

Using the Lichtenberg Rating Scales: NAPSA 2016

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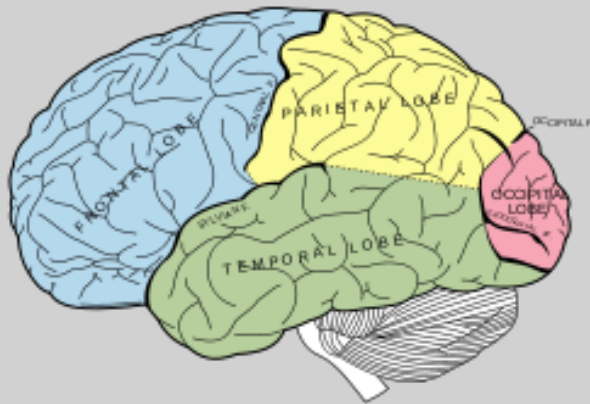
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“The human brain starts working the moment you are born and never stops until you stand up to speak in public.”

~George Jessel

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Overview

- Examine cognitive impairment and decisional abilities as a specific vulnerability for FE
- Describe our data on 413 participants
- Introduce our scale and website
- Describe case examples

Case Example: Unsolicited APS Description

- Former university professor gifting grandson to tune of \$300K in one year
- Staff ruled out the case—he seemed just fine
- Police asked to reconsider— He could not answer any of the questions on the scale and was unaware of the extent of his giving.
- Police charged grandson with FE

Decision Making and FE

Reduced specific decision making abilities for major decisions intersect with FE—even beyond general cognitive impairment.

What Our Data Show: Financial Exploitation Within Past 2 Years

- Cognitively intact (n=157): **13.7% FE victims**
- Cognitively impaired (n=43)
- Intact decision making: **4/31 (13%) FE**
- Impaired decision making: **9/12 (75%) FE**

Impaired decision making and cognitive impairment most at risk for FE

Decisional Ability Only and FE

- 20/165 or 12% base rate of FE with intact decisional ability
- 10/16 62.5% base rate of FE with impaired decisional ability

**5 TIMES THE RATE OF FE WITH
IMPAIRED DECISION MAKING
ABILITIES**

Disparities in Financial Exploitation?

- **13.5%** base rate of FE 13/96 for **Non-Hispanic Whites**
- **21.2%** base rate for **African Americans**
- **Over 60% of FE in both groups** (Whites and African Americans) with decisional ability deficits

Understanding Cognitive Impairment in Older Adults

Geriatric Syndromes: Collection of Symptoms

1. Dementia
2. Delirium
3. Frailty

Syndrome of Dementia

Cognitive or Neuropsychiatric Symptoms that:

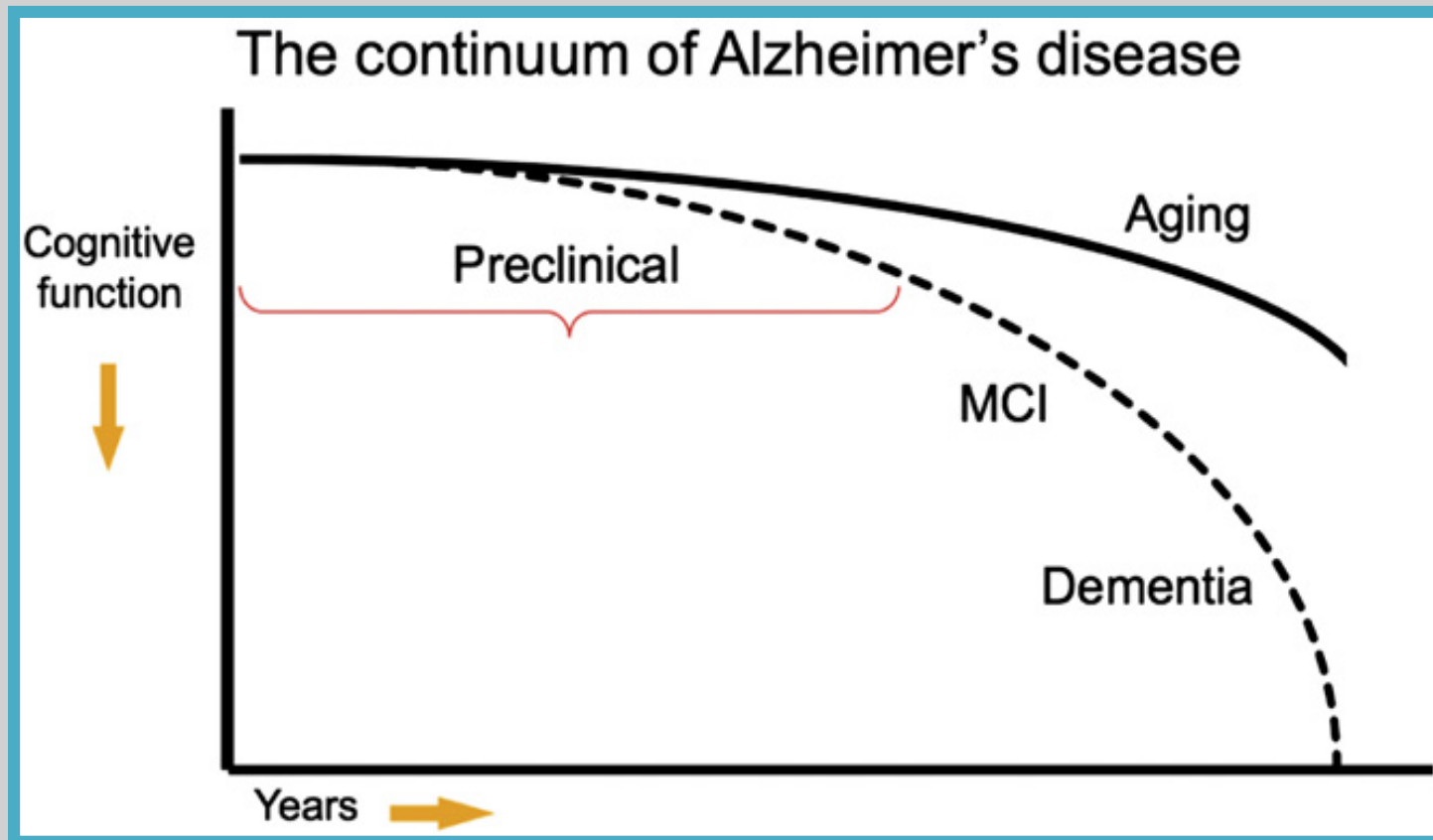
1. Interfere with ability to function in usual activities
2. Represent a decline from previous functioning
3. Not due to delirium or major psychiatric disorder
4. Cognitive impairment detected through history and objective assessment
5. At least problems in 2 domains (memory, reasoning, visuospatial, language, personality change)

