

OSCE

Candidate information

Fay is a 19 year old female who is 22 weeks pregnant. She is suffering from severe pre-eclampsia, with associated renal failure requiring haemodialysis despite six anti-hypertensive agents at high dosage.

Her BP cannot be controlled and her condition is deteriorating.

Fay has an intellectual disability.

Your intern has been discussing the option of termination of pregnancy with Fay and her mother, who both refuse to consider this as an option.

Your intern has now asked you to explain capacity and competence in this situation, specifically as it affects Fay.

Domain	%
Medical expertise	
Prioritisation and decision making	
Communication	30
Teamwork and collaboration	
Leadership and management	
Health advocacy	40
Scholarship and teaching	30
Professionalism	

Capacity

Actor (RMO) information

You are an intern who is facing a difficult situation with an intellectually impaired female. Fay is a 19 year old female who is 22 weeks pregnant. She is suffering from severe pre-eclampsia, with associated renal failure requiring haemodialysis despite six anti-hypertensive agents at high dosage.

Her BP cannot be controlled and her condition is deteriorating.

You have been discussing the option of termination of pregnancy with Fay and her mother, who both refuse to consider this as an option. You now ask your consultant to explain capacity vs competence with you regarding Fay.

Prompts:

- What is difference between capacity and competence?
- Does Fay have capacity?
- Where can we get further advice regarding this situation? (tribunals, supreme court, guardianship board, advocates, hospital legal team)

Marking:

- Capacity is a functional term that refers to the mental or cognitive ability to understand the nature and effects of one's acts
- Competence is a legal term that can be defined as being "duly qualified: having sufficient, capacity, ability or authority" — in practice it requires health professionals to perform a functional test of competence to examine the ability of the particular patient to consent to the specific treatment being offered
- Capacity: a person must be able to
 - Understand facts of the situation
 - Understand the main choices available
 - Weight up those choices, including benefits and risks
 - Make and communicate the decision
 - Understand the ramifications of the decision

	Mark
Defines capacity clearly	2
States Fay does not appear to have capacity, explains why	2
States difference between capacity and competence	2
Knows other sources of advice re capacity	2
General approach to teaching/discussion with RMO	2