Priority Topic: MENTAL COMPETENCY

Key Features:

For a single source of info on this topic: Evaluating Patient Capacity AAFP 2001

1. In a patient with subtle symptoms or signs of cognitive decline (e.g., family concerns, medication errors, repetitive questions, decline in personal hygiene),
   a) Initiate assessment of mental competency, including use of a standardized tool,
   b) Refer for further assessment when necessary.

What you should study:
✓ Evaluating Patient Capacity AAFP 2001
✓ Aid to Capacity Evaluation U of T 2000 This 2-page form is included in the AAFP article but if you want to print it for clinical use, this is just a PDF of the form.

2. In a patient with a diagnosis that may predict cognitive impairment, (e.g., dementia, recent stroke, severe mental illness) identify those who require more careful assessment of decision-making capability.

What you should study:
✓ Mental Capacity 2016
3. When a patient is making decisions (e.g., surgery/no surgery, resuscitation status) think about the need to assess their mental competency.

**What you should study:**

- Mental Capacity 2016
- Evaluating Patient Capacity AAFP 2001
- INESSS niveau d’intervention

4. In a patient with cognitive impairment, identify intact decision-making abilities, as many may be retained.

**What you should study:**

- Evaluating Patient Capacity AAFP 2001

This topic is very hard to find resources for... the best one is the Aid to Capacity Evaluation questionnaire that gives a list of useful clinical questions.