

**Figure 2: The MacArthur Competency Assessment Tool [1]**

- A tool designed to help clinicians ‘obtain and organize information about patients’ decision-making abilities.’
- Structured interview following fixed topics.
- Flexible for use in ‘assessing patients with a wide range of illness, including psychiatric disorders.’
- ‘Used to assess the degree to which patients are Understanding the information and recognizing (Appreciating) the relevance of the information for their own situation. MacCAT-T then guides clinicians to explore how patients are thinking ... so as to arrive at a picture of their reasoning abilities.’ Additionally, it assesses the ability to express a choice.
- The assessment maps onto a quantitative rating system that allows objective scoring of a patients abilities.
- **The MacCAT only serves to identify deficits in decision-making capacity rather than to determine competence, although the former may influence the latter.**