
LIVING WITH RISK:
DECISION SUPPORT
APPROACH
INSTRUCTION GUIDE FOR CLINICIANS
WORKING WITH OLDER ADULTS
LWR: DSA
STEP 1
UDS Université de Sherbrooke
Centre de recherche sur le vieillissement Research Centre on Aging
Queen's University
CIHR IRSC Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada

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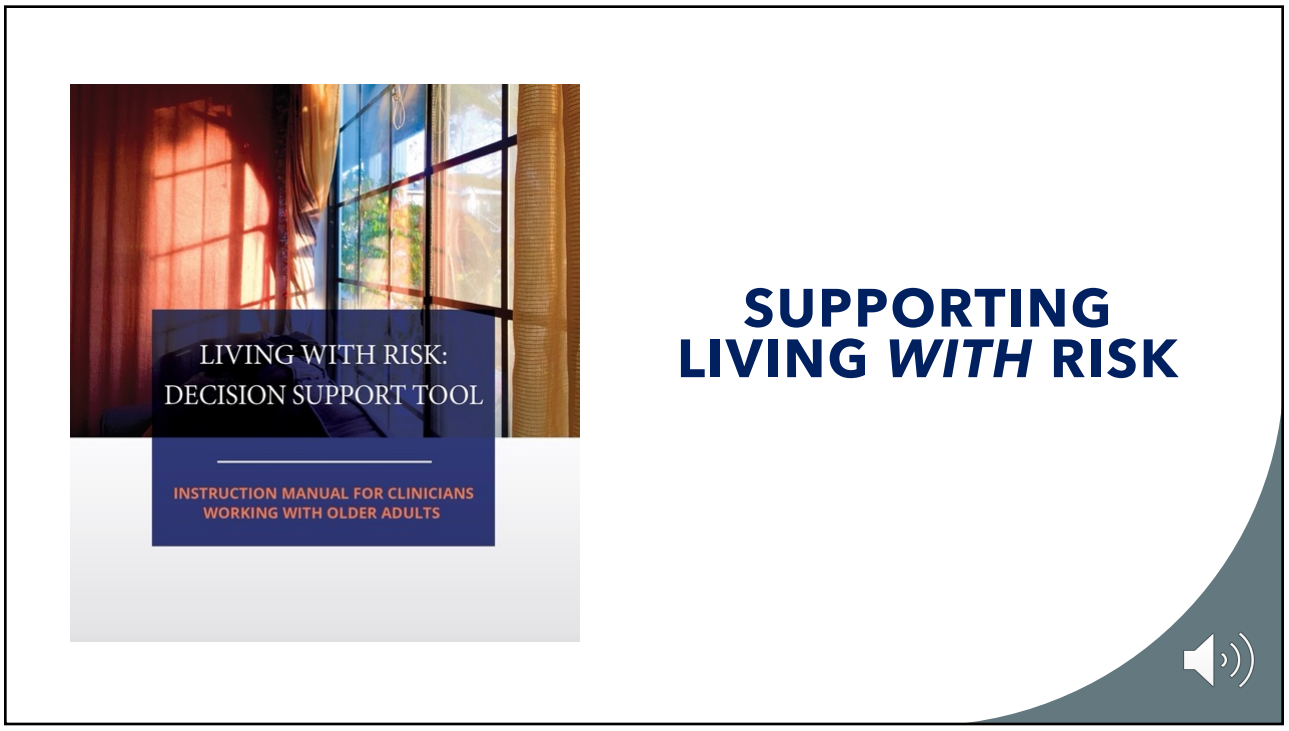
LIVING WITH RISK:
DECISION SUPPORT TOOL
INSTRUCTION MANUAL FOR CLINICIANS
WORKING WITH OLDER ADULTS
SUPPORTING
LIVING WITH RISK