Criteria for Probable AD

1. Meet criteria for dementia
2. Insidious onset
3. Clear-cut history of worsening cognition
4. Variety of presentations; amnestic most common, language (word finding), executive dysfunction
5. AD does not include **extensive WMHs, LBD, or PPA**

Note: WMHs may meet criteria for Possible AD

New Diagnostic Guidelines for AD



Sperling et al. 2011, *Alz. & Dementia*

Clinical Dementia Rating (**CDR**)

Dementia Staging Instrument

Domains:

- Memory, Orientation, and Judgment
- Community Affairs, Home, and Hobbies
- Personal Care (not used for MCI)
- Stages: MCI, Mild, Moderate, Severe

Plassman Prevalence Estimates of Minor and Major Neurocognitive Impairment

CIND (n=241)	
Age 71-79	16%
Age 80-89	29%
Age 90+	39%
Total	22%

AD (n=98)	
Age 71-79	3.5%
Age 80-89	10.2%
Age 90+	22.4%
Total	8%

50% of persons with mild AD and 93% of those with moderate AD had impaired financial capacity

Delirium

- **Acute Change in Cognition**
 - Develops over hours to days
- **Fluctuating Course throughout the day**
- **Reduced ability to focus, sustain, or shift Attention**
- **Disorganized Thinking**
- **Disturbance of Consciousness**
 - Hyperactive (25%)
 - Mixed (25%)
 - Hypoactive (50%)

Underlying medical condition(s)...

**...altered physiology, which
must be corrected in order to
address delirium!**

Delirium vs. Dementia

<u>Feature</u>	<u>Delirium</u>	<u>Dementia</u>
Onset	Acute	Insidious
Duration	Brief?	Chronic
Consciousness	Fluctuates	Normal
Memory	Recent poor	Recent/late
Attention	Always impaired	May be intact
Perception	Disturbed, vivid	Blunted
Thinking	Disorganized	Empty

The Tool...

Confusion Assessment Method (CAM)

1. Acute onset and fluctuating course of mental status change
2. Inattention
3. Disorganized thinking
4. Altered level of consciousness

Diagnosis requires 1 & 2 along with either 3 or 4



Aging & Mental Health

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The Paulson–Lichtenberg Frailty Index: evidence for a self-report measure of frailty

Daniel Paulson & Peter A. Lichtenberg

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To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13607863.2014.986645>

General Methods

- Frailty (2000, 2004, 2008)
 - 5-items reflecting different facets of the frailty syndrome
 - **Weakness:** (Because of a health problem do you have any difficulty) with lifting or carrying weights over 10 pounds, like a heavy bag of groceries?
 - **Slowness:** (Because of a health problem do you have any difficulty) with getting up from a chair after sitting for long periods?
 - **Fatigue:** Have you had any of the following persistent or troublesome problems: severe fatigue or exhaustion?
 - **Wasting:** Loss of 10% or more of body weight over 2 years
 - **Falls:** Have you fallen down in the last 2 years?
 - Respondents with 3 or more symptoms were identified as frail
 - Frailty Index demonstrates very similar relationships with demographic variables, ADL disability, hospitalization, disease, S-R health, cognition and mood as Fried's (2001) model.

