

Referral to the Memory Assessment Service

GP

You or someone who cares about you, are worried about your memory. You see your GP, who will do some brief tests. If the GP thinks more detailed information is needed to understand your memory problems he or she will refer you to the Memory Assessment Service (MAS).



Memory Assessment Specialist Practitioner

A MAS appointment will be offered within 28 days of when your referral is received. Your first appointment will be at an NHS clinic or it may take place by telephone or video-call. We can also visit you at home if you are not normally able to get to a clinic or are housebound. When you meet the Specialist Practitioner they will do some more in-depth testing with you. This is the first step to finding out, in detail, what sort of problems you are having, if any. At the end of your appointment the outcome will be discussed and a care plan agreed. It might be necessary for you to have more physical tests at this point, such as additional blood tests or a CT head scan. You will get an appointment through the post from your local hospital if this is the case. A copy of the care plan will be sent to you and your GP and, if you have requested it, to your carer or next of kin.



Consultant or Advanced Nurse Practitioner Appointment for Diagnosis

When all of the required test results have been received you will be offered an appointment with the Consultant or Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) to discuss the results of your tests. At this appointment the Consultant or ANP should be able to tell you what is causing your memory problems. If appropriate, they will also discuss any treatment recommended. It might be necessary for you to have more in depth testing with a Neuropsychologist if you have less common symptoms. If this is the case the Consultant or ANP may want to see you a second time to provide a diagnosis.



Post Diagnostic Support

After you have received a diagnosis and depending on the treatment you receive, you may continue to be monitored by the Memory Assessment Service. Anyone diagnosed with Dementia will be referred for follow-up by a Dementia Coordinator who will remain involved for long term patient and carer support. For liaising with other professionals, care planning, advice and signposting or referring to other services such as a local Cognitive Stimulation Therapy group.

They can be contacted at any time to discuss the diagnosis, answer questions and to provide information about any additional help you, or your carer if you have one, may need.