



Nova Scotia
Health Ethics
Network

Tools and Supports for Capacity Assessment

Easier Said Than Done: Assessing Capacity for
Informed Choice



Tools: An Introduction

- **Format**
- **Content**



Examples

- **Aid to Capacity Evaluation (ACE)**
- **MacArthur Capacity Assessment Test – Treatment (MacCAT-T)**
- **Assessment of Capacity to Consent to Treatment – (ACCT)**

Tool: Aid to Capacity Evaluation

**Scoring:
Yes/No/Unsure**

- **Medical condition**
- **Proposed treatment**
- **Alternatives**
- **Option of refusing proposed treatment**
- **Consequences of accepting proposed treatment**
- **Consequences of refusing proposed treatment**
- **Decision affected by depression/psychosis**

Tool: MacArthur Capacity Assessment Test - Treatment

Scoring:

0 = inadequate

1 = partial

2 = adequate

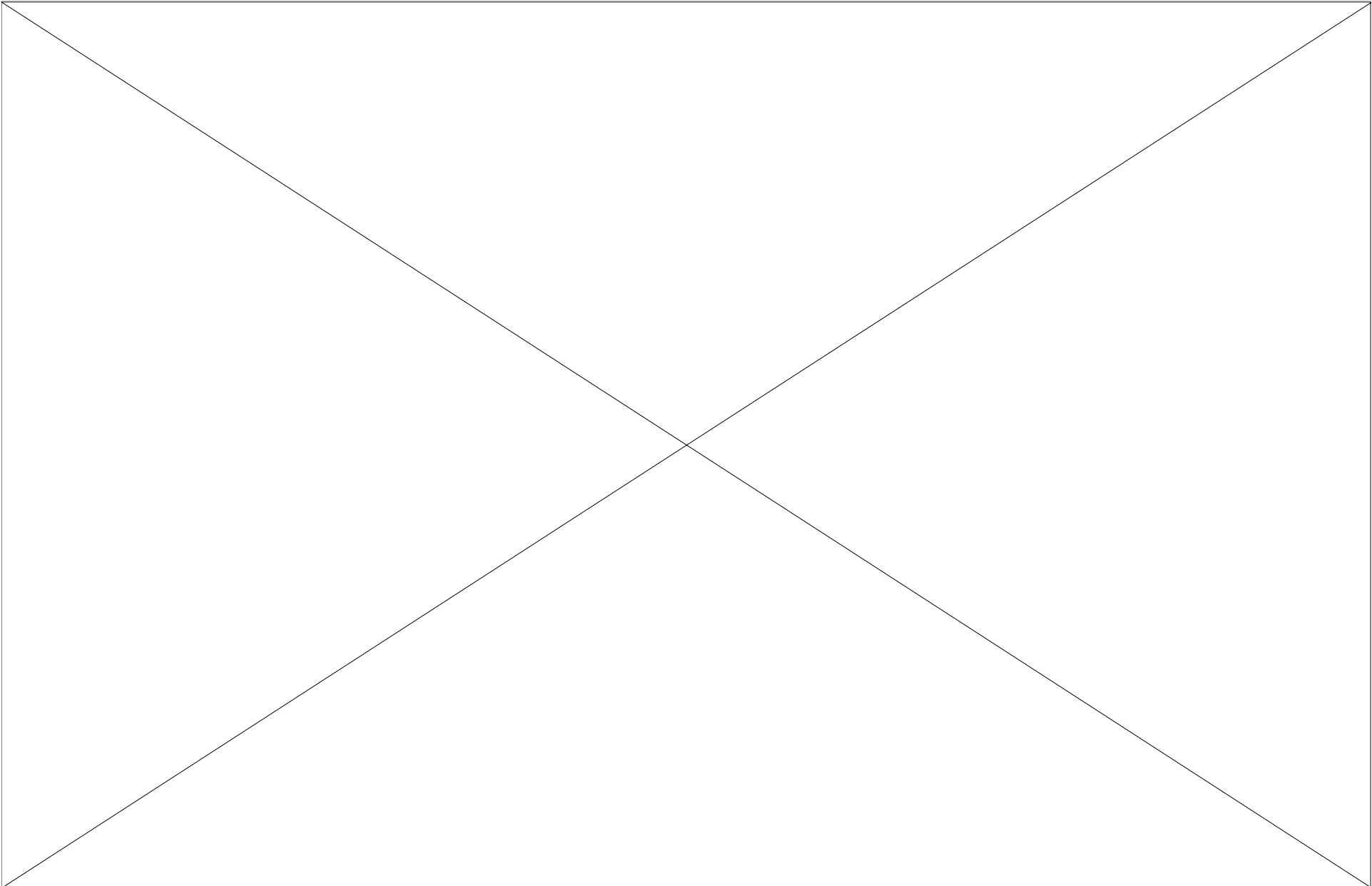
- **Understanding**
 - Disorder
 - Treatment
 - Possible risks and benefits
- **Appreciation**
 - Disorder
 - Treatment
- **Reasoning**
 - Consequential thinking
 - Comparative thinking
 - Generating consequences
 - Logical consistency
- **Expressing a choice**

Tool: Assessment of Capacity to Consent to Treatment

- **Values assessment**
 - Valued activities
 - Values relationships
 - Deference to doctor
 - Deference to family
 - Influence of religion/faith
 - Quality of life
- **Decision making abilities assessment**
 - Understanding – disorder
 - Understanding – treatment A
 - Appreciation – distrust
 - Understanding – treatment B
 - Appreciation – distrust
 - Naming a choice
 - Communicating a choice
 - Reasoning – rational
 - Reasoning - values

Poll

- **What would you most like an assessment tool to do?**
 - A. Help me be objective**
 - B. Help me be consistent**
 - C. Help me be thorough**
 - D. Help me be confident in the outcome**
- **Other: Text 902.221.5243**



Nova Scotia
Health Ethics
Network

Discussion