

# OVERVIEW OF “MENTAL CAPACITY ACT AND CODE OF PRACTICE” FAMILY PRACTICE SKILLS COURSE

A/Prof Goh Lee Gan

SFP2009; 35(3): 6-7

## INTRODUCTION

This Family Practice Skills Course is jointly organized by the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) and the College of Family Physicians with the objectives in course participants of: understanding the principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2008 (MCA), applying the requirements in MCA in decision making for people who do not have mental capacity, and familiarity with the Code of Practice that accompanies the MCA. Doctors may be asked to conduct formal assessments of persons of their mental capacity in relation to matters in the MCA as well as to be a certificate issuer of a Lasting Power of Attorney.

Accreditation by MCYS to be a certificate issuer and to perform formal assessments of mental capacity is required of doctors who wish to conduct formal assessments of mental capacity of persons. There is opportunity to sit for the one-hour accreditation test administered by the College at the end of this Skills Course.

Doctors who do not wish to sit for the accreditation test can also attend this Skills Course for the purposes of developing an understanding, of being able to apply the requirements of the MCA, and being familiar with the Code of Practice of the MCA.

Please apply early to be in the Family Practice Skills Course.

## COURSE OUTLINE AND CME POINTS

This skills course is made up of the following components. You can choose to participate in one or more parts of it. The CME points that will be awarded are also indicated below.

### Components and CME Points

- Distance Learning Course 5 units (6 CME points upon completing the Distance Learning Online Assessment. Opens 27 Sep – 10 Nov 2009)
- 2 Seminars (2 CME points per seminar)
- Workshops (2 CME points)

GOH LEE GAN, Associate Professor, Head, Division of Family Medicine, University Medicine Cluster, National University Health System

Senior Consultant, Institute of Family Medicine, College of Family Physicians Singapore

## Distance Learning Course

Unit 1: Overview of the Mental Capacity Act (2008)

*Cynthia Chan*

Unit 2: The Mental Capacity Act (2008): Legal Implications

*Lek Siang Pheng*

Unit 3: The Mental Capacity Act (2008): Code of Practice

*Sumytra Menon*

Unit 5: Psychiatric Assessment of Mental Capacity

*Prof Kua Ee Heok*

Unit 6: Ethical Issues Related to the Mental Capacity Act

*A/Prof Chin Jing Jih*

## COURSE TOPIC DETAILS

### Unit 1: Overview of the Mental Capacity Act (2008)

- Introduction
- Choice
- Guiding Principles
- Safeguards
- Caregivers
- What does this mean to the Medical Practitioner?

### Unit 2: The Mental Capacity Act (2008): Legal Implications

- General Practitioner (GP)'s role as a certificate provider under the Mental Capacity Act
- Issuance of certificate of mental incapacity by an accredited GP for purposes of third party transactions
- Legal advice for GPs with regards to the assessment of mental capacity
- Whistle blower protection under the Mental Capacity Act for healthcare workers
- Undue pressure

### Unit 3: The Mental Capacity Act (2008): Code of Practice

- Background
- Introduction
- MCA Impacts
- Code of Practice
- Tests for Mental Capacity
- Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA)
- Protections & Restraints
- Committee of Person & Committee of Estate
- Abuse
- Office of Public Guardian

Unit 4: Mental Capacity Act (2008): Banking Matters

- Singapore Bankable Population and Profile
- Decisions on Property and Affairs
- Common Banking Transactions
- Concept of Asset Preservation
- Ways of Granting Powers to Donees and the Implication

Unit 5: Psychiatric Assessment of Mental Capacity

- Introduction
- Disorders Affecting Mental Capacity
- Types of Mental Capacity
- Assessment of Mental Capacity
- Psychiatric Assessment
- Who can assess Mental Capacity

Unit 6: Ethical Issues Related to the Mental Capacity Act

- Introduction
- Respect for persons – preserving autonomy
- Respect for persons – protecting against vulnerabilities
- Making decisions
- Punitive action against abuse or negligence
- Conclusions

**FACE-TO-FACE SESSIONS****Seminar 1: 26 September 2009****2.00pm – 4.15pm**

Unit 1: Overview of the Mental Capacity Act (2008)

*Cynthia Chan*

Unit 2: The Mental Capacity Act (2008): Legal Implications

*Lek Siang Pheng*

Unit 3: The Mental Capacity Act (2008): Code of Practice

*Sumytra Menon***Workshops : 26 September 2009****4.30pm – 5.30pm**

Assessment Form

Case Studies &amp; Skills 1 (Resource persons: Cynthia Chan, Prof Kua Ee Heok, Lek Siang Pheng)

**Seminar 2: 27 September 2009****2.00pm – 4.15pm**

Unit 4: The Mental Capacity Act (2008): Banking Matters

Unit 5: Psychiatric Assessment of Mental Capacity

*Prof Kua Ee Heok*

Unit 6: Ethical Issues Related to the Mental Capacity Act

*A/Prof Chin Jing Jih***Workshop 2 & Assessment : 27 September 2009****4.30pm – 5.30pm**

Case Studies &amp; Skills 2 (Resource persons: Cynthia Chan, Prof Kua Ee Heok)

**Assessment for Accreditation****5.30pm – 6.30pm**