

# Assessing Capacity

**Understand:** Can they understand the information relevant to help make the decision? (Record what information is given and the person's responses)

**Retain:** Can they retain the information for long enough to make a decision? (record how this was tested)

**Weigh:** Can they weigh up the information as part of the decision making process? (Record the person's responses to the information given around risks and benefits)

**Communicate:** Can they communicate their decision to others by any means? (Record how the person communicates this decision)

**We can help this process by asking the following:**

**Is all the relevant information available?**

**Could the information be presented in a way that is easier for the patient to understand?**

**Are there other times when this would be better understood?**

**Can anyone else help (relative, friend, advocate)?**