

Station 3 – Capacity Assessment – Candidate Instructions

Capacity assessment station (10 minutes):

You are a foundation trainee working in obstetrics. Jane Smith (29-year-old) has just delivered her first child. Unfortunately, she required manual evacuation of the placenta and lost 1 litre of blood in the process. She wants to go home as soon as possible but her Hb is 70 and she requires a blood transfusion. You have asked to assess whether she has capacity to make this decision.

You will be expected to:

0- 8 minutes:

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

8 -10 minutes:

- Answer questions from the examiner

Station 3 – Capacity Assessment – Patient Instructions

1. Patient informed of diagnosis + presence/absence of capacity.

This patient has capacity.

2. Fill in responses for the 5 broad domains of capacity assessment:

- a. Name and DOB + **brief** cognitive assessment such as 4AT

Jane Smith, 29 years old

- b. Reasons for being in hospital + understanding of current events

Just given birth couple of hours ago and understands they had to remove placenta by hand. I understand I lost quite a bit of blood but I don't feel too bad and want to go home. They told me I need transfusion but I don't want one. I just want to go home and spend time with my baby. I have my husband as well I will be fine.

- c. Their response to when the candidate asks for the patient to repeat things back to them in their own words

Repeat what candidate tells you accurately. Say you understand all they are saying but still want to go home.

Ask If there is anything else?

- d. Their final decision regarding the decision.

I want to go home and understand it is against recommendation but I rather take alternative (state alternative if explained)

Station 3 – Capacity Assessment – Examiner Marksheet

Step	Tick
1. Introduces themselves + clarifies patient details	
2. Conducts an appropriate, short, mental state assessment, for example 4AT	
3. Ascertains the patient's understanding of why they are in hospital and what has happened so far	
4. Opens the assessment up by asking about the intervention in question and the patient's stance on it	
5. Discusses the benefits/drawbacks of the intervention AND refusing the intervention	
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?

Student makes a convincing argument for their choice, using evidence from the consultation.

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

Student correctly identifies the course of action. This case discussing with senior in the view to discharge with iron tablets and follow up with GP.

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, etc.

Examiner Question 4: The patient now requires a new intervention, how would you proceed given that they have demonstrated no capacity here.

Identifies that capacity is time and decision specific, advocates a reassessment for the new intervention AND reassessment for the new intervention.