

FOI REF: 25/448

11th July 2025

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

- I would be grateful if you could send the Trust's most recent planning document(s) for the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's Disease including implementation of lumbar punctures (CSF) and Blood-based Biomarker testing. Please include planning documents that cover the entire Trust and specific department plans, such as neurology, psychiatry, care of the elderly, pathology or memory clinic teams.**

Dementia diagnoses are not generally given in the acute hospital setting. The general pathway for a patient presenting with cognitive impairment needing diagnostic evaluation is via the Memory Assessment Service (MAS) and MAS sits within Integrated Community Care. The Trust identifies those needing onward referral to MAS and, when indicated, this is recommended in the discharge letter to the GP.

Regarding the responses to questions 2 & 3 below, please note that these figures are taken from the Trust's central patient record system, but we cannot confirm who provided the diagnoses.

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2. How many patients were diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease (ICD-10 codes = G30, G30.1, G30.8, G30.9, F00, F00.1, F00.2 or F00.9) in your Trust in the last 12-month period for which data are available?

	Number of patients
Total Alzheimer' Disease	1485 – of these 32 patients received a Primary Diagnosis

3. How many patients were diagnosed with Mild Cognitive Impairment and / or Mild Dementia due to Alzheimer's Disease (ICD-10 codes = G31.84, G30.1, or MMSE scores = 21 to 24) in your Trust in the last 12-month period for which data are available?

	Number of patients
Mild cognitive impairment (ICD-10 = G31.84)	575
Early onset Alzheimer's Disease (ICD-10 = G30.1)	16 – 1 patient received a Primary Diagnosis
Mild cognitive impairment (Mini-mental State Examination MMSE = 21 to 24)	No data available
Mild cognitive impairment (other sources of definition)	No data available

4. Where, if at all, does the Trust carry out lumbar punctures (cerebrospinal fluid) for diagnosing patients with Alzheimer's Disease?

	Yes / No
Lumbar punctures carried out within the Trust itself	No
Lumbar punctures referred elsewhere and carried out external to the Trust	No
Trust does not carry out lumbar punctures to diagnose Alzheimer's Disease	Yes

5. Please provide a list of the full names of other Trusts or other organisations to which the Trust refers patients for lumbar punctures in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease.

Full name of organisation(s)
Patients are referred to the Cognitive Clinic at University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust for further evaluation and opinion, and their contact details are as follows: By email: UHSussex.foi@nhs.net

6. What is the average waiting time for a patient to get an appointment for a lumbar puncture to test for a diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease?

	Number
Average waiting time (weeks)	The Trust does not carry out this procedure.

7. How many lumbar punctures to test for Alzheimer's Disease took place in the last 3-month period for which data are available?

	Number of procedures
Number of lumbar punctures	None at this Trust.

8. How many Blood-based Biomarker (BBBM) tests from Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) to test for Alzheimer's Disease were conducted in the last 3-month period for which data are available?

	Number of tests
Number of Blood-based Biomarker tests (CSF)	No data available

9. Where, if at all, does the Trust carry out Blood-based Biomarker (BBBM) tests from Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) for diagnosing patients with Alzheimer's Disease?

	Yes / No
Pathology laboratory within the Trust	No
Pathology laboratory external to the Trust	No
Trust does not test for BBBMs to diagnose Alzheimer's Disease	Yes

10. Please provide a list of the full names of other Trusts or other organisations, to which the Trust refers Blood-based Biomarker tests from cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) for pathology in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease.

Full name of Trust or organisation(s)
<p>Patients are referred to the Cognitive Clinic at University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust for further evaluation and opinion, and their contact details are as follows:</p> <p>By email: UHSussex.foi@nhs.net</p>

11. What is the average waiting time for pathology results to come back from Blood-based Biomarker tests?

	Days
Average waiting time (days)	No data available

12. To what extent are there plans for service improvement of diagnosing Alzheimer's Disease?

	Yes / No
Implementation of plans has started	No
A plan exists and implementation has not started	No
A plan is being developed	No
There is no plan	Yes
Other – please state	No

13. Are the plans for service improvement of diