

Mental Capacity Act (2005) and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards in Primary Care; improving implementation and compliance

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A Project Manager was recruited 1st December 2015 to lead a 6 month project in Primary Care to scope current MCA and DoLS understanding and practice across Kent and Medway CCG localities; the project is supported by NHS England

An audit tool has been drafted to use to a complete baseline of practice. Eight GP practices have been recruited into pilot project and baseline audits undertaken to identify areas of positive practice and areas for improvement. Improvement plans drafted and support provided by the Project Manager. Trends and themes analysis is to be undertaken to identify any broader issues and inform strategic planning. Patient representation has been included to seek views, for example about resuscitation, advanced decisions of discussion with an aim to provide patient literature to support discussion with clinicians. The audit is to be repeated to measure improvement and then share lessons learnt and resources across the localities.

Project results/evaluation

Areas of compliance differ and repeat audit is required in April 2016 to evidence if there has been improvement. However, through audits completed to date, areas for improvement include staff not identifying triggers to instigate a capacity assessment, lack of systems and processes in place to support and evidence clinical decision making such as templates to evidence MCA / best interest decisions; lack of awareness about the role of the GP and DoLS; lack of accessible and relevant training. Supportive mechanisms included supply of resources (e.g. templates, posters and policies), bespoke training, systems and process advice and coaching.

Project area classification

Hospital care		Emergency care	
GP care	x	Dementia	
Social care		Learning disability	
Voluntary sector		Other mental health	
Financial services		Palliative care	
Police		Advance planning, LPAs	
Legal		Commissioning	
Community health care		Training	
Nursing and care home		For professionals?	
Acute care		For public and service users?	
Chronic care			