

## Quality Improvements in assessing Mental Capacity at NNUH

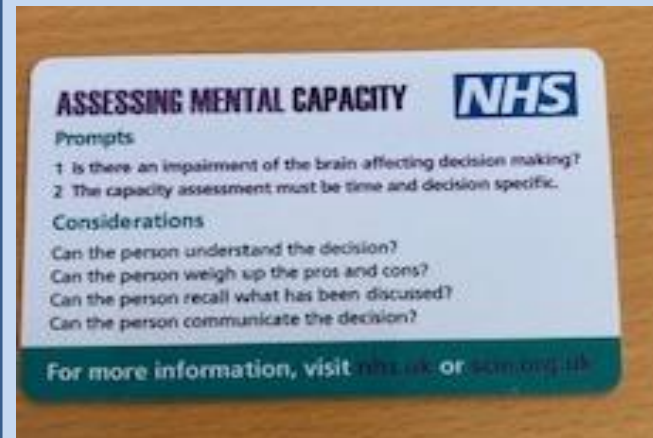
### Aim

To create an improved understanding and awareness of Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty safeguards requirements

### Why is this important to service users, carers and staff?

For service users -The Act aims to empower and protect people who may not be able to make some decisions for themselves. It also enables people to plan ahead in case they are unable to make important decisions for themselves in the future. : Every person, whatever their disability, has the right to make their own decisions wherever possible. The Act applies to all professions including– doctors, nurses, social workers, occupational therapists, healthcare assistants, and support staff/carers. These staff and their employers have a duty to ensure they know how to use it.

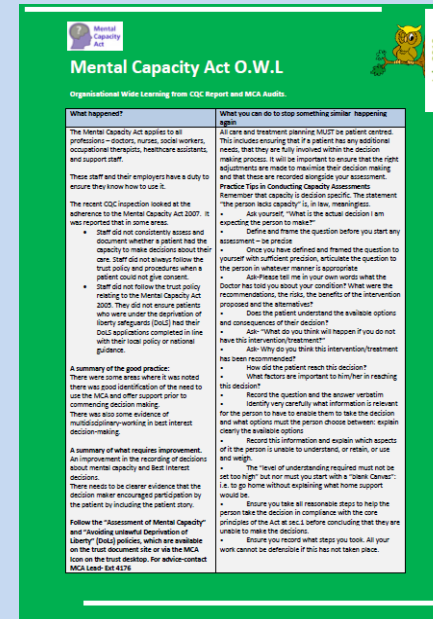
### Improving MCA assessments



Handy credit card sized MCA assessment hints



- New escalation policy
- Specialist training sessions
- Mental Capacity Ward Links
- Auditing through RSM Tenon
- DoLS application status form
- Mandatory Data field on Symphony system (Emergency Dept.) & Soloton (Radiology)



Organisational Wide Learning

**This patient has an impairment of or disturbance in the functioning of the mind or brain – Stage 1 of Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) - this patient reaches the threshold for assessing capacity. Unless the rational for the urgent decision-making is clearly documented- You MUST ensure you document your evidence for each of the four stages of the test and the overall outcome from the assessment is clearly recorded.**

Patient labels to remind staff to complete assessments

### Learning and what next?

Following a successful campaign to increase training compliance across the Trust for all staff, pockets of areas have been identified that have required specialist training with the MCA Lead. This specialist training for targeted areas has worked well and is continuing to be made available to other areas. Following the successful increase in compliance across the Trust and providing user friendly learning resources, the next step is to start to gather baseline data to measure the improvements over the next year and there on.