

How old is your child?

Under 16 yrs

16 or 17 yrs

Children under 16 are presumed to be unable to make decisions for themselves UNLESS they're considered to be 'Gillick competent'

Young people aged 16 and 17 are presumed to be able to make decisions for themselves UNLESS it is established that they lack capacity

Is your child 'Gillick competent'?
i.e. does s/he have sufficient understanding and intelligence to enable him/her to understand fully what's involved?

Does your child have capacity to make his/her own decision? S/he may need to be assessed by a professional with expertise in working with children and young people in accordance with the Mental Capacity Act 2005

Yes: your child is able to make the decision for himself/herself

No: as a parent with parental responsibility, you can make the decision on behalf of your child. You will need to consider what is in your child's best interests

Yes: your child can make the decision for himself/herself

No: decisions can be taken by practitioners involved in your child's care if they are in your child's 'best interests', in accordance with the Mental Capacity Act 2005. You should be involved in deciding what is in your child's best interests