

Assessing mental capacity where learning disability present: Aisha

Aisha is 50 years-old, with a mild learning disability, and lives with her partner in her own flat.

She was recently assessed in hospital, where it was found that she requires a procedure for her heart. Aisha didn't like being in hospital, as she was frightened of medical procedures. Aisha disengaged when the doctor talked about the procedure and as a consequence, health professionals were unsure if she had the capacity to consent to the heart procedure.

The ward team thought about the best environment to carry out the assessment, in order to support Aisha. They provided her with easy-read information about the procedure and involved her partner in discussions for extra support.

Outcome: As a result of these additional measures, Aisha was more relaxed about the procedure and able to consent to it and communicate with the doctor what her concerns were.