



Nova Scotia
Health Ethics
Network

Adolescent Assessment

Easier Said Than Done: Assessing Capacity for
Informed Choice



Scenario

- **Alex has non-Hodgkin lymphoma and has completed chemotherapy. Standard care is chemotherapy and then radiation therapy. Alex wants to skip radiation, saying she's fine and doesn't need more treatment.**
- **Alex's parents say that Alex doesn't really know what she wants and report that Alex seems to be having more frequent "mood swings".**
- **At the suggestion of the oncology team, Alex's parents have requested a consultation with an adolescent psychiatrist, including a capacity assessment.**

ASSESSMENT



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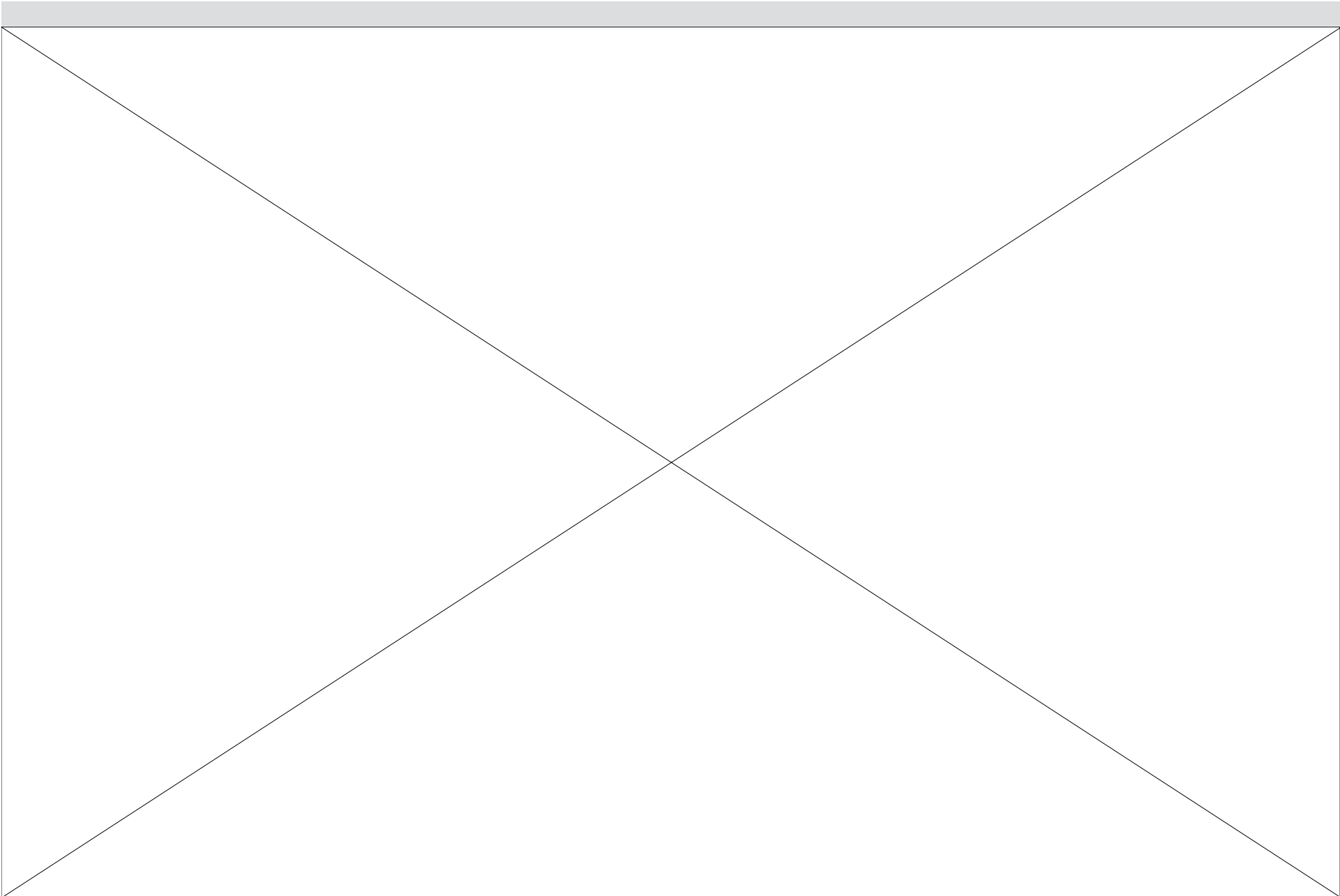
Poll

- **Based on what you've seen, do you think Alex has capacity to make this decision at this time?**

A. Yes

B. Yes, with supports

C. No



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Discussion

- **How did you approach the conversation?**
- **What were you responding to in the conversation?**