

DSAT-10: Brief Decision Support Analysis Tool

Purpose: A tool for evaluating the quality of decision support provided by health professionals to patients facing tough health decisions.

Transcript number:

Date:

Participant ID:

Analyzed by:

Length of the interaction (minutes):

Procedure:

1. Listen to each encounter twice.
2. Check the boxes if the items were present and **adequately** addressed within the taped encounter (turn page over for criterion descriptions). Not applicable (n/a) is used in circumstances when it was not necessary to have assessed or intervened for that specific item (e.g. if clearly the patient knows about options, benefits and harms then the health professional does not need to explore their knowledge further; if the patient is the only one that is making the decision and has no pressure or need for support then the health professional does not need to intervene in this area).
3. Identify examples from health professional dialog to support that the criterion was met.

Element	Assessment Criteria	Hear and acknowledge or assess in interaction	Intervened	Comments / Notes / Examples
Decision making status	Identify uncertainty about making a decision	<input type="checkbox"/> (1 point)		
	Timing for when decision needs to be made is discussed / acknowledged	<input type="checkbox"/> (1 point)		
	Stage of decision making: assessed or self-evident	<input type="checkbox"/> (1 point)		
Knowledge of	Options AND	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Potential benefits of options AND	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Potential harms of options	<input type="checkbox"/> (if all checked 1 point)	<input type="checkbox"/> (if all checked 1 point)	
Values / preference associated with	Discuss importance of benefits AND	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Discuss importance of harms	<input type="checkbox"/> (if all checked 2 points)		
Others' involvement in the decision	Discuss preferred role in decision making, others involvement and their opinions AND	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Discuss pressure or support from others	<input type="checkbox"/> (if all checked 1 point)	<input type="checkbox"/> (if all checked 1 point)	
Next steps	Near end of the encounter, summarize the next steps to address patient's decision making needs	<input type="checkbox"/> (1 point)		
TOTAL SCORE		out of 10		

Brief Decision Support Analysis Tool (DSAT-10) with definitions

Element	Assessment Criteria	Definitions
Decision making status	Identify uncertainty about making a decision	Identifies uncertainty about a specific decision being made, including identifying the specific decision.
	Timing for when decision needs to be made is discussed / acknowledged	Discusses or acknowledges when the decision has to be made according to the patient / timing of next MD visit. May also suggest changes to that time frame, if needed and as appropriate.
	Stage of decision making: assessed or self-evident	It may be self-evident that the patient is considering the options given that he/she has initiated an encounter about a decision. The nurse may also clarify if they are considering options, their leaning, whether or not the patient has made a decision, or what steps are being taken to carry out the decision.
Knowledge of	Options And Potential benefits of options And Potential harms of options	<i>Assess:</i> Asks questions or acknowledges patient's knowledge of their options, potential benefits / harms associated with the options, and their likelihood. <i>Intervene:</i> Discusses / provides / facilitates access to sources of factual information about the options, outcomes, probabilities of outcomes. Information provided in a balanced, factual way without obvious bias. <i>Fact words:</i> Know, rationale, reasons for doing it, chances, what happens, why it happens, health risks.
Values / preference associated with	Discuss importance of benefits And Discuss importance of harms	Asks patient what is most important or acknowledges patients' comments indicating the importance of benefits/harms. Assists to clarify importance of benefits / harms by discussing or suggesting / referring to balance-scales, shading / weighing exercises, or other tools to clarify values. <i>Feeling / value words:</i> important, worried, concerned about, tolerate, comfortable, unacceptable, bothersome, outweigh, tradeoffs, worth it, number one thing, put up with, happy if, jeopardize, cost too great.
Others' involvement in the decision	Discuss preferred role in decision making, others involvement and their opinions And Discuss pressure or support from others	<i>Assess:</i> Asks or acknowledges patients preferred role in decision making and who else is involved in making the decision, their opinion, any pressure to choose one option. <i>Intervene:</i> Discusses strategies to involve others who are supportive / important, handle social pressures, communicate values with others (e.g. review information, ask questions, share list of pros and cons, share what is important).
Next-steps	Near end of the encounter, there is a summary of the next steps to address patient's decision making needs	Near the end of the encounter, obtain agreement or commitment to take steps to address identified decision making needs. Either asks patient what they are going to do at this point or summarizes for the patient what needs to be done. For example: (a) if not enough information, identify where to get it or offers to send materials or refers to website; and/or (b) if pressure from others, provide ways to manage opinions of others.
SCORING (total possible score 10 points)		Criteria are scored as present / absent. Points are allocated as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 point, if all checkboxes in a box are checked, except, • 2 points, if the importance of <u>both</u> benefits and harms discussed, • No part marks are given.