HOW DO YOU KNOW IF A RESIDENT IS CAPABLE OF MAKING HIS/HER OWN DECISIONS?

The answer is found in section 4(1) of Ontario's Health Care Consent Act:

"A person is capable with respect to a treatment, admission to a care facility or a personal assistance service if the person is able to understand the information that is relevant to making a decision about the treatment, admission or personal assistance service, as the case may be, and able to appreciate the reasonably foreseeable consequences of a decision or lack of decision."

UNDERSTAND

Capacity varies from decision to decision

There is a presumption of capacity

People who are found incapable have the right to appeal

Ability to Understand

Is the resident able to understand what is recommended? Is the resident able to understand how the treatment might affect his or her body?

Ability to Appreciate

Is the resident able to appreciate the importance of the decision? Is the resident able to appreciate what will happen if a decision isn't made?

Capacity needs to be evaluated at the time something is proposed

Health Care Providers must discuss the decision with the resident in order to evaluate capacity

Health Care Providers must disclose findings of incapacity in line with their College's guidelines

Before answering these questions, Health Care Providers must ensure that the resident has been given the information needed to answer these questions.

BOTH ABILITIES ARE REQUIRED IN ORDER FOR THE PERSON TO BE CONSIDERED CAPABLE

2. ABILIAA APPRECIATE

> Before answering these questions, Health Care Providers must ensure that the resident has been given the information needed to answer these questions.

This home is participating in the PoET (Prevention of Error-based Transfers) Project which aims to reduce errors related to consent, capacity, and substitute decision making, which will help to ensure that transfers from long term care to hospital are both wanted and beneficial.

If you have any questions about this poster or the project, please contact your home's Change Leader(s):



