

Capacity Assessment – Candidate Instructions

Capacity assessment station (10 minutes):

You are an FY1 working in the GP Surgery. Jeremy Smith presents with Osteoporosis. He is refusing Bisphosphonate therapy. You have been asked to assess whether he has capacity to make this decision.

You will be expected to:

0- 8 minutes:

- Speak to Jim, explore why he has expressed this decision and assess whether he has capacity to make the decision in question. Please focus of capacity assessment rather than history taking.

8 -10 minutes:

- Answer questions from the examiner

Capacity Assessment – Patient Instructions

- You have been informed of your diagnosis of Osteoporosis
- You have capacity
- Jeremy smith, age 75.
- 4AT score zero

- You understand that:
 - o You slipped and fell in the kitchen 5 days ago, whilst cooking
 - o Hospital said no bones were broken but they would do a bone scan anyway because of your age
 - o Were informed of diagnosis yesterday, when you received scan results saying your bones were weaker than they should be
 - o You have come to the GP today to discuss starting medications that will strengthen your bones

- You fully understand and can retain all information presented to you
- You are able to weigh up the pros and cons
- You refuse to take this treatment as you don't like the idea of taking medications regularly and you hate needles.
- You cannot be convinced otherwise

Capacity Assessment – Examiner Marksheet

Step	Tick
1. Introduces themselves + clarifies patient details	
2. Conducts appropriate, mental state assessment (e.g 4AT)	
3. Ascertains patient’s understanding of diagnosis and events	
4. Opens the assessment up by asking about the intervention in question and the patient’s stance on it	
5. Discusses benefits/drawbacks of intervention AND refusal	
6. Chunks and checks information, reclarifying if needed	
7. Allows sufficient time for information processing	
8. Asks patient to repeat a summary of the conversation in their own words	
9. Obtains the patient’s final decision	
10. Ascertains the reasoning behind the decision, and makes some attempt to convince the patient if the decision is not in their best interests	
11. Thanks the patient for their time, regardless of the decision made, professional and patient friendly manner maintained throughout the conversation. Neutral position maintained throughout, no jargon.	

Examiner Question 1: Does this patient have capacity or not, explain?

Yes- satisfies all criteria (Understanding, Remembering, Weighing up, Communication)

Examiner Question 2: This patient does have capacity, how would you proceed?

Accepts decision to not start bisphosphonates

Advises on:

- Vitamin D and Calcium supplements
- Smoking cessation, Maintaining protein intake
- Continue weight-bearing exercise

Examiner Question 3: If the patient lacked capacity, what legal frameworks can we employ?

Speaks confidently and accurately about frameworks like best interests, least invasive option, DOLS

Global Impression:

Patient Impression/comments:

- Excellent
- Good
- Pass
- Borderline
- Fail