General Methods

Frailty- Validation Study

Table 4
Prevalence of frailty by sex and age group

Age Group	(n)	Overall % Frail	Men	Women
			(n=3645)	(n=5200)
65-69	2731	11.9%	7.0%	15.5%
70-74	2108	12.7%	6.7%	17.4%
75-79	1861	15.5%	10.5%	19.1%
80-85	1420	21.6%	14.8%	25.5%
86-90	541	31.8%	20.6%	38.3%
90+	184	36.4%	23.5%	41.4%

Early Detection of Dementia:

- 1. Self Report**
- 2. Informant Report**
- 3. Triggers**

Self Report: Questions to Ask

- Are your memory, thinking skills, or ability to reason worse than a year ago?
- If yes, has this interfered with your everyday activities (e.g., shopping, paying bills, driving)?
- Has a physician or other health care professional evaluated your memory or thinking change?

Early Detection Screening Items

1-6 Yes/No Items

1. Repeat themselves
2. More forgetful
3. Need reminders for chores, shopping, etc.
4. Seem sad, may cry more often
5. Trouble with calculations and managing finances
6. Lost interest in usual hobbies or activities

Early Detection Screening Items

7-10 Yes/No Items

7. Needing help with ADLs
8. Irritable, agitated or suspicious
9. Concerns about driving (safety or lost)
10. Trouble finding words

Cutoff score of 4:
82% PPV, 93.5% NPV

Dementia Trigger

Communication

- Missed Office Appointments
- Confusion about Medical Conditions/Treatment Instructions
- Calling Office Frequently
- Repetitive Speech
- Missed Paying Bills
- Difficulty Following Directions
- Trouble with Handling Paperwork

Dong's Maxwell Pollack Award Lecture

- “Decision making capacity is the cornerstone assessment for many cases of elder abuse while balancing autonomy, beneficence and paternalism.”

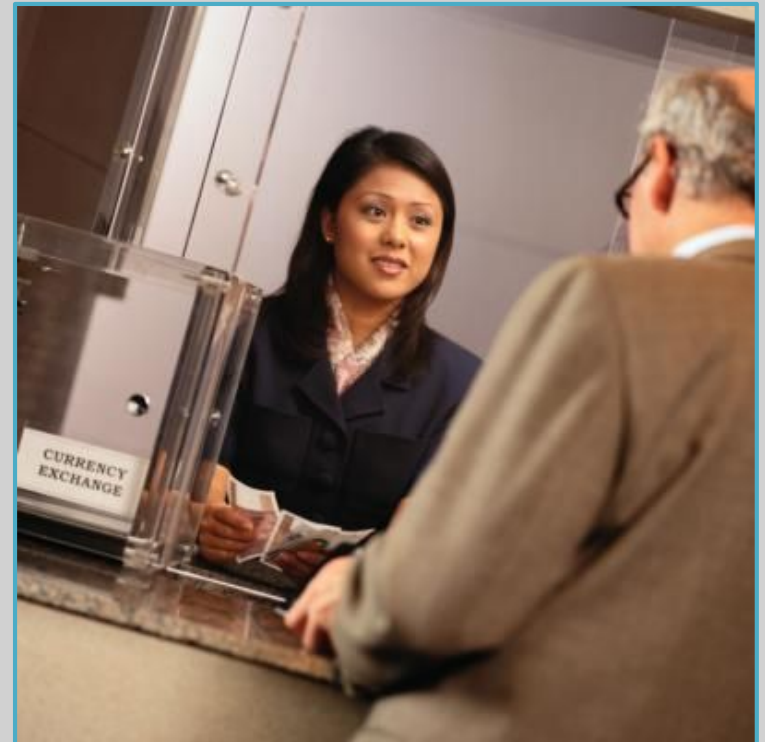
The Gerontologist, 2014; vol. 54, p. 156

Model: Financial Decisional Abilities

- Formed 2 New Scales:

Lichtenberg Financial Decision Making Rating Scale (LFDMS)

Lichtenberg Financial Decision Screening Scale (LFDSS)



Overall Goal:

Assessment at Point of
Decision

Person-Centered Care

- How can we help care for and support the person in a way that recognizes the changes and honors the person?
- How can we encourage meaning and purpose despite the progression of dementia?

