**Assessing competence, communicating and decision making with individuals lacking capacity**

Welcome to this workshop. By the end of the session, we hope you will have discussed some issues around:

* Thinking about competence in clinical practice
* Using your communication skills and taking practical steps to help your patients make decisions
* How to assess capacity (as per the Mental Capacity Act 2005)
* Making best interests decisions - what does this mean and who can help?

The workshop will focus on a 10-minute role-play. Make a note of the following as you interview Mr/Ms Adams or observe the interaction:

1. What sort of factors impact on a patient’s ability to make decisions?
2. What sort of information do you need to assess John’s competence?
3. How can you assist Mr/Ms Adams in making decisions (remember you are part of a team)?
4. If Mr/Ms Adams still refuses treatment at the end of the interview, what are the next steps?

**Scenario**

You are called by the nurses to see Mr/Ms Adams, a 35-year-old patient who is currently being treated for cellulitis following a road traffic accident 3 weeks ago.   
The nurses have attempted to put up an IV for fluids and antibiotics but he/she refuses each time. You examine him/her and note an abscess on their right leg.   
You note he/she is in pain and mildly confused.