

Unit 4 Assignment Introduction

The nurse practitioner must make critical decisions regarding safety and functional status of elderly patients for a variety of reasons.

These can be very tough decisions to make, and some patients may want someone else to make the decision for them.

Imagine you are a nurse practitioner working in your clinic setting and an elderly patient presents with his son.

The son is asking you to assess and determine if his father should still be driving.

One valid and reliable tool used to assess reasoning and higher order thinking is the Clock Drawing Test.

The Nurse Practitioner must be able to make a determination if the patient is safe to drive and needs to know how to accurately conduct and score the CDT.

Once the NP conducts the CDT and scores it, he/she must determine whether the patient is safe to drive or not and this needs to be a yes or a no response.

If the patient is not safe to drive the NP needs to take action to revoke or suspend the patient's driver's license if they will not do this voluntarily.

This can be a tough decision but one that is necessary for patient and public safety.