

# Enhancing awareness of Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

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## Project method

A number of information sessions have been held to increase awareness of the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). An awareness session was held at the Local College and Carers forums for carers supporting adults with learning disabilities, mental health needs and older persons. Factual information was provided on the MCA including how capacity assessments are undertaken and best practice when making best interest decisions; real life case examples were discussed to help attendees relate the rhetoric of the MCA into practice.

Information sessions have been held with care homes and an acute hospital setting to explore MCA DoLS. The sessions reviewed the legal framework, including how to apply the Acid Test in practice. Information was shared on the roles and responsibilities of Managing Authorities and the consequences of not adhering to the MCA. A case scenario was used to demonstrate how to complete DoLS forms.

## Project results/evaluation

Attendees shared they have a clearer understanding of MCA and DoLS, this will enable them to apply the principles when supporting people who lack capacity and support carers to challenge poor practice.

Managing Authorities shared they have more confidence in completing DoLS forms (there is evidence of improved quality in submissions).

## Project area classification

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