Whole Person Care

1. People with dementia remain full persons despite their cognitive impairment and dementia
 - Dignity, honor, respect
2. Who they are (who they were) continues to matter
 - Needs, relationships, values, and beliefs
3. These aspects of the person help us understand their life and behavior and should be considered in care planning
 - Family understanding and experience matters

Mast (2013). Bringing person-centered care to people with early-stage Alzheimer's disease. *Generations*, 37, 63-65.



Using Person-Centered Principles for Financial Capacity

- People are more than the sum of their cognitive abilities: ***Context and psychological vulnerability are key aspects too***
- Traditional approaches overemphasize deficits and under-emphasize strengths: ***Hypothetical Vignettes over-emphasize deficit***
- Subjective experience of PWD remains important: ***Analyzing the actual decision is critical***

Conceptual Model for LFDERS

Contextual Factors

- **Financial Situational Awareness**
- **Psychological Vulnerability**
- **Undue Influence**
- **Past Financial Exploitation**

Intellectual Factors

- **Express:**
 - **Choice**
 - **Rationale**
 - **Understanding**
 - **Appreciation**

Consistency with Values

Integrity of Financial Decisional Ability

Groundbreaking Work of Appelbaum and Grisso 1988

- Originally for capacity for psychiatric treatment and guardianship, then health decisions
- ID 4 aspects of decision making:
Communicating
 1. Choice
 2. Understanding
 3. Appreciation
 4. Reasoning

Lichtenberg Financial Decision Screening Scale (**LFDSS**)

- 10 items: To be administered in an interview format
- Multiple choice
- Focuses on the 4 intellectual factors and potential for undue influence
- Professional does the rating on each item and does not just record older adult's responses.
- Overall judgment score based in part on don't know or inaccurate responses.

Lichtenberg Financial Decision Screening Scale (LFDSS)

Lichtenberg Financial Decision Screening Scale (LFDSS)©

Peter A. Lichtenberg, Ph. D., ABPP

Age: _____

Gender: _____

Education: _____

Older Person Should be Able to Communicate

- Choice
- Appreciation
- Understanding
- Rationale

Date: _____

1. What is the financial decision you are making/have made?

- Giving a gift / loan (e.g., paying bills or tuition for grandchild, purchase of home for son to live in)
- Major purchase or sale for self (home, car, renovations, services, invest in LTC or NH)
- Investment Planning (retirement, insurance, portfolio balancing)
- Estate planning (Will, beneficiary, DPOA, add/remove someone from bank account)
- Turn over bill paying to someone else
- Scam, Fraud, Theft (suspected)
- Other: _____
- Don't know or inaccurate

2. Was this your idea or did someone suggest it or accompany you?

- My idea
- Someone else suggested/drove me here
- Don't know/inaccurate

3. What is the purpose of your decision?

- Benefit self (meet a need, peace of mind)
- Benefit family (whom?)
- Benefit friends (whom?)
- Benefit organization/charity (which?)
- Please or satisfy someone else (whom?)
- Don't know/inaccurate

4. What is the primary financial goal?

- Earn money (or retain value of investment)
- Reduce tax burden
- Reduce debt
- Affordability of item(s) or service(s)
- Share my wealth after my death
- Allow someone else to access my money or finances / accounts (now)
- Gift someone or a charity (which?)
- Lifestyle (no \$\$ goal; meet a need/desire)
- Other (describe) _____
- Don't know/inaccurate

5. How will this decision impact you now & over time?

- Improve financial position
- No impact
- Negative impact/debt
- Don't know/inaccurate

Note: If consumer is not sure, PROBE before marking DK.

6. How much risk to your financial well-being is involved?

- Low risk or none
- Moderate risk
- High risk
- Don't know/inaccurate

Note: If consumer is not sure, PROBE before marking DK.

7. How may someone else be negatively affected?

- No one will be negatively affected
- Family members (who and why?)
- Someone else (who and why?)
- Charity (which and why?)
- Don't know/inaccurate

8. Who benefits most from this financial decision?

- I do
- Family
- Friend
- Caregiver
- Charity/organization
- Don't know/inaccurate

9. Does this decision change previous planned gifts or bequests to family, friends, or organizations?

- No
- Yes (who and why?)
- Don't know/inaccurate

10. To what extent did you talk with anyone regarding this decision?

- Not at all
- Mentioned it (to whom?)
- Discussed in depth (with whom?)
- Don't know/inaccurate

LFDSS Decisional Ability Score:

- Major Concerns
- Some Concerns
- No Concerns

APS Case Outcome:

- Case Substantiated
- Case Unsubstantiated



Reliability and Validity Estimates

- LFDSS administered to consecutive clients by APS workers, Attorneys, Financial Planners, Social Workers, CPAs and Physicians
- Professionals make final rating of decision making abilities and we compared their ratings to two risk scoring systems

