

The growing impact of dementia

Current trends and the importance of early diagnosis

The results of a study from Alzheimer's Society and CF highlight dementia's profound strain on healthcare and social care systems

Dementia prevalence set to surge due to aging population

- There are an estimated 982,000 people in the UK living with dementia in 2024, with the number expected to increase to 1.4 million by 2040 due to aging population
- Dementia is the leading cause of death in the UK, accounting for 11.3% of all deaths
- The total cost of dementia in the UK is estimated at £42 billion in 2024, rising to £90 billion by 2040
- Per person costs of dementia increase with disease severity: £28,700 for mild, £42,900 for moderate, and £80,500 for severe cases

Dementia's unsustainable strain on the healthcare system

£7.1 billion in healthcare costs in 2024



Rising to £13.5 billion by 2040

1/6 beds occupied by dementia patients in 2024



1/4 beds occupied by 2040

16.2 million GP visits annually



23.1 million GP visits by 2040

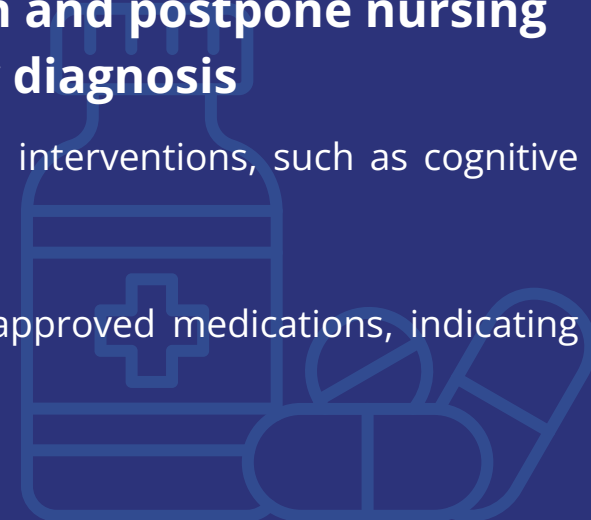
Highest rates of A&E visits



For those undiagnosed with dementia

There are treatments that can delay symptom progression and postpone nursing home placement, however they require early diagnosis

- Acetylcholinesterase (AChE) inhibitors, memantine and non-pharmacological interventions, such as cognitive stimulation therapy, manage symptoms and slow symptom progression
- It is estimated that less than 6% of dementia patients are on these NICE approved medications, indicating severe underuse of early-stage drug prescriptions
- Treatments are most effective when started in the early stage of dementia



Dementia diagnosis is often delayed and underutilised

- Diagnoses often occur too late in the disease progression to benefit from early treatment
- NICE guidelines recommends using standardised cognitive assessments as well as structural imaging in the diagnosis of dementia
- Diagnostic imaging is used in cognitive assessments in just 44% of cases despite guidance*
- Only 1.4% of all dementia healthcare costs spent on cognitive assessments and dementia-specific treatment

For individuals where AChE inhibitors are effective, early diagnosis and treatment can save up to £45,000** per person

- Scenario modelling shows potential cost savings from treatments that delay the need for costly care options:
 - Local authorities could save £38,000 per patient by delaying nursing home admission
 - Early diagnosis and effective treatment could save patients £10,100 over their lifetime
 - The NHS faces an upfront cost of £3,300 for early diagnosis and treatment
- Additional savings from delayed symptom progression, such as reduced healthcare usage, are likely but were not included in the calculations due to insufficient evidence

*Dementia audit: Memory Assessment Services 2023/2024 (NAD)

**Figure based on a 12 month delay in nursing home admission. 6 months delay is £21k and 3 months is £9k saving