Supplementary file 8: Brief overview of Competency Assessment Tool for Voting or CAT-V[a]

The Competency Assessment Tool for Voting (CAT-V)[a] is a 6-items structured questionnaire build like other capacity Mac Arthur Competency Assessment Tools (Mac CAT), Mac CAT-Research[b] and Mac CAT-Treatment.[c] For the group *Mac-Arthur*, the capacity – for example to consent to treatment or to research- is the resultant of four sub-capacities: capacity to understand, to reason, to appreciate and communicate a choice.

The first 3 items of the CAT-V called *Doe standard* are based on a definition of the capacity to vote put forward by the Federal Court of Maine: being able to understand the nature and effects of voting. During the CAT-V interview, by imagining to be the Election Day (Election of the Governor of the State), the person being assessed has to indicate (adapted from [a]):
- how the people are going to choose the new governor (response: by going to the polling station and by voting, item1, which explores the capacity to understand the nature of vote),
- at the end of Election Day, how will be decided who is the winner (response: the candidate who collects most vote, item 2, which explores the capacity to understand the effect of vote),
- after the presentation of the program of 2 candidates (A and B), for which candidate he would like to vote (response: A or B, item 3n which explores the capacity to communicate a choice).
The items 4 and 5 explore the capacity to reason and the item 6 the capacity to appreciate.[a]

Each item of CAT-V is scored from 0 (inappropriate response) to 2 (appropriate response). The addition of the scores of the first 3 items allows to calculate the Doe standard score (0-6) and similarly, the addition of the score of all the items, the total score (0-12).
For Appelbaum et al.,[a] the CAT-V cannot "determine which scores represent adequate capacity", except in case of extreme scores.

The capacity to vote has been studied in various categories of people: persons with Alzheimer' disease,[a, d] persons with psychiatric disease,[e, f] persons living in a nursing home,[d] inpatients.[g]

Various versions of the CAT-V are available: in English,[a] in Spanish,[d] in Hebrew[e] and in French.[g]

[a] Appelbaum PS, Bonnie RJ, Karlawish JH. The capacity to vote of persons with Alzheimer's disease. Am J Psychiatry. 2005;162:2094-100. doi/abs/10.1176/appi.ajp.162.11.2094
[b] Appelbaum PS, Grisso T. The MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool-Clinical Research. Sarasota. Fla. Professional Resources Press. 2000.
[c] Appelbaum PS, Grisso T. The MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool-Treatment. Sarasota. Fla. Professional Resources Press. 1998.
[d] Irastorza LJ, Corujo P, Banuelos P. Capacity to vote in persons with dementia. Revista de Neurologia. 2007;44:321-25. Spanish.
[e] Doron A, Kurs R, Stolovy T, Secker-Einbinder A, Raba A. Voting Rights for Psychiatric patients: compromise of the integrity of elections, or Empowerment and integration into the community ? Is J Psychiatry Relat Sci. 2014;51(3):169-74.
[f] Saad R, Karlawish J, Appelbaum PS. The capacity to vote of persons with serious mental illness. Psych Serv. 2009;60:624-28.
[g] Bosquet A, Medjkane A, Affo L, Charru P, Vinceneux P, Mahé I. Voting and proxy voting appointment capacities in internal medicine inpatients and two populations of geriatric subjects. Alzheimers Dement, 2009;5,(4):141. doi.org/10.1016/j.jalz.2009.05.671