



Assessing the Mental Capacity of a Patient

Standards of Practice of the Yukon Medical Council ("the Council") are the minimum standards of professional behavior and ethical conduct expected of all physicians registered in the Yukon. Standards of Practice will be referenced in the management of complaints and in discipline.

1. A physician conducting an assessment of a patient's mental capacity must:
 - a. attempt to obtain the patient's agreement to participate;
 - b. assess the patient's capacity to understand information relevant to the topic at hand;
 - c. assess the patient's capacity to understand the decisions to be made;
 - d. assess the patient's capacity to understand the risks and benefits of actions that may be undertaken;
 - e. assess the patient's ability to justify his or her choices; and
 - f. use accepted clinical means to determine mental capacity.

Terms used in the Standards of Practice:

- *Physician* means any person who is registered or who is required to be registered under the Medical Profession Act.
- *Must* refers to a mandatory requirement.
- *May* means that the physician may exercise reasonable discretion.
- *Patient* includes, where applicable, the patient's legal guardian or substitute decision maker.