

## **AN OVERVIEW OF SMART COURSE AND REGISTRATION AS AN ACCREDITED SMART ASSESSOR**

### **a. Registration as SMART Assessor**

In the process of developing and standardising SMART it became apparent that valid and reliable administration and accurate interpretation of SMART results requires a specified degree of competency. This is reflected in the specifications of competencies for all assessors working with the patient with a Prolonged Disorder of Consciousness (PDOC) outlined in the Royal College of Physicians guidelines (RCP2013). SMART is the only standardised assessment of the PDOC patient which requires mandatory training to ensure these RCP competencies are fully met.

Therefore to become a registered SMART Assessor the following criteria must be met:

1. The requirements outlined in the SMART Assessor Person Specification
2. Mandatory attendance at SMART Course
3. Ownership of SMART either;
  - Personal ownership or
  - Ownership through place of work (SMART Registered Centre)
4. Completion of SMART Accreditation Assessment following SMART Course
5. Re-accreditation as SMART Assessor demonstrating evidence of application of SMART during registration period
6. Meeting the SMART Standards of Practice

### **b. SMART Course Information**

The SMART course has been developed to provide the SMART assessor with the relevant skills and knowledge to learn how to conduct the SMART Assessment to a competent standard. In addition they will also become more familiar and skilled in the observation and assessment of this client group.

The course has therefore been designed to:

- Increase their awareness of the relevant terminology
  - Optimise understanding of the principles and considerations for assessment of the VS and MCS patient.
  - Identify responses observed in patients in vegetative and minimal conscious states
  - Develop ability to categorise the level and meaning of these responses.
  - Develop competency with the application of all aspects of SMART
- All details regarding the SMART Accreditation and Reaccreditation Process and SMART Assessor Standards are attached.

### **c. Level of SMART Accreditation Competency.**

To ensure competency to practice for various requirements there are 4 distinct levels of competency. To move up through the levels following completion of the course require the following requirements to be evident to the SMART developers. These levels will be recognised on the SMART assessors list on line and are well recognised in the clinical and medico legal field.

#### **Level 1. SMART Accredited Assessor**

- Attendance on SMART Course,
- Evidence of assessment of within 1-9 clients only.
- Assessor may use within the SMART within their own clinical practice for assessment and clinical treatment planning only.
- Demonstrate a competent level of skill in SMART Assessment.
- SMART assessors at this level are not qualified to conduct case management or Medico – Legal assessments.

#### **Level 2 Advanced SMART Assessors**

- Requirement in process of review

#### **Level 3 Expert SMART Assessors**

- Requirement in process of review

#### **Level 4 SMART Master**

- Assessed in excess of 100 clients
- Developed the SMART tool and leaders in new innovations, research etc.
- Qualified to conduct SMART for Medico legal assessment such as withdrawal of clinically assisted nutrition and hydration.

Implementations of these measures will ensure consistency of approach and application to maintain best practice in the application of SMART.

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