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LIVING WITH RISK: DECISION SUPPORT APPROACH

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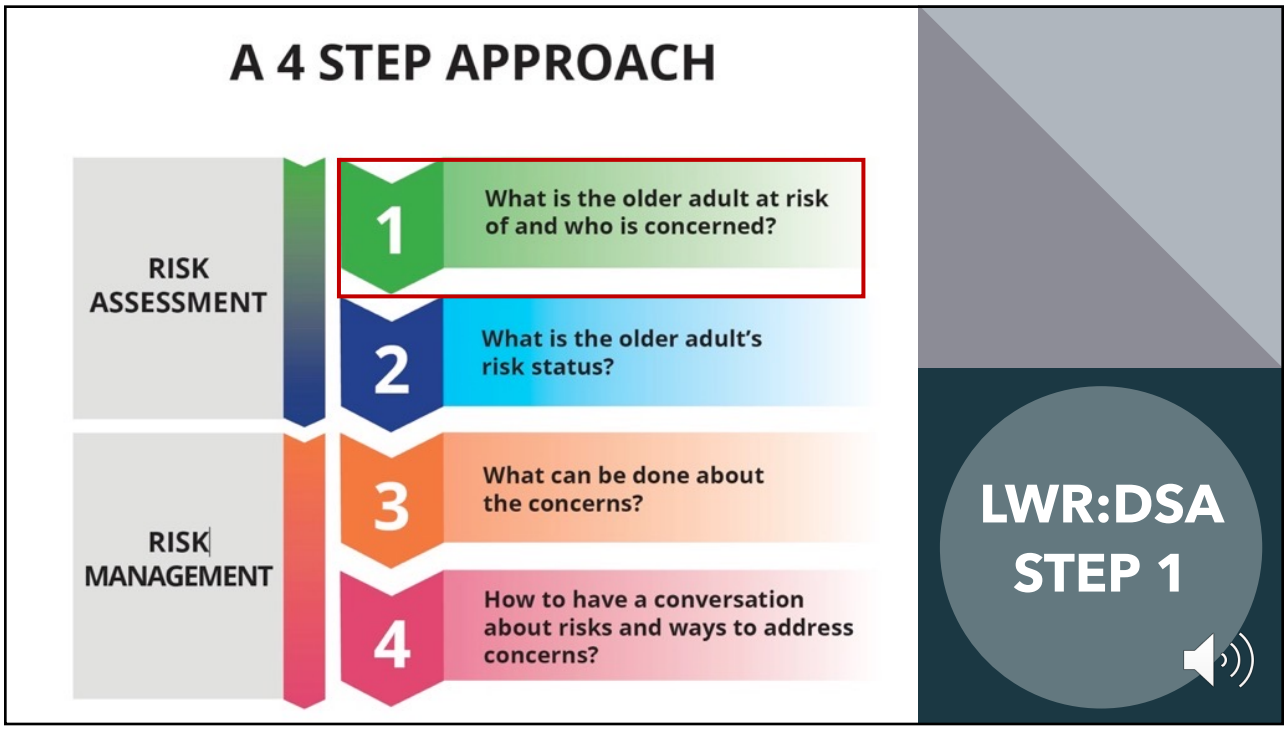

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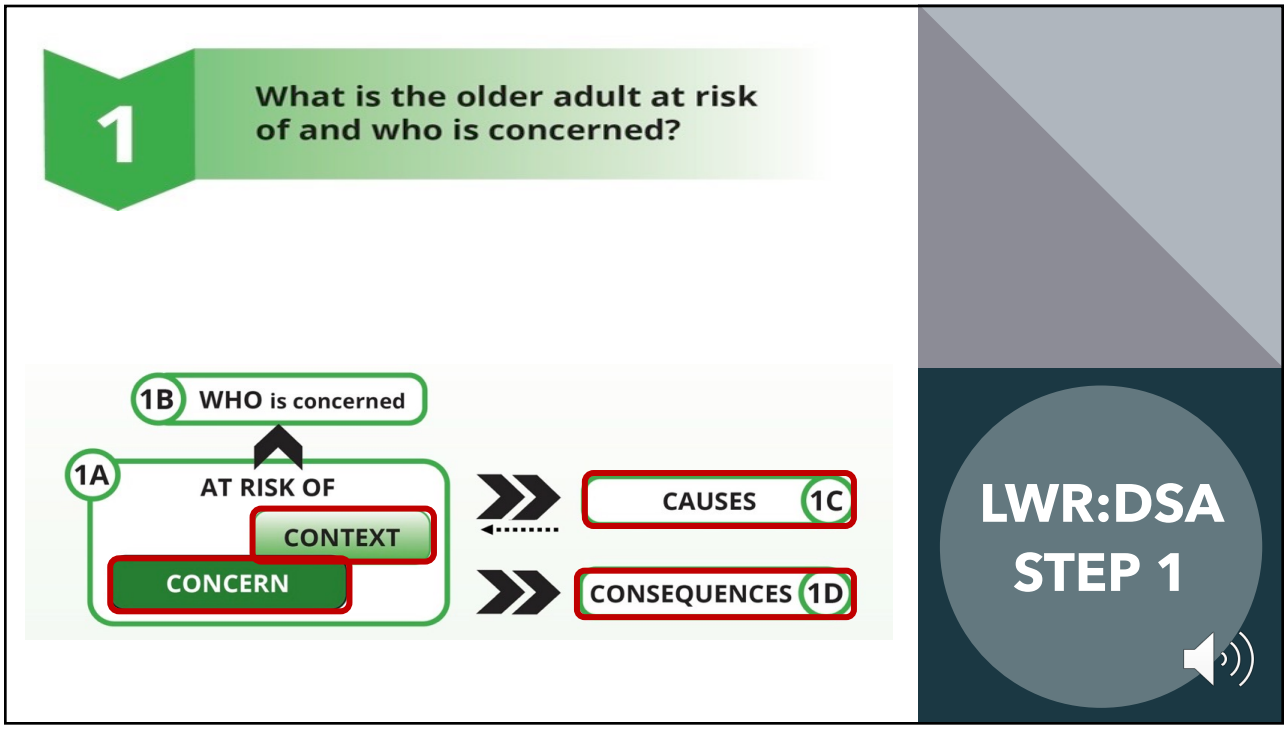
1
What is the older adult at risk of and who is concerned?
1B WHO is concerned
1A
AT RISK OF
CONTEXT
CONCERN
CAUSES 1C
CONSEQUENCES 1D
LWR:DSA STEP 1

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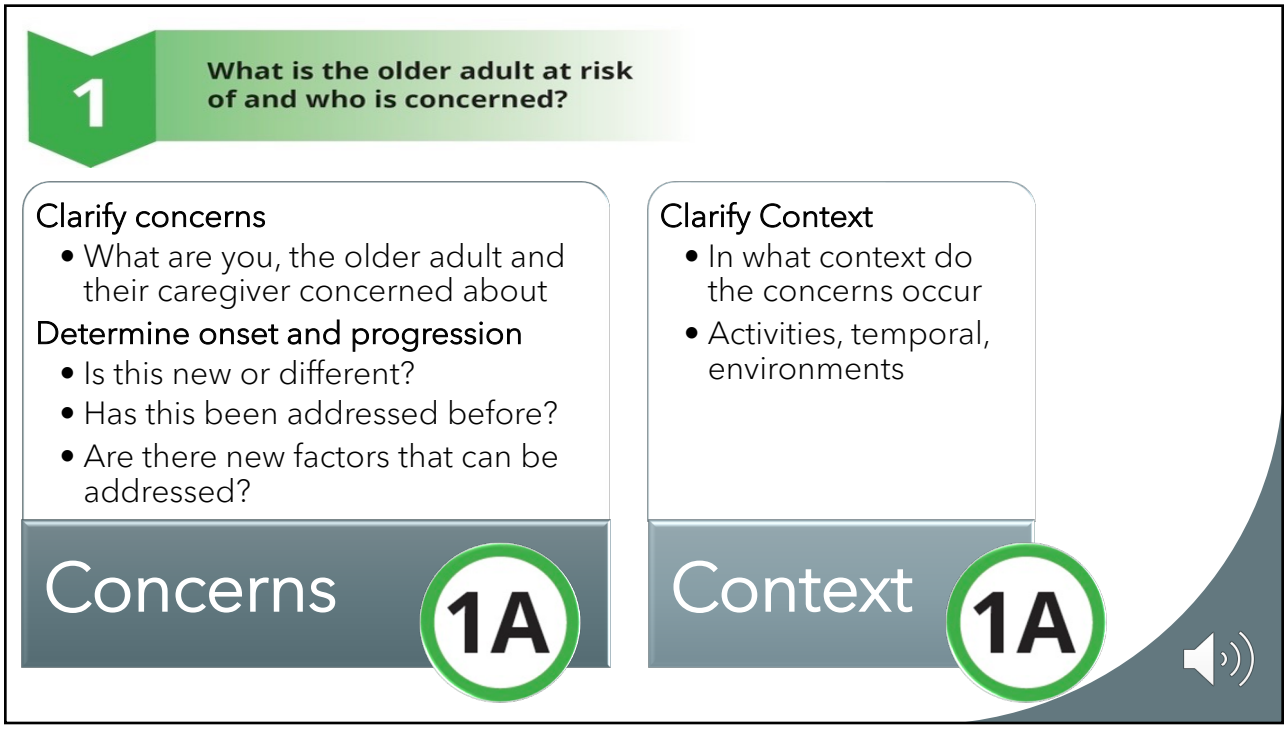
1
What is the older adult at risk of and who is concerned?
Clarify concerns
• What are you, the older adult and their caregiver concerned about
Determine onset and progression
• Is this new or different?
• Has this been addressed before?
• Are there new factors that can be addressed?
Concerns 1A
Clarify Context
• In what context do the concerns occur
• Activities, temporal, environments
Context 1A

