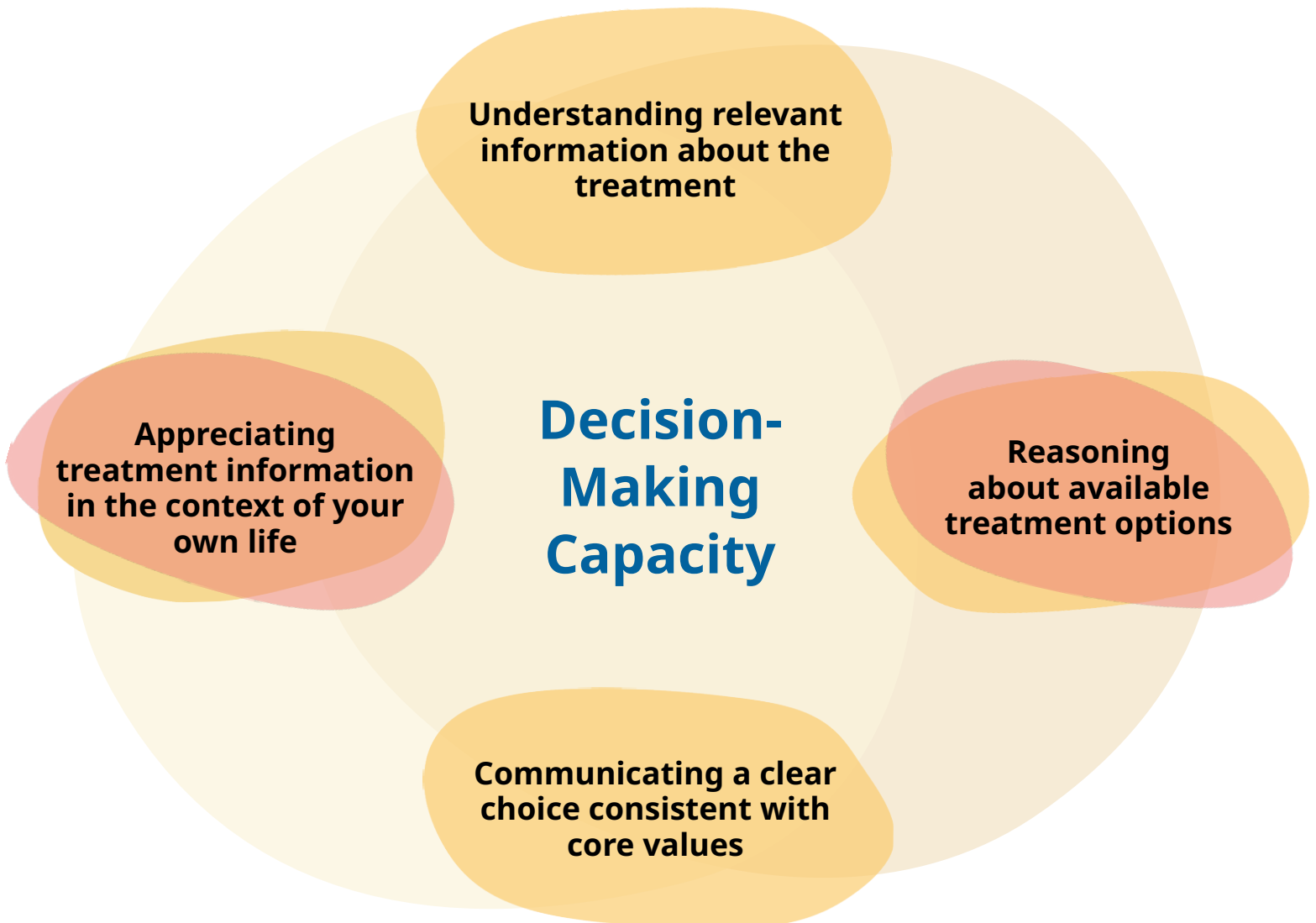


Evaluating Decision-Making Capacity for Gender-Affirming Medical Interventions

This practice tool provides guidance for health care providers supporting informed decision-making about gender-affirming medical interventions.

- Patients providing consent for any medical intervention must be informed, capable of making the decision, and acting voluntarily (without coercion).
- Healthcare providers should ensure patients have received the information necessary to make an informed decision, as well as opportunities to have their questions answered.
- Healthcare providers should support patients with emerging capacity (e.g., youth) in developing their understanding, appreciation, reasoning, and communication throughout the care planning process.
- Medical decision-making capacity is evaluated by the treating health care provider based on the four components below:



The following questions can support evaluation of decision-making capacity for gender-affirming medical interventions:

Understanding relevant information about the treatment

- Can you describe how the treatment works?
- What do you anticipate the main benefits of this treatment would be for you?
- Are you aware of possible risks?
- Are there any precautions you know you should take?

Appreciating treatment information in the context of your own life

- What specific changes or effects are you hoping for?
- Are there changes or effects that you prefer to avoid?
- Do you anticipate any challenges (e.g., safety, support, sexual health, fertility)?
- Have you thought about how you will address any challenges that come up?

Reasoning about available treatment options

- How would this intervention support your gender embodiment goals?
- Have you considered any alternatives to this intervention?
- How might this intervention affect your future options (e.g., family creation, other gender-affirming medical interventions)?
- If this intervention does not work as expected, what might you do?

Communicating a clear choice consistent with your core values

- Have you made a decision about whether or when you would like to start this treatment?
- Has your thinking about this treatment changed over time?
- How would this treatment fit with other steps you have taken (or plan to take) to support your gender embodiment?
- Why do you think this intervention may be the right choice for you?

Citation

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