

# Decision Making Capacity and Ethical Issues in Aging Webinar

## Catalog of Recorded Webinars

This catalog provides a list of recorded talks about assessing capacities in older adults, offered by VA Boston Healthcare System and New England GRECC, co-hosted by Jenny Moye and Kyle Page. Many thanks are expressed to our speakers and to our EES partners.

Did you miss a capacity webinar? Are you looking for more information on a specific capacity topic? Please refer to the list below with links below to watch any of these previously recorded lectures. Note, CE credits are not available for these recorded webinars.

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## Introductory Lectures on Capacity Assessment

- **Introduction to Capacity Assessment and Treatment Consent**  
by Jennifer Moye (recorded on 9/20/2018; VA37743)

<http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/po8ung0oai3z/>

Dr. Moye reviews a general framework and later focuses on the common question of medical consent capacity, going in some depth in the consent standards of understanding, appreciation, reasoning, and expressing a choice.

- **Introduction to Independent Living and Financial Capacity Evaluations**  
by Kyle Page (recorded on 10/18/2018; VA37744)

<http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/pbotuttlf2qi/>

Dr. Page discusses standards and approaches in two capacity assessment areas – independent living and financial. This lecture provides a useful introduction to these common and more functionally oriented capacity issues.

- **Overview Introduction to Capacity Assessment**  
by Jennifer Moye (recorded on 9/21/2017)

<http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/pc5yiv8io8xk/>

This lecture is very similar to the 2018 recording but goes into less detail about medical consent with a goal of being more broadly applicable to multiple capacities.

## Legal Issues in Capacity Assessment

- **Legal Developments in Guardianship Law and Implications for Clinicians**  
by Erica Wood (recorded on 12/21/2017; VA)

<http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/pznlf8nk1zd/>

Erica Wood, Attorney with the ABA Commission on Law and Aging, reviews guardianship law in the United States focusing on key elements, legal reforms, and supported decision making.

- **Use of the Values History for Public Guardianship**  
by Pamela B. Teaster (recorded on 01/18/2018; VA)

<http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/p59am7qoy7u8/>

Pamela Teaster, Professor and Director, Center for Gerontology at Virginia Tech, discusses her research on the use of a values history in adults without family or friends who are under public guardianship.

- **Legal and Social Approaches to Supports and Surrogates**  
by Interprofessional Panelists (recorded on 12/20/2018; VA 37762)

<http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/pgkdyk6r2br6/>

A multidisciplinary panel comprised of Jennifer Donovan, Public Guardian at the Iowa Department on Aging, Kyle Page, Geriatric Psychologist, and Sara Simbric, Social Worker, answer audience questions about guardianship and capacity, considering social and legal interventions.

## Financial Capacity

➤ **Elder Fraud, the Silent Epidemic: Identifying those at Risk and Taking Action**

by Jennifer Moye and Bridget O’Sullivan (recorded on 03/21/2019; VA 37793)

<http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/prx0q1q85pzo/>

Jennifer Moye, Geropsychologist, and Bridget O’Sullivan, an attorney with the Massachusetts Securities Division, discuss securities fraud using the “Elder Investment Fraud and Investment Exploitation (EIFFE)” educational materials.

➤ **Neurocognitive Factors in Financial Capacity: A Case Example**

by Nicole Hegberg and Laura Grande (recorded on 02/15/2018; VA)

<http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/pfwg8kxtcggg/>

Neuropsychology fellow Nicole Hegbert presents a neuropsychological approach to assessing financial capacity, also reviewing ways that various medical illnesses may affect cognitive abilities, using a single case example.

➤ **Exploring the Intersection of Financial Exploitation and Financial Decision Making**

by Peter Lichtenberg (recorded on 03/15/2018; VA27740)

<http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/pvsx2u7ajol6/>

Peter Lichtenberg, Director of the Institute of Gerontology at Wayne State University, describes his research to develop a model and a set of assessment tools for financial exploitation. He applies this model and tools to several cases, includes an expert forensic testimony in the court setting.