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1 What is the older adult at risk of and who is concerned?

- Is there a change in
  - deficits
  - health
  - environments (social or physical)
  - personality (values)
- Is the cause treatable?
- Can the environments be adapted or better supported

Causes **1C**

- Are they related to health?
- Are they related to quality of life

Consequences **1D**

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Meet Sam

85-year-old bachelor referred by out of province brother for assessment of cognition, mood, decline in function and safety.

Lived with sister since he was 65 but she passed away a few weeks prior to the referral. During the assessment

- Client is unshaven and food-stained clothing
- Tearful, admitted to SI,
- Poor appetite, weight loss, minimal food in fridge
- Home is dirty, dilapidated, grass 4-6 inches long,
- Unpaid bills, could not find will, manage estate
- 15/30 on the MoCA

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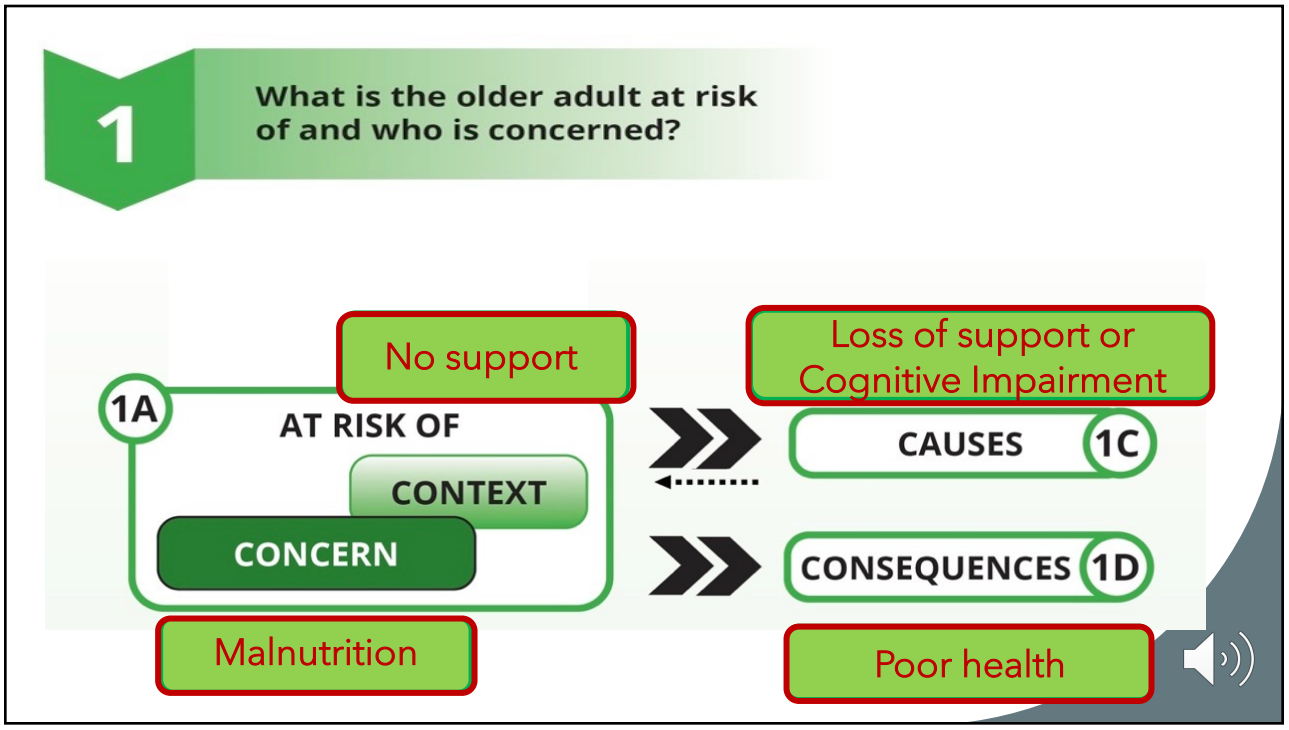
1
What is the older adult at risk of and who is concerned?
No support
Loss of support or Cognitive Impairment
1A
AT RISK OF
CONTEXT
CONCERN
CAUSES 1C
CONSEQUENCES 1D
Malnutrition
Poor health

