

# Decision-making capacity in patients presenting to the Accident and Emergency Services

**Submission date**

12/09/2003

**Recruitment status**

No longer recruiting

☐ Prospectively registered

☐ Protocol

**Registration date**

12/09/2003

**Overall study status**

Completed

☐ Statistical analysis plan

☐ Results

**Last Edited**

05/12/2014

**Condition category**

Injury, Occupational Diseases, Poisoning

☐ Individual participant data

☐ Record updated in last year

**Plain English summary of protocol**

Not provided at time of registration

## Contact information

**Type(s)**

Scientific

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## Additional identifiers

EudraCT/CTIS number

IRAS number

ClinicalTrials.gov number

Secondary identifying numbers

N0544116543

# Study information

## Scientific Title

Decision-making capacity in patients presenting to the Accident and Emergency Services

## Study objectives

To investigate the decision-making capacity in patients presenting to the Accident and Emergency Services, with deliberate self-harm, alcohol intoxication and physical illness.

Hypotheses: Incapacity of patients to consent to treatment will be associated with mental disorders, increased blood alcohol levels and serious physical illness.

## Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

## Ethics approval(s)

Not provided at time of registration

## Study design

Randomised controlled trial

## Primary study design

Interventional

## Secondary study design

Randomised controlled trial

## Study setting(s)

Hospital

## Study type(s)

Treatment

## Participant information sheet

## Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Injury, Occupational Diseases, Poisoning: Self harm

## Interventions

The Accident and Emergency Services are an area of medical practice where rapid health care decisions have to be made, often in the context of life threatening illness. Patients may present who are unconscious and are therefore unable to consent to these decisions. Alternatively patients who have the capacity to make an informed choice, may refuse the proposed treatment. The decision-making capacity of patients may be impaired by temporary factors including serious physical or mental illness, substance misuse or permanent conditions such as learning disabilities.

We propose to assess decision-making capacity of patients presenting to the Accident and Emergency Services, with specific emphasis on the categories of deliberate self-harm and alcohol abuse. These categories of patients commonly present to the Accident and Emergency Services and on occasion lack capacity to consent or refuse treatment.

The Law Commission defines incapacity, as 'the inability to understand relevant information, retain this information, or make a decision based on the information given'.

Using this as a framework, patients will be tested for their ability to consent to a health care intervention. In addition to tests of capacity, patients will be breathalysed to assess the relationship between the degree of alcohol intoxication and lack of capacity. For patients presenting with deliberate self-harm, routine rating scales will be used to assess presence and severity of psychopathology. A random, consecutive sample of patients presenting to Casualty will also be included to serve as a control group and comparisons of decision-making capacity will be made between the three study groups.

### **Intervention Type**

Other

### **Phase**

Not Specified

### **Primary outcome measure**

Not provided at time of registration

### **Secondary outcome measures**

Not provided at time of registration

### **Overall study start date**

16/08/2002

### **Completion date**

15/08/2005

## **Eligibility**

### **Key inclusion criteria**

40 subjects 18 years or over.

### **Participant type(s)**

Patient

### **Age group**

Adult

### **Lower age limit**

18 Years

### **Sex**

Both

**Target number of participants**

40

**Key exclusion criteria**

Not provided at time of registration

**Date of first enrolment**

16/08/2002

**Date of final enrolment**

15/08/2005

## **Locations**

**Countries of recruitment**

England

United Kingdom

**Study participating centre**

**Addenbrooke's NHS Trust**

Cambridge

United Kingdom

CB2 2QQ

## **Sponsor information**

**Organisation**

Department of Health (UK)

**Sponsor details**

Richmond House

79 Whitehall

London

United Kingdom

SW1A 2NL

**Sponsor type**

Government

**Website**

<http://www.doh.gov.uk>

# **Funder(s)**

## **Funder type**

Hospital/treatment centre

## **Funder Name**

Cambridge Consortium - Addenbrooke's

# **Results and Publications**

## **Publication and dissemination plan**

Not provided at time of registration

## **Intention to publish date**

## **Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan**

## **IPD sharing plan summary**

Not provided at time of registration