

## MDCA Administration

The MDCA aims to measure successful conversation in couples where one person has aphasia. The MDCA measures the success of communication and coping strategies, as well as the mindset and attitudes of the couple or dyad.

## Administration of the PWA Version of the MCDA

### Facilitation Strategies

In order for the MDCA to be a valid tool the answers from the PWA need to be to the question posed/the concept in the item, not something slightly different. When simplifying the information, it is easy to make it more specific in an attempt to make it more concrete and tangible. Please try your best to avoid doing this. You can simplify by presenting the question in smaller chunks, emphasising and repeating key words, pointing to tricky concepts and giving examples of them to help understanding.

### MDCA introduction, practice item and orientation to response options

To access the MDCA for Person with Aphasia, use the link in the MDCA study flow chart.

1. Introduce the MDCA - we would like to know the ways you communicate with your communication partner. We will ask you some questions about this.
2. Let the participant know that the test will take around 30 minutes to complete. Negotiate the frequency of breaks with the PWA.
3. Read the statement: '**For each question, think about how you have been in the past month**' To help the person orientate to the last 4 weeks: use the 12-month calendar picture displayed with the concept, point to the relevant 4 week period, (December, for example), and refer back to it as often as required.
4. Ask the PWA what the first name of their communication partner is and add it to the text box.
5. Go over the practice item for the response scale used throughout the test:
  - Orientate the person to the scale and how each end is weighted.
  - Say 'let's try a practice question'
  - Read aloud 'In the past month, I listened carefully to X'
  - If the PWA finds the instruction difficult to understand, break it down and emphasise key words. For example: " In the last month" **How often** did you **listen carefully** to x"

Point to each option on the scale saying it aloud. Offer item specific statements for each option if it helps e.g.

- Never – You **never** listened carefully to x
- Rarely – You **rarely** listened carefully to x
- Sometimes – You **sometimes** listened carefully to X
- Often – You **often** listened carefully to x
- Always – You **always** listened carefully to x

Reading the numerical values aloud whilst using the cursor, or your finger if in person, to highlight the different response options may also help a participant with limited speech to select their response.

Ensure that you feel confident that the respondent has understood and made an informed selection before moving on to the next question.

## Presenting the MDCA domains and items

1. Introduce each domain, and discuss what e.g. ‘working together’ means using the photo to help with this where needed.
2. Read each question aloud, remember to break up instructions into chunks, emphasise and repeat key ideas, orientate to ‘in the last month’ and to the response options in the way that worked best when you did the practice question.
3. Continue through each question in each domain in the same way.  
You can use your discretion and repeat as needed the ‘How often have the following strategies helped to facilitate successful conversations with your conversation partner?’ question when the participant is familiar with the concept.
4. If the PWA expresses confusion through verbal or non-verbal means (facial expression, taking longer to look at the question, asking for prompt repetition, pointing), read the question out loud again and try providing more support. For example, the statement ‘*In the last month we used technology to support the conversation*’ can be adapted to ‘**in the last month we used things like our mobile phones/lpads/ /Google to help us to talk**’.
5. If you are unsure whether the PWA understood the response they selected, try asking the question again to check they give the same answer.
6. Each domain finishes with a free text box for the capture of additional thoughts or ideas the participant may have on that domain. Ask the PWA if they want to add anything specifically linked to the domain and write down the responses.

## Support for understanding of some trickier concepts

Some questions explore more complex concepts. Below are some suggestions of how to support someone to understand such concepts.

**Domain 4, item 5:** the statement ‘**I felt understood as a person**’ may be difficult for some PWA to understand. Try to paraphrase this by offering ‘(name of PCP) really got me’.

**Domain 4, item 6:** ‘**We felt mutual respect during conversations**’. A possible paraphrase option here may be: ‘when we talked I accepted my (CP) thoughts and opinions, and (CP) accepted my thoughts and opinions.’

## Administration of the Conversation Partner Version of the MDCA

The questionnaire is designed to be administered with the primary conversation partner identified by the person with aphasia. The link for the MDCA CP version can be found on the MDCA study flow chart. The same rating scale is used as in the MDCA version for PWA. The administrator should describe the scale and ask the primary conversation partner to consider conversations with the person with aphasia in the last month and what has made conversations successful.