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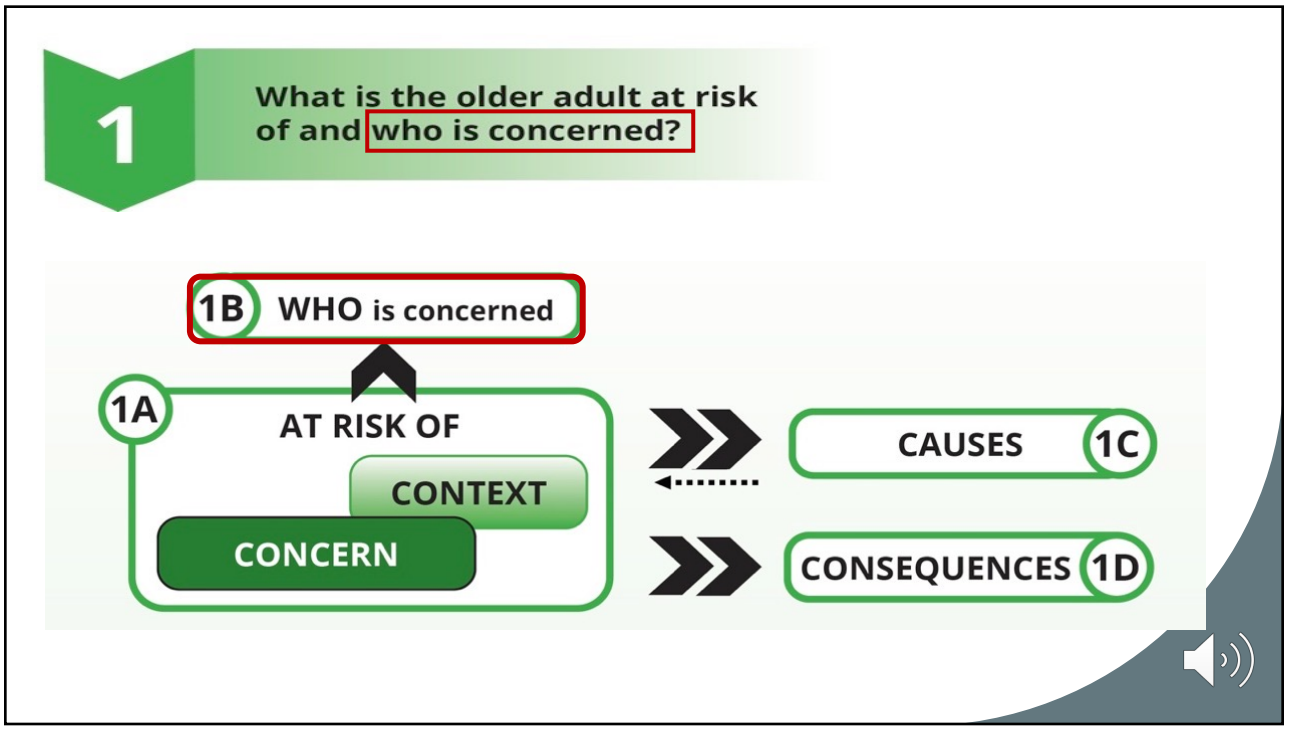
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What is the older adult at risk of and who is concerned?
1B WHO is concerned
1A
AT RISK OF
CONTEXT
CONCERN
CAUSES 1C
CONSEQUENCES 1D