Table 1: Demographics and Characteristics Table

		N	%	Mean	Standard Deviation
Referral Source	Adult Protective Services	80	37.6		
	Professionals	133	62.4		
Age (years)		213		76.93	(10.10)
Age Categories (4)	Below 65	26	12.2		
	65-74 yrs	56	26.3		
	75 - 84 yrs	74	34.7		
	85+ years	57	26.8		
Gender	female	121	56.8		
	male	92	43.2		
Highest Grade of Education (years)		183		13.66	(2.87)
Category Education	Less than High School	19	10.3		
	High School	80	43.5		
	Some college +	85	46.2		
	Missing Education	29	.0		
Lichtenberg Financial Decision Screening Scale (<i>dichotomous variables</i>)		213		.98	(1.81)
Lichtenberg Financial Decision Screening Scale (<i>ordinal variables</i>)		213		4.50	(3.91)

Key Points

- Large sample size: 213
- Good distribution of age and education
- Able to be used by Professionals of all backgrounds (APS, Financial, Legal)

Table 2:

Internal Consistency Estimates for the 7-Item Lichtenberg Financial Decision Screening Scale Using Different Coding Methods

	N	Dichotomous Variables ^a			Ordinal Variables ^b		
		Alpha	McDonald's Omega Total	Explained Common Variance (ECV)	Alpha	McDonald's Omega Total	Explained Common Variance (ECV)
Total Sample	213	0.958	0.958	85.052	0.904	0.906	75.339
Male	92	0.973	0.977	78.605	0.929	0.941	54.747
Female	121	0.940	0.949	71.446	0.873	0.875	69.208
College and above	85	0.918	0.932	39.731	0.874	0.879	62.550
High school and below	99	0.944	0.950	72.605	0.858	0.863	55.205
Less than 75 years old	82	0.968	0.973	71.592	0.918	0.926	64.622
75 years old or greater	131	0.949	0.950	82.819	0.886	0.888	76.418
Adult Protective Services	80	0.942	0.943	70.302	0.912	0.914	73.326
Professionals	133	0.947	0.956	58.786	0.846	0.855	62.620

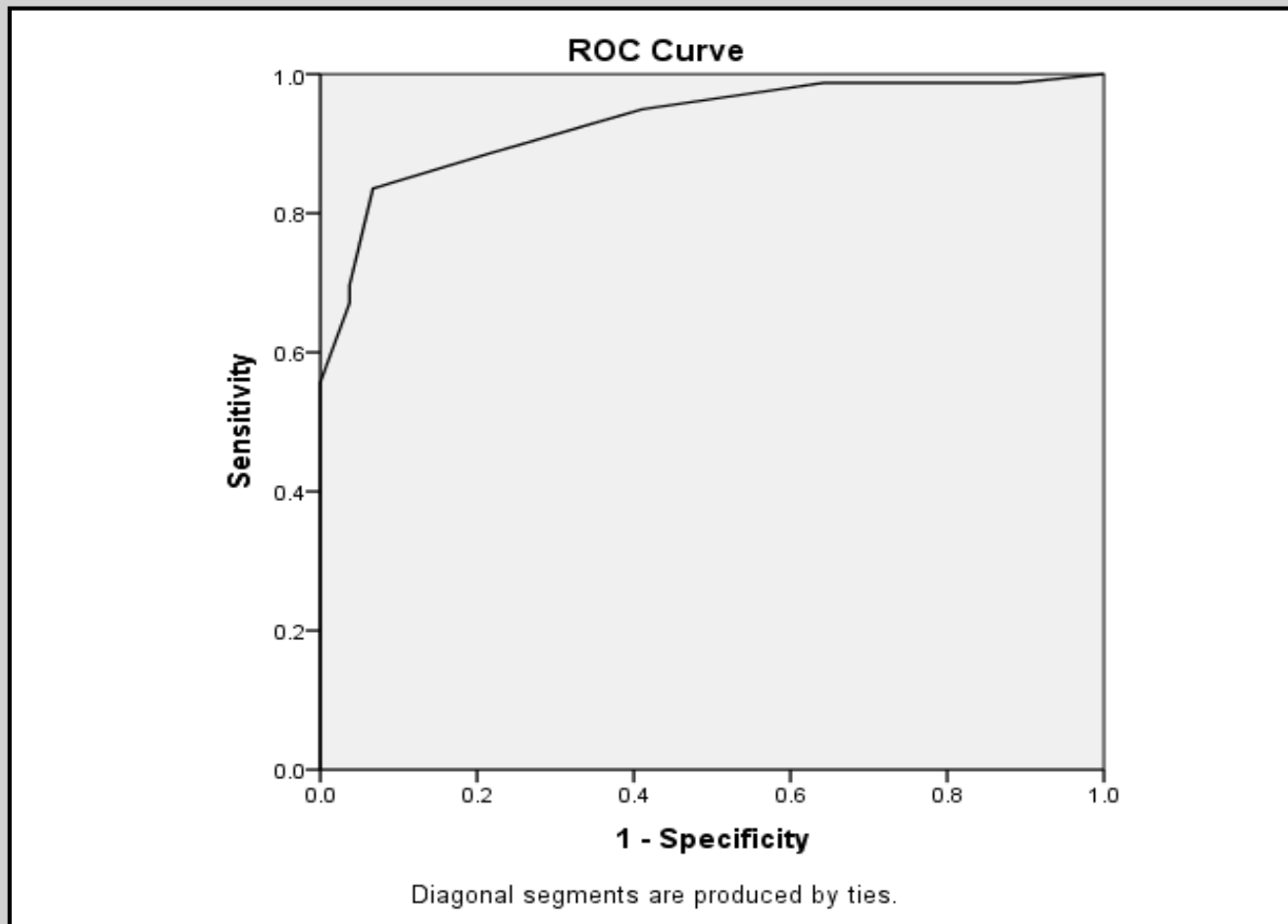
^aAlpha, McDonald's Omega Total and Explained Common Variance all calculated using tetrachoric correlations. Explained Common Variance was obtained from a bi-factor model.

