

Mental Capacity Assessment in Prader-Willi Syndrome: A Quick Reference Guide

People with PWS have unique differences in how their brain works, which affect their ability to process information, regulate emotions, and make decisions.

The following is a guide to how PWS can impact memory, emotions, and understanding in real world situations:

Executive Function:

- Have fixed routines
- Poor flexible thinking
- Memory loss under stress
- Repetitive speech patterns

Verbal vs Real-Time Discrepancy:

- Can explain but not act
- Fails in live environments
- Influenced by stress or triggers

Masked Capacity Indicators:

- Echoed or rehearsed phrases
- Gives agreement without understanding
- Appears to understand due to willingness to comply

Limbic System Triggers:

- Escalation under pressure
- Sudden shutdowns

- Anxiety or meltdown blocks reasoning

Causative Nexus Documentation:

- Link impairment to decision failure
- Explain inconsistency
- Use examples from real-life situations

To consider in Capacity Assessment:

- Uncritical agreement
- Inconsistent responses
- Capacity varies with time/emotion