## **MENTAL COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT – APPLICATION GUIDELINES**



For patients refusing ambulance care or treatment where there is a known or suspected medical condition causing concern.

1.	Was the patient assessed in accordance with the ACTAS patient assessment standard? (If not – document why)	YES / NO
2.	Has the medical condition or concern been fully explained to the patient, including:  • level of concern  • alternatives and options  • risks / consequences of their decision?  (If not – document why)	YES / NO
3.	Does the patient acknowledge and appear to comprehend the information given to them? (i.e. are they able to repeat it back to you in their own words?)	YES / NO
4.	Is the patient able to accurately recall this information when asked after a period of time (approximately 5 – 10 minutes later)?	YES / NO
5.	Does the patient communicate in a consistent manner on the issues of the medical condition, over the ambulance contact time?	YES / NO

**ALL YES** – the patient is most likely to have the capacity to make an informed decision

1 x NO – the patient may not be competent

**2 or more NO** – a higher likelihood that the patient is not competent (or they are uncooperative!)

**FULLY DOCUMENT THE RESULTS OF THIS PROCESS!**