



When Dementia is diagnosed

When tests for Dementia have been completed and an appointment is made with your GP to discuss the results, you may like someone to attend with you.

If Dementia is diagnosed your doctor should explain what type of Dementia you have and what it may mean for you and your health. This is not an easy condition to diagnose and if unclear as to whether you have Dementia your doctor may arrange for more tests or reassess you after a period of time. The types of tests involved and timescales should be explained.

If you say it is okay to do so, your doctor can explain Dementia to you and your family, including the symptoms, how the illness might develop and treatment options. You should also be given written information to take away with you. There is a wide range of guidance and support available from the NHS, social services and Dementia charities and voluntary groups. You are not alone.

Frightening news coverage about Dementia wrongly gives the impression that there is little hope for the person with it but that is not the case. Early diagnosis can make a difference to your quality of life and give time for you and your family to make informed decisions and plan for the future.

When Dementia is confirmed your doctor will arrange you see you at intervals to check how you are because this is a progressive condition so treatment or medication may have to be changed.

One of the first steps to take is to arrange for a health and social care assessment by your local council social services department to find out what help and support you need, such as equipment and possible adaptations to your home, home help support services and day care or respite break options.