

Understanding and Working with Negative Symptoms

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Warm-up

What are –ve symptoms? (Discussion)

Mental illness presentation

Hoarding of rubbish

Multi-layered clothing/inappropriate clothing

Poor self-care

Bizarre clothing

Disorganized sleep site

Simple Schizophrenia ICD - 10

An uncommon disorder in which there is an insidious but progressive development of oddities of conduct, inability to meet the demands of society, and decline in total performance....

.....the characteristic “negative” features of residual schizophrenia (e.g. blunting of affect, loss of volition) develop without being preceded by any overt psychotic symptoms.

...with increasing social impoverishment, vagrancy may ensue, and the individual may then become self-absorbed, idle, and aimless.’

Negative symptoms

absence of emotional content in person's expressions and/or voice)

lack of pleasure in everyday life

lack of ability to begin and sustain planned activities

speaking little, even when forced to interact.

Cognitive symptoms

Poor "executive functioning" (the ability to understand information and use it to make decisions)

Trouble focusing or paying attention

Problems with "working memory" (the ability to use information immediately after learning it).

Thought disorder

A person may have trouble organizing his or her thoughts or connecting them logically...

...they may talk in a garbled way that is hard to understand...

...they may stop speaking abruptly as if losing their train of thought...

...they may think that their thoughts are being taken out of their head...

...they may invent meaningless words...

What is capacity?

‘...legal capacity depends upon understanding rather than wisdom: the quality of the decision is irrelevant as long as the person understands what he is deciding’

(Law Commission 1991)

MCA – background

‘The existing law relating to decision-making on behalf of mentally incapacitated adults is fragmented, complex and in many respects is out of date. There is no coherent concept of their status, and there are many gaps where the law provides no effective mechanism for resolving problems’

(Law Commission 1991)

MCA – overview

A functional test of capacity

‘Best Interest’ approach to decision making

Powers of Attorney/Advance decisions

Court of Protection

Independent Mental Capacity Advocates

Purpose of MCA assessment Tool

Test whether someone is making a lifestyle choice.

Assist/prompt LAS to complete their MCA assessment.

Support the rationale for a hospital admission.

Provide evidence for a Mental Health Act assessment.

MCA - The Principles

A person must be assumed to have capacity unless it is established that he lacks capacity.

A person is not to be treated as unable to make a decision unless all practicable steps to help him to do so have been taken without success.

A person is not to be treated as unable to make a decision merely because he makes an unwise decision.

An act done, or decision made, under this Act for or on behalf of a person who lacks capacity must be done, or made, in his best interests.

Before the act is done, or the decision is made, regard must be had to whether the purpose for which it is needed can be as effectively achieved in a way that is less restrictive of the person's rights and freedom of action.

Capacity Test

Decision Specific.

Time Specific.

Capacity Test is made by the person taking the action in the person's best interest.

Stage 1

Must have reason to believe that the person has:

‘an impairment of, or a disturbance of, the mind or brain’

(MCA Section 2)

Stage 2

Understand the information

Retain the information

Use and Weigh up the Information

Communicate the decision

In groups assess the individual in the case scenario using the MCA Tool.

Prepare to feedback to the whole group.

Q & A