## Independent Living Capacity

### ➤ **Strategies to Enhance Independent Living Capacity**

by Michele Mlinac, Maggie Murphy, and Robert Smith (recorded on 04/19/2018; VA37747)

[https://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/\\_a1089657440/pu904z6xdxpi/](https://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/_a1089657440/pu904z6xdxpi/)

Drs. Mlinac, Murphy, and Mr. Smith, geropsychologists and an occupational therapist in HBPC discuss a multidisciplinary approach to enhance the abilities of an individual who presents with significant signs of self-neglect and a pattern of behaviors causing concern for the safety of himself and others.

## Medical Consent Capacity

### ➤ **Complex Capacity Assessments: A Case Study of Discrepant Findings among Providers**

by Kelly O'Malley and Kate Hinrichs (recorded on 01/17/2019; VA 37761)

<http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/ppfdc9pa1xlf/>

Drs. O'Malley and Hinrichs, geropsychologists in a VA Community Living Center, describe a situation where providers use different approaches to consent capacity evaluation, arriving at difference opinions.

### ➤ **Too Tired to Reason: How to Support Medical Decision-Making in Medically Complex Patients**

by Kathleen Matthews (recorded on 02/21/2109; VA 37580)

<http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/pdlfqphjdxxp/>

Dr. Matthews, geropsychologist, discusses the impact of multimorbidity on the decision making process. Using a case example, she highlights how clinicians may identify strategies for adapting our evaluations to support their engagement in the process and promote patient autonomy.

## Capacity Assessments in Different Settings

- **Capacity evaluations in acute medical CL setting**  
by John Bradley (recorded on 11/16/2017; VA 34722)

<http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/pqae2t2jsamr/>

Dr. John Bradley, Chief of Mental Health at VA Boston and consultation liaison psychiatrist describes issues which arise in assessing consent capacity in the acute medical setting, applying these to five cases.

- **Capacity evaluation in the inpatient psychiatric setting**  
by Scott Fish, Jessica Strong, & Brian Ludwin (recorded on 05/17/2018; VA37739)

<http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/p8ofwzjr2g6e/>

Drs. Fish, Strong, and Ludwin a neuropsychologist and geropsychologists in inpatient psychiatry provide a framework for approaching capacity evaluation in the acute psychiatry setting, applying it to two cases, one regarding medical consent and another regarding discharge.

- **Sexual Expression and Consent in LTC: Challenges and Opportunities**  
by Maggie Syme (recorded on 04/18/2019; VA 37965)

<http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/pdhxxknw9kpa/>

Dr. Syme, Assistant Professor of Gerontology at Kansas State University discusses issues that arise in regards to sexual expression in long term care as well as approaches to the assessment of sexual consent capacity.

## Ethical Issues in Capacity Assessment

- **Balancing Values and Safety in Capacity Determination: A Case Example**  
by Steven Butz (recorded on 05/16/2018; VA 37739)

<http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/pd4xxl0azytb/>

Dr. Butz presents a case which evolves over multiple years in which CLC providers acknowledge and support a Veteran's values and preferences, while also weighing protective factors in his use of his VA disability pension.

- **Decision Making Capacity At the End of Life**  
By Zachary Sager (recorded on 6/21/2019; VA 38578)

<http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/pd5h3fyqoqu2/>

Dr. Sager discusses palliative care approaches to end of life care, illustrating complex ethical, family, and team issues using two cases. Formal capacity assessment is not an aspect of care but instead a background issue which weaves through the palliative approach.

- **Caring for Incapacitated Older Adult without Advocates**  
By Jennifer Moye, Jacqueline Gurevitch, Alexandra Nothern, Timothy Farrell (recorded on 7/18/2019; VA)

<http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/pipbo9czxxts/>

Panelists present the case of an individual without family or friends to serve as advocates and surrogates when decision making capacity questions arise. This case is discussed in the context of the American Geriatrics Society position Statement on Caring for Unbefriended Adults and recent research.

## Capacity Assessment Training

- **Two birds with one stone: Creating a capacity evaluation and training clinic in the outpatient setting**  
By Jessica Strong and Patricia Bamonti (recorded on 10/19/2017; VA)

<http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/p0okbqh0zwnf/>

Drs. Strong and Bamonti describe their efforts to create a capacity assessment clinic in an outpatient setting which serves both a clinical and training purpose.