

## Dementia overview

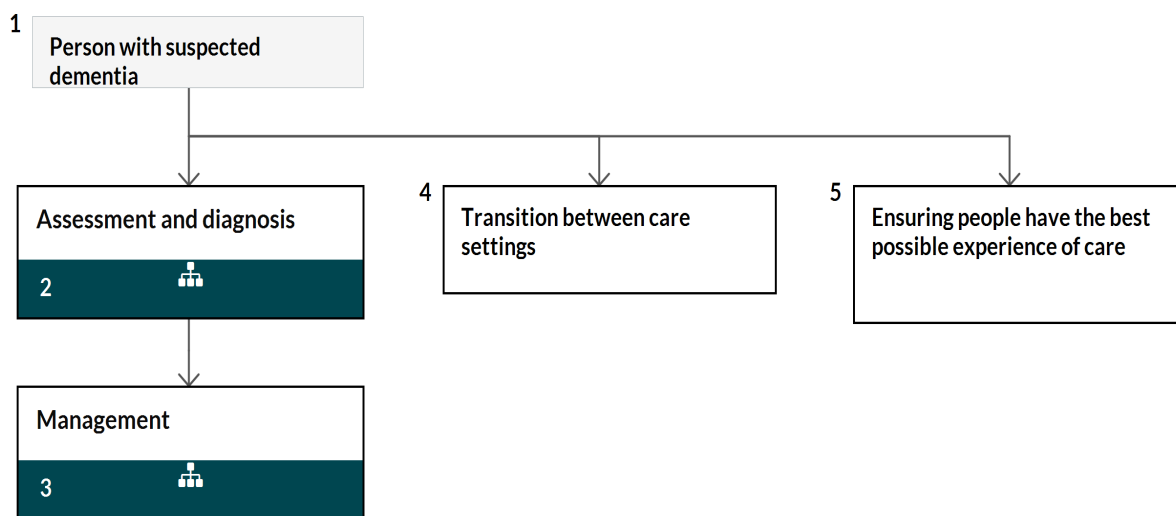
NICE Pathways bring together everything NICE says on a topic in an interactive flowchart. NICE Pathways are interactive and designed to be used online.

They are updated regularly as new NICE guidance is published. To view the latest version of this NICE Pathway see:

<http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/dementia>

NICE Pathway last updated: 31 March 2020

This document contains a single flowchart and uses numbering to link the boxes to the associated recommendations.



## 1 Person with suspected dementia

No additional information

## 2 Assessment and diagnosis

[See Dementia / Dementia assessment and diagnosis](#)

## 3 Management

[See Dementia / Dementia management](#)

## 4 Transition between care settings

For guidance on managing transition between care settings for people living with dementia, see NICE's recommendations on:

- [transition between inpatient hospital settings and community or care home settings for adults with social care needs](#)
- [transition between community or care home and inpatient mental health settings](#)
- [communication during transfer of care](#) in NICE's guidance on medicines optimisation.

Follow the principles in these recommendations for transitions between other settings (for example from home to a care home or respite care).

Review the person's needs and wishes (including any care and support plans and advance care plans) after every transition.

### Transferring information between services and care settings

When developing care and support plans and advance care and support plans, request consent to transfer these to different care settings as needed.

Service providers should ensure that information (such as care and support plans and advance care and support plans) can be easily transferred between different care settings (for example home, inpatient, community and residential care).

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Staff delivering care and support should maximise continuity and consistency of care. Ensure that relevant information is shared and recorded in the person's care and support plan.

## 5 Experience of care

Use these recommendations with NICE's recommendations on:

- patient experience in adult NHS services
- service user experience in adult mental health services
- people's experience in adult social care services.

**AChE**

acetylcholinesterase

**cognitive stimulation**

engaging in a range of activities and discussions (usually in a group) that are aimed at general improvement of cognitive and social functioning

**cognitive training**

guided practice on a set of standard tasks that are designed to reflect particular cognitive functions; there may be a range of difficulty levels, to fit the tasks to each person's level of ability

**FDG-PET**

fluorodeoxyglucose-positron emission tomography-CT

**specialist clinician**

(for the purpose of starting and monitoring treatment with cholinesterase inhibitors and memantine) those with appropriate knowledge and skills and include secondary care medical specialists (for example psychiatrists, geriatricians and neurologists) and other healthcare professionals (for example GPs, nurse consultants and advanced nurse practitioners) with specialist expertise in diagnosing and treating Alzheimer's disease

**SPECT**

single photon emission CT

**Sources**

Dementia: assessment, management and support for people living with dementia and their carers (2018) NICE guideline NG97

## Your responsibility

### Guidelines

The recommendations in this guideline represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, professionals and practitioners are expected to take this guideline fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients or the people using their service. It is not mandatory to apply the recommendations, and the guideline does not override the responsibility to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual, in consultation with them and their families and carers or guardian.

Local commissioners and providers of healthcare have a responsibility to enable the guideline to be applied when individual professionals and people using services wish to use it. They should do so in the context of local and national priorities for funding and developing services, and in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities. Nothing in this guideline should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with complying with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.

### Technology appraisals

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, health professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients. The application of the recommendations in this interactive flowchart is at the discretion of health professionals and their individual patients and do not override the responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or their carer or guardian.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to provide the funding required to enable the recommendations to be applied when individual health professionals and their patients wish to use it, in accordance with the NHS Constitution. They should do so in light of their duties to

have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.

### **Medical technologies guidance, diagnostics guidance and interventional procedures guidance**

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, healthcare professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account. However, the interactive flowchart does not override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to implement the recommendations, in their local context, in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations. Nothing in this interactive flowchart should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.