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PERCEIVING RISK DIFFERENTLY

*'We don't see things as **they** are, we see things as **we** are'*
Anaïs Nin

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PERCEIVING RISK DIFFERENTLY[1]

Our perceptions and tolerances of risk

- Informed by
  - Life history (previous occupations)
  - Psychological processes
- Shaped by
  - Experiences and situations and emotions

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1

What is the older adult at risk of and who is concerned?

1B

PERCEIVING RISK DIFFERENTLY

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OLDER ADULTS

Risk Identification

- Rare as it is often related to values and activities that are important to them, coherent with personal identity[1,2]
- More concerned with maintaining independence rather than focusing on risks[1]
- Risks related to loss of identity[3]
- Risks related to outside of themselves an unsafe neighbourhood[4]

Risk Taking[2]

- Deciding to take a risk – and deciding when to give up
- Try something as risky as long as you can and before it is too late
- Constantly concentrating and controlling everything you do – otherwise you are done for
- Do it to be who you are through another's eyes
- Do it to correspond to social norms and avoid stigmatisation

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CAREGIVERS

Risk Identification

- Emphasis on the present[3]
- Impact on relationships[3]

Risk Mitigation

- Continuum of acceptable to unacceptable risk[4]
- Tipping points differed from clinicians[5]
  - QOL, psychosocial wellbeing
- Accommodate by knowing the person[5]

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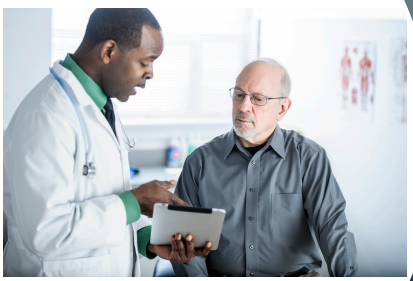
CLINICIANS

Risk Identification

- Emphasis on the negative consequences[6]
- Emphasis on the physical consequences[6]
- Emphasis on the future[4]
- Overestimate risk[7]
- Focus on extreme harms[8]
- Paternalistic[8], risk averse[9]



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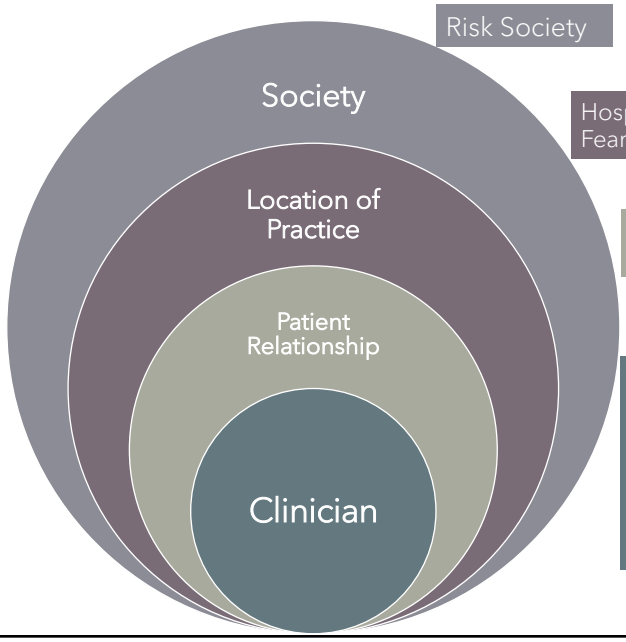
CLINICIAN REFLECTION



Hospital
Fear of litigation

Time needed to adapt
Impact of cognitive impairment

Mental Models
- Beliefs about risk, shared decision making
- Risk Tolerance
- Finite vs Infinite mind set
Reducing your discomfort
Confirmation bias

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