^bAlpha, McDonald's Omega Total and Explained Common Variance all calculated using polychoric correlations. Explained Common Variance was obtained from a bi-factor model.

Key Points

- Excellent Internal Consistency of items
- One factor structure and holds across ages, education, gender

Figure 2: ROC Curve for the LFDSS Score Using Ordinal Variables



Cutoff Score: Ordinal Risk Scoring

Cutoff score of 5 or greater

Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV
.88	.91	.84	.93

LFDSS Instructions

- The LFDSS is a structured, multiple choice interview that should be administered in a standardized fashion. In introducing the LFDSS to the older adult, read out loud the following one-sentence explanation:

“I am going to ask you a set of questions to better understand the financial transaction/decision you are making or have already made. Please answer these as best you can and feel free to elaborate on any of your answers.”

LFDDSS Questions 1-3

1. What is the financial decision you are making/have made?

- Giving a gift / loan (e.g., paying bills or tuition for grandchild, purchase of home for son to live in)
- Major purchase or sale for self (home, car, renovations, services, invest in LTC or NH)
- Investment Planning (retirement, insurance, portfolio balancing)
- Estate planning (Will, beneficiary, DPOA, add/remove someone from bank account)
- Turn over bill paying to someone else
- Scam, Fraud, Theft (suspected)
- Other:

- Don't know or inaccurate

2. Was this your idea or did someone suggest it or accompany you?

- My idea
- Someone else suggested/drove me here
- Don't know/inaccurate

3. What is the purpose of your decision?

- Benefit self (meet a need, peace of mind)
- Benefit family (**whom?**)
- Benefit friends (**whom?**)
- Benefit organization/charity (**which?**)
- Please or satisfy someone else (**whom?**)
- Don't know/inaccurate

LFDSS Questions 4-6

4. What is the primary financial goal?

- Earn money** (or retain value of investment)
- Reduce tax burden**
- Reduce debt**
- Affordability** of item(s) or service(s)
- Share my wealth after my death**
- Allow someone else to access my money or finances/accounts** (now)
- Gift someone or a charity** (which)
- Lifestyle** (no \$\$ goal; meet a need/desire)
- Other (describe)
- Don't know/inaccurate

5. How will this decision impact you now & over time?

- Improve financial position
- No impact
- Negative impact/debt
- Don't know/inaccurate

6. How much risk to your financial well-being is involved?

- Low risk or none
- Moderate risk
- High risk
- Don't know/inaccurate

LFDSS Questions 7-10

7. How may someone else be negatively affected?

- No one will be negatively affected
- Family members (**who and why?**)
- Someone else (**who and why?**)
- Charity (**which and why?**)
- Don't know/inaccurate

9. Does this decision change previous planned gifts or bequests to family, friends, or organizations?

- No
- Yes (**who and why?**)
- Don't know/inaccurate

8. Who benefits most from this financial decision?

- I do
- Family
- Friend
- Caregiver
- Charity/organization
- Don't know/inaccurate

10. To what extent did you talk with anyone regarding this decision?

- Not at all
- Mentioned it (**to whom?**)
- Discussed in depth (**with whom?**)
- Don't know/inaccurate

Case Example #1

Case #1: *A 68-year-old high school graduate is considering buying a new home for her grandson.*

- She has relatively few resources herself and this purchase would put her at risk for financial hardship
- She will lack access to the cash she will spend and that she will be responsible for the mortgage payments
- She would be financially responsible should her grandson decide to no longer pay the monthly bills.
- Grandson is marginally employed and has no financial resources; making an investment in him a significant risk.

LFDSS and Case Example #1

LFDSS Questions and Answers:

- #2 Your idea or did someone else suggest this? *“My grandson’s idea but I like it.”*
- #4 Primary financial goal? *She is unsure.*
- #5 How will decision impact you now and over time? *She says it will improve her position but Rater said that is inaccurate.*
- #6 How much risk to your financial well-being? *She says none; Rater says that there is moderate to high risk and therefore response is inaccurate.*
- #8 Who benefits most from this decision? *She reports “I do” but clearly grandson would be major beneficiary.*

Case Outcome #1

The Rater marks this a 0 for Decisional Abilities, “Major Concerns,” and Substantiates case

Let’s Review:

- The woman in question *communicates*:
 - Choice (buy a home for her grandson)
 - Rationale (he will have a nice place to live)
- But the woman *lacks*:
 - Understanding (goal, who benefits)
 - Appreciation (financial impact, risk to financial well-being)

Case Example #2

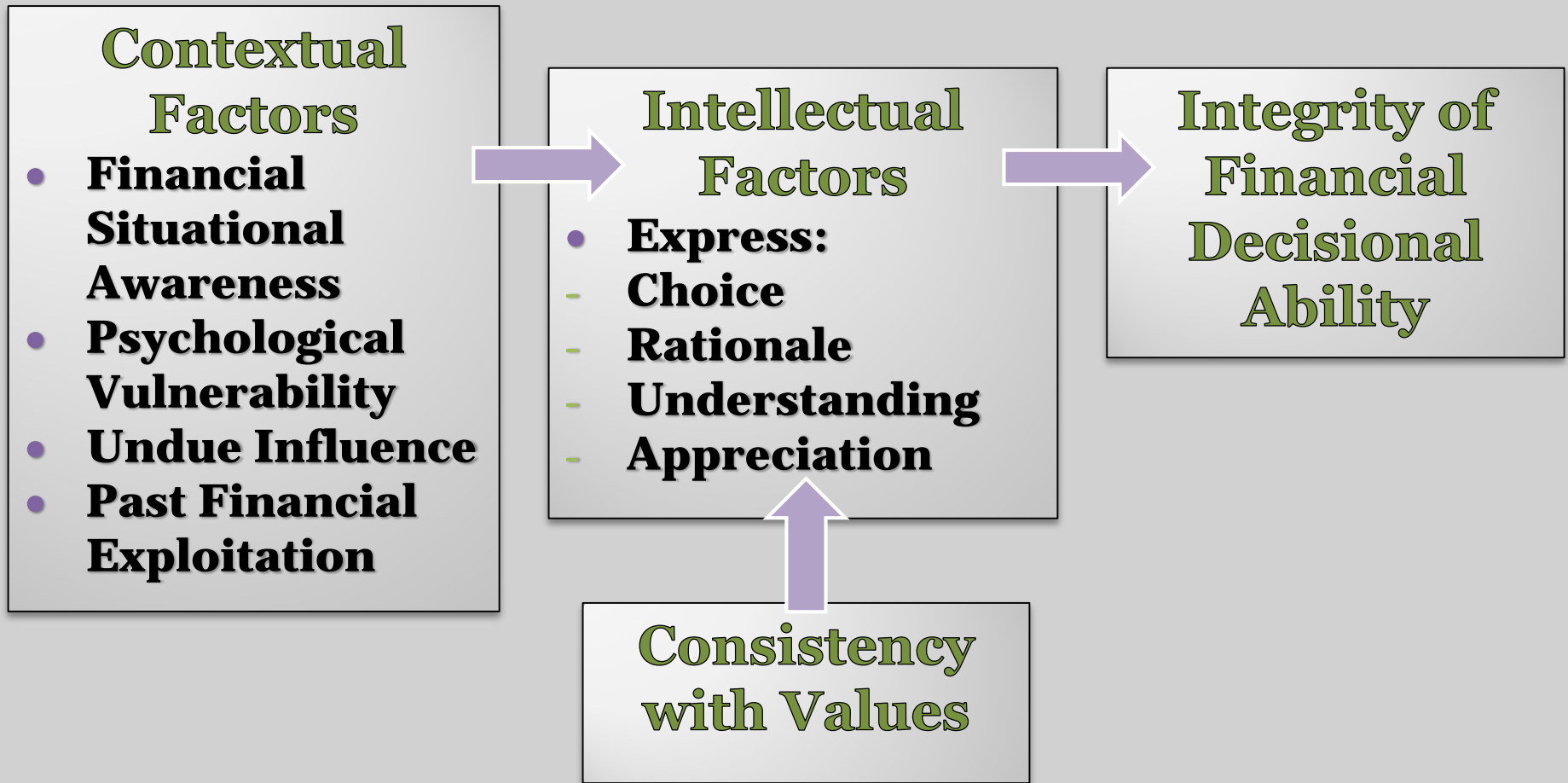
Case #3: *86 year old man; master's degree*

- #1 Financially support his daughter
- #2 His idea
- #3 Purpose: *Benefit family—love her*
- #4 Impact on finances: *None/slight*
- #6 Risk to financial well being: *Small*
- #8 Who benefits most: *Family*
- #10 Discuss with? *No one*

Case Outcome #2

- No Decisional Ability Concerns
- Case not substantiated for FE

Conceptual Model for LFDERS



A Person-Centered Approach to Financial Capacity Assessment

TABLE 1 Sample Items From the Lichtenberg Financial Decision Making Rating Scale

Financial Situational Awareness

- What are your current sources of income?
- How worried are you about having enough money to pay for things?
- Who manages your money day to day?
- Do you regret or worry about financial decisions you have made recently?
- Are you helping anyone financially on a regular basis?
- Have you gifted or lent money to someone in the past couple of years?

Psychological Vulnerability

- How often do you wish you had someone to talk to about financial decisions or plans?
- Have you recently lost someone who was a confidante?
- How often do you feel downhearted or blue about your financial situation or decisions?
- Is your memory, thinking skills, or ability to reason with regard to finances worse than a year ago?
- When it comes to making financial decisions, how often are you treated with less courtesy and respect than other people?

Financial Awareness as Contextual Factor (n=200)

- **58%** somewhat or very worried about having enough money to pay for things
- **29%** unsure or not confident about making big financial decisions
- **28.5%** worried about financial decisions they recently made
- **45%** financially helping someone

Psychological Vulnerability as Contextual Factor (n=200)

- **41%** wish they had someone to talk to about finances
- **38.5%** anxious about own finances
- **35%** lost confidante in past 2 years
- **42.5%** downhearted or blue about finances
- **35%** state treated with less respect around financial transactions
- **14.5%** rate self as having poorer memory, thinking skills than 1 year ago

A Person-Centered Approach to Financial Capacity Assessment

Sentinel Financial Decision/Transaction

- What current major financial decisions or transactions are you intending to make?
- What are your personal (financial) goals with this transaction?
- Now and over time, how will this decision and/or transaction impact you financially?
- How much risk is there that this transaction could result in a loss of funds?
- Who will be adversely affected by the current decision/transaction? How will they react?
- To what extent did you consult with anyone before making the financial decision?
- Who did you discuss this with?
- Would someone who knows you well say this decision was unusual for you?

Financial Exploitation

- Have you ever had checks missing from or out of sequence in your checkbook?
- Do you have a credit or debit card that you allow someone else to use?
- Has anyone ever signed your name to a check?
- How often in the past few months has someone asked you for money?

Undue Influence

- Have you had any conflicts with anyone about the way you spend money or to whom you give money?
- Has anyone asked you to change your will?
- Has anyone recently told you to stop getting financial advice from someone?
- Was this transaction your idea or did someone else suggest it?
- Did this person drive or accompany you to carry out this financial transaction?

Susceptibility to Undue Influence as Contextual Factor (n=200)

- **10.5%** state current decision is unusual for them
- **18%** allow someone else to use credit/debit card
- **32%** state relationship with family member has worsened due to money issues
- **21.5%** rely on a single person for advice
- **16.5%** have conflicts with another about spending
- **7%** believe someone is trying to take their money

Financial Decision-Making Abilities and Exploitation in Older African Americans: Preliminary Validity Evidence for the Lichtenberg Financial Decision Rating Scale (**LFDRS**)

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, 2015.
DOI: 10.1080/08946566.2015.1078760



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Current Financial Decision or Transaction

- Investment/Estate Planning: **18%**
 - Major Purchase: **64%**
- Financial Difficulty (e.g. bankruptcy): **18%**

LFDRS Validity Study

Table 2: *Financial Exploitation and Decisional Ability Concern Frequencies (n = 69)*

	% (n)
Financial Exploitation	
Yes	18.81 (13)
No	81.2 (56)
Decisional Ability Concerns	
Major Concerns	4.3 (3)
Some Concerns	7.2 (5)
No Concerns	88.4 (61)

We used a consensus conference method to Determine FE and Decision making concerns

Key Points

- Good convergent validity for full scale and screening scale ratings—with MMSE and ILS money management
 - Good divergent validity for financial awareness, psychological vulnerability, susceptibility to undue influence
- Subscales appropriately relate to full scale

Susan MacNeill Lichtenberg Ph.D., ABPP (1963-2014)



**Lichtenberg
Scales:** The last
collaboration
with my late wife
and colleague

Contact Information: **Join Me in Work on This Scale**

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