

Participant Identification Number:

## ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY TO CONSENT

### Living well and enhancing active life: The IDEAL-2 study

Researchers must ask potential participants for consent to take part in a study. In doing so they must consider whether the person approached has the capacity to make this judgement. The following guidance and checklist should be used when assessing capacity to consent in order to ensure that important aspects are evaluated and that the criteria for capacity are met. If there is any doubt about capacity (i.e. an answer of 'NO' is recorded for any of the four indicators of impairment) then consultee consent should be sought.

#### How to decide whether an individual lacks the mental capacity to consent to research participation (based on the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005 and MCA Code of Practice)

Researchers should assume capacity is present unless it is shown to be absent (MCA Code of Practice at 11.4). Capacity is absent if, at the time of decision making:

1. The person in question has impaired functioning of their mind or brain **AND**
2. This impairment makes the person unable to decide whether to participate in this particular research.

A person is deemed unable to decide whether to take part in research if he/she cannot (Section 3 MCA 2005):

- **Understand** the information relevant to the decision (information should be given in a way that is appropriate to the particular person; this might include use of simplified information sheets, pictures or sign language).
- **Retain** that information for long enough to make the decision (this may be for a relatively short time, but still long enough to enable decision making to occur).
- **Use or weigh** that information as part of the process of making the decision (the person needs to understand the consequences of each option and of not making the decision).
- **Communicate** his/her decision (whether by talking, using sign language or any other means).

**CIRCLE appropriate answer**

	YES	NO
<b>The participant has impaired functioning of mind or brain</b>		

**The participant can:**

<b>Understand</b> the information relevant to the decision	YES	NO
<b>Retain</b> that information for long enough to make the decision	YES	NO
<b>Use or weigh</b> that information as part of the process of making the decision	YES	NO
<b>Communicate</b> the decision	YES	NO