQC was impressed with it in our recent health and social care inspections
- Rolling out to other divisions
- First article published on the pre-knowledge questionnaires: Chapman A, Dodd K & Rogers L (2020) Knowledge of mental capacity assessment in staff working with people with learning disabilities, *Advances in Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities* 14 (1) p 14 – 24.
- Currently writing up second article for publication
- Interest growing outside the Trust to access it – now giving access through Open Source
- Recommended as part of the LeDeR programme subgroup looking at MCA

Accessing the tool

- Funding stipulation to place app code in open source for all to access for free
- We use the NHS preferred Open Source repository 'GitHub'
- Here you can access the 'compiled' version and use the tool as we do or..
- ...you can use the source code to develop the tool to suit your needs



GitHub

1. Go to: www.github.com/sabpnhs/mcatool
2. Download source or compiled version
3. Documentation on deploying the compiled version is included in the repository

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