

Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

**Adults with Incapacity:
The Assessment of Capacity for Health Care Professionals**

Module Information

This education provides Health Care Professionals with the knowledge, skills and values to independently, safely and effectively assess the capacity of patients to consent to treatment and interventions and issue Section 47 Certificates under Part 5 of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000. The Amended Adults with Incapacity legislation allows for Health Care Professionals, dentists, optometrists and registered nurses and others (at the discretion of Scottish Ministers) to independently assess the capacity of patients to consent to treatment and interventions.

Who the module is for

This is a 15 week distance learning, web-based theory and practice-based module developed and delivered by Edinburgh Napier University to educate and prepare relevant practitioners: -

- Dentists,
- Optometrists
- Registered Nurses and
- Other health care professionals, such as GPs who wish to refresh their knowledge and skills of the Act
- Practitioners who have a focus on working with patients who may lack capacity and therefore require an understanding of the Act and the implications for practice and service delivery

The education and assessment of the competence to assess capacity and issue Certificates is therefore required by dentists, optometrists and registered nurses. Practitioners may for example work as dentists or optometrists in the NHS or privately or may be registered nurses working in areas such as, out-of-hours services, minor injuries, hospital at night services, out-patient services, treatment room services, practice nursing clinics, nurse led clinics or providing psychological or behavioural interventions.

The module content

The theory component of the module, for example, includes units that prepare practitioners in relation to: -

- Attitudes and values
- Access to healthcare
- Working with vulnerability
- People who may be at risk of harm
- People and care groups who may lack capacity to consent to care and treatment
- Models for assessing capacity
- Models for obtaining informed consent to treatment
- Human Rights-based practice
- Disability Discrimination legislation
- Adults with Incapacity legislation
- Adult Support and Protection legislation
- Mental health legislation
- Interrelationship between legislation
- Professional accountability
- Codes of Practice

The module assessment

The module is assessed by the development of a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate knowledge of legislation, policy and research-evidence in relation to cognitive impairment and determining capacity, an understanding of the theories and evidence-base in relation to assessing capacity and demonstration of the relationship between theory and practice skills to safely and effectively assess capacity to consent to treatment under the Adults with Incapacity legislation.

The module requires all students seeking recognition of their competence to assess capacity and issue Section 47 Certificates to successfully complete both the theory and practice components of the module and produce a portfolio of evidence. The portfolio of evidence must be supervised by a practitioner who is already competent to assess capacity and issue Section 47 Certificates. The identification and allocation of a local supervisor rests with the sponsoring NHS Board. There is also the option for students to undertake a SCQF level 9 and 11 assignment for academic credit that can be used towards an undergraduate or postgraduate award.

It is envisaged that all NHS Boards will have completed a local needs assessment will identify the full scope of their practitioners who are required to undertake the education as well as those who may need a wider understanding of the Act to facilitate and enable service delivery.

Applying for the module

The module is due to commence in September 2014 for 15 weeks and regularly thereafter. For an application form and to register please contact Alice Proc at a.proc@napier.ac.uk