

PDOC Assessors Course Attainment of PDOC Assessors Skills and SMART Assessor Course 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. Therefore, the structure of the course reflects the requirements defined in the specifications of competencies for all Prolonged Disorder of Consciousness (PDOC) assessors as outlined in the Royal College of Physicians guidelines (RCP 2020). SMART is the only standardised assessment of the PDOC patient which requires mandatory training to ensure these RCP competencies are fully met.

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

1. The requirements stated in the SMART Assessor Person Specification
2. Mandatory attendance at SMART Course
3. Completion of SMART Accreditation Assessment following SMART Course
4. Re-accreditation as SMART Assessor demonstrating evidence of application of SMART during the registration period.
5. Meeting the SMART Standards of Practice

All details regarding the SMART Accreditation and Reaccreditation Process and SMART Assessor Standards are attached.

b. PDOC Assessors Course Attainment of PDOC Assessors Skills and SMART Assessor Course Information

The PDOC Assessors Course - Attainment of PDOC Assessors Skills and SMART Assessor Course has been developed to provide the SMART assessor with the relevant skills and knowledge to meet the criteria for PDOC Assessor as defined in the RCP guidelines 2023 and to conduct the SMART Assessment to a competent standard.

The course has therefore been designed to:

- Increase awareness of the relevant terminology and criteria for diagnoses
- 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 responses.
- Develop competency with the application of all aspects of SMART.

c. Level of SMART Accreditation Competency.

To ensure competency to practice for various requirements there are 4 distinct levels of competency. To progress through the levels following completion of the course, evidenced competency is required to be submitted and is outlined in the SMART accreditation document. These levels are recognised on the SMART assessors list online 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 defined in SMART Accreditation documentation.

Level 3 Expert SMART Assessors

- Requirement defined in SMART Accreditation documentation.

Level 4 SMART Master

- Assessed more than 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.

For further details:

SMART Administrator
Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability,
West Hill, Putney,
London, SW15 3SW
Tel: 020 8780 4500 x 5140
Email: smart@rhn.org.uk