

MDCA Test Version

The Measure of Dyadic Conversation in Aphasia

MDCA- Test Version

MDCA- Aphasia

The MDCA aims to measure successful conversations 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. The MDCA aims to help clinicians identify strengths and areas that could be enhanced in conversations with both conversation partners. This will support goal-setting and couple conversation therapy planning in aphasia rehabilitation.

The items in the MDCA have been developed by examining existing measures of conversation and in partnership with people living with aphasia. This has included asking people with aphasia and their communication partners, "What makes their conversations successful?"

The MDCA has had face and content validation but requires further psychometric testing before the scores can be used meaningfully.

Administration:

There are two versions of the MDCA, one for the person with aphasia and one for their primary conversation partner. This is the version for the *person with aphasia*.

The administering clinician should describe the scale and ask the person with aphasia to consider conversations with their primary conversation partner in the last month and what has made conversations successful. Try to treat the items as an interview and note any other points made.

Frequency Scale: The following rating scale is used throughout.

How often have the following strategies helped to facilitate successful conversations with your conversation partner?

In the last month...

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____
never rarely sometimes often always

Domain 1- Working together- Interaction (Person with Aphasia)

How often have the following strategies helped to facilitate successful conversations with your conversation partner?

In the last month...

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5
 never rarely sometimes often always

Domain 1- Working together- Interaction

**Frequency
Rating**

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. I repeated if _____(name) didn't understand. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 2. _____(name) repeated what they said to help me understand. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 3. _____(name) asked questions to clarify what I meant. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 4. _____(name) allowed time for me to speak. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 5. I was able to express my ideas and opinions. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 6. We both initiated conversations with each other. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 7. I could tell _____(name) what was important to me. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 8. _____(name) listened carefully to me. | 1 2 3 4 5 |

Note any further thoughts and ideas expressed by the person with aphasia:

Domain 2: Other ways of communicating- Multimodal communication (Person with Aphasia)

How often have the following strategies helped to facilitate successful conversations with your conversation partner?

In the last month...

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5
never rarely sometimes often always

Domain 2: Other ways of communicating- Multimodal communication	Agreement Rating
1. _____(name) wrote keywords down.	1 2 3 4 5
2. We used gestures, body language and facial expressions to communicate.	1 2 3 4 5
3. We used technology to support our conversations e.g. phone, tablet, maps, photos.	1 2 3 4 5
4. We made sure we looked at each other when talking.	1 2 3 4 5

Note any further thoughts and ideas expressed by the person with aphasia:

Domain 3: Familiarity and the Communication Environment – Context/Common Ground (Person with Aphasia)

How often have the following strategies helped to facilitate successful conversations with your conversation partner?

In the last month...

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____
never rarely sometimes often always

Domain 3A: Familiarity - Common Ground

Frequency Rating

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. We talked about topics we were both interested in. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 2. _____(name) understands my aphasia | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 3. Our shared routines, memories and background- helped our conversations. | 1 2 3 4 5 |

Domain 3B: Considering the Environment- Context and Common Ground

Frequency Rating

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 4. We reduced noise and distractions. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 5. We communicated one-on-one | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 6. We came back to it later if _____(name) couldn't work it out. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 7. We kept conversations shorter if I was tired. | 1 2 3 4 5 |

Note any further thoughts and ideas expressed by the person with aphasia:

Domain 4: Managing the impact of aphasia - Mindset and Attitude (Person with Aphasia)

How often have the following strategies helped to facilitate successful conversations with your conversation partner?

In the last month...

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5
 never rarely sometimes often always

Domain 4: Managing the impact of aphasia - Mindset and Attitude

Frequency Rating

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. We were patient with each other to reduce frustration | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 2. We had a sense of humour in our conversations. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 3. I felt a sense of achievement if the communication strategies worked. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 4. I felt included in our conversations. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 5. I felt understood as a person | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 6. We felt mutual respect during conversations | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 7. I accepted we won't always get it right. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 8. I acknowledged when our conversation was hard. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 9. If I felt frustrated , (name) calmed me down. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 10. I could speak for myself | 1 2 3 4 5 |

Note any further thoughts and ideas expressed by the person with aphasia:

Domain 5: Generic Rating (Person with Aphasia)

Overall, how often are your conversations **together successful**?



Breakdown _____ Success

1 2 3 4 5

Not at all successful Rarely successful Sometimes successful Often successful Always Successful

Domain 5: MDCA-Relationship

Relationship questions for couples (optional) (Person with Aphasia)

Communication is important for maintaining relationships.

These questions may help you **reflect on how aphasia impacts your relationship** (or not) and **what steps you can take to support** each other.

How often have the following strategies helped to facilitate successful conversations with your conversation partner?

In the last month...

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____
never rarely sometimes often always

Domain 5. Relationship

**Frequency
Rating**

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. I can tell my partner how I feel . | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 2. We discuss and problem-solve situations together. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 3. I support my partner with empathy and understanding. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 4. We can still support each other in many ways. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 5. We can share our problems with each other. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 6. I listen to my partner and give them time to talk about issues. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 7. I can confide in my partner. | 1 2 3 4 5 |

Note any further thoughts and ideas expressed by the person with aphasia:

The Measure of Dyadic Conversation in Aphasia

MDCA- Test Version

MDCA- Partner version

Administration:

The questionnaire is designed to be administered with the primary conversation partner identified by the person with aphasia. There is a separate version for administration with the person with aphasia.

A frequency rating scale is used. The administering clinicians 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.

Frequency

How often have the following strategies helped to facilitate successful conversations with your conversation partner?

In the last month...

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5
never rarely sometimes often always

Domain 1- Working Together- Interaction (Primary Conversation Partner)

Frequency

How often have the following strategies helped to facilitate successful conversations with your conversation partner?

In the last month...

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5
never rarely sometimes often always

Domain 1- Working Together- Interaction

- 1 I clarified the topic.
- 2 I tried harder to understand if I was unsure.
- 3 I listened carefully to _____ (name)'s message.
- 4 I simplified my questions.
- 5 I focused on 1 topic at a time.
- 6 I spoke more slowly but kept an adult tone.
- 7 I used shorter sentences.
- 8 I let _____ (name) finish what they were saying.
- 9 I repeated or rephrased if _____ (name) didn't understand.

- 11. I asked questions to narrow down the topic.
- 12. I gave _____ (name) time to respond.
- 13. I checked we both understood.
- 14. We both initiated conversations with each other

Frequency Rating
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5

Note any further thoughts and ideas expressed by the conversation partner: _____

Domain 2: Other ways of communicating- Multimodal communication (Primary Conversation Partner)

Frequency

How often have the following strategies helped to facilitate successful conversations with your conversation partner?

In the last month...

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5
never rarely sometimes often always

Domain 2. Other ways of communicating

1. I gave _____ (name) my full attention.
2. I made sure _____ (name) could see me / my face.
3. I wrote keywords down as I spoke.
4. We used drawings/visuals/gestures/ to support the conversation.
5. We used technology to support the conversation.
 - a. (e.g. phone, tablet, maps, photos)

Frequency Rating
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5

Note any further thoughts and ideas expressed by the conversation partner:

Domain 3: Familiarity and The Communication Environment- Context/Common Ground (Primary Conversation Partner)

Frequency

How often have the following strategies helped to facilitate successful conversations with your conversation partner?

In the last month...

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____
never rarely sometimes often always

Domain 3A: Familiarity (Context/Common Ground)

1. I asked _____'s (name) opinion on relevant life matters.
2. My knowledge of _____ (name) as a person made it easier to be on the same page.
3. My understanding of aphasia helped me to know how to support _____ (name).
4. Our shared routines, activities, memories, and background helped me to understand what _____ (name) wanted to say.

Frequency Rating
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5

Domain 3B: Considering the communication environment-(Context/Common Ground)

5. We reduced noise and distractions.
6. We considered the time of day and avoided times when _____ (name) was fatigued.

Frequency Rating
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5

Note any further thoughts and ideas expressed by the conversation partner:

Domain 4: Managing the impact of aphasia- Mindset and Attitude (Primary Conversation Partner)

Frequency

How often have the following strategies helped to facilitate successful conversations with your conversation partner?

In the last month...

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____
never rarely sometimes often always

Domain 4: Managing the impact of aphasia- Mindset and Attitude

1. I was patient to reduce frustration.
2. I recognised and acknowledged their intelligence.
3. I acknowledged we work it out together. (conversation difficulties)
4. We had a sense of humour.
5. I was aware of how my own stress can impact our conversations.
6. I helped them build confidence through encouraging conversations.

7. I acknowledged their skills and experience.

Frequency Rating
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5

Note any further thoughts and ideas expressed by the conversation partner:

Generic Rating (Primary Conversation Partner)

1) Overall, how often are your conversations **together successful**?



Breakdown _____ Success

1

2

3

4

5

Not at all successful

Rarely successful

Sometimes successful

Often successful

Always Successful

Domain 5: MDCA-Relationship

Relationship questions for couples (optional) (Primary Conversation Partner)

Communication is important for maintaining relationships.

These questions may help you reflect on how aphasia impacts your relationship (or not) and what steps you can take to support each other.

How often have the following strategies helped to facilitate successful conversations with your conversation partner?

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____
never rarely sometimes often always

Domain 5: Relationship

1. I can tell my partner how I feel.
2. We discussed and problem-solved situations together.
3. I support my partner with empathy and understanding.
4. We can still support each other in many ways
5. We can share our problems with each other.
6. I listened to my partner and gave them time to talk about issues.
7. I felt I could confide in my partner.

Frequency Rating
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5

Note any further thoughts and ideas expressed by the conversation partner:
