

The Short Portable Assessment of Capacity for Everyday Decision-Making (ACED)

The following is a template for a short version of the ACED that can be adapted to any functional problem, including medication management, money management, and meal preparation.



The ACED was developed by:

Jason Karlawish, MD
University of Pennsylvania

James Lai, MD
Yale University

The Short Portable ACED


To administer the ACED you need to identify a functional problem the person is having, and at least one option to solve that problem. You will then adapt the interview questions according to the functional problem the person is experiencing and the options to take care of that problem. For each question, decide whether the person's answer is adequate, marginal, or inadequate using the following scoring criteria:

Understanding Scoring Criteria	Appreciation Scoring Criteria	Reasoning Scoring Criteria
<p>0 (inadequate performance): Person gives a clearly inaccurate response with serious distortion.</p> <p>1 (marginal performance): Person shows some recollection of the item content but gives an incomplete and vague response.</p> <p>2 (adequate performance): Person recalls the content of the item and offers a fairly clear version of it.</p>	<p>0: Person offers reasons that are delusional or a serious distortion of reality, or cannot answer the question.</p> <p>1: Person may or may not believe the option will benefit/adversely affect his or her situation but the reason is vague and may represent distorted versions of reality.</p> <p>2: Person acknowledges at least some potential benefit/adverse affect from the option and offers reasons that have some reasonable basis.</p>	<p>Comparative:</p> <p>0: Person provides no comparative statements or an illogical one.</p> <p>1: Person provides comparison statement without specific consequences.</p> <p>2: Person provides clear comparison statement with specific consequences.</p> <p>Consequential:</p> <p>0: Person provides no everyday consequences or an illogical answer.</p> <p>1: Person provides a general statement without details.</p> <p>2: Person provides a clear and vivid statement of everyday consequences.</p>

The scoring criteria are to help guide your judgment whether the person has sufficient decisional abilities to make their own choice.

What is the functional problem? Fill in here: _____

What are some options to solve the problem? Fill in at least one here:

Flip sheet over 

Does the person understand the problem?

Describe the functional problem the person is experiencing. Ask the person to say this back in his/her own words. Describe the consequences of the problem. Ask the person to say this back in his/her own words.

**Does the person appreciate the problem?**

Does the person believe that he/she has the problem you described? *"Do you have any problems with [state the functional problem]?"*

**Does the person understand the options to manage the problem?**

Describe the options to manage the functional problem. Ask the person to say this back in his/her own words.

**Does the person understand the advantages of the option?**

Describe the advantages to the options. Ask the person to say this back in his/her own words.

**Does the person understand the disadvantages of the option?**

Describe the disadvantages to the options. Ask the person to say this back in his/her own words.

**Does the person appreciate the benefits and downsides of the options?**

Does the person think that one of the options to manage the problem will benefit him/her? *"Now just consider this choice [restate an option]. Do you think [insert option to deal with functional problem] could benefit you?"*

Does the person think that an option might make things worse for him/her? *"Now just consider this choice [restate an option]. Do you think [insert option to deal with functional problem] might make things worse for you?"*

**Comparative Reasoning**

How is the person's choice better than another option (such as not getting help)? *"What makes your choice better than [state another option]?"*

**Consequential Reasoning**

What would happen if the person had to choose another option? *"How would [insert option to deal with functional problem] affect your everyday life?"*

**Expressing a Choice**

Final choice to manage the functional problem. *"Now that we've had a chance to talk about [functional problem] what would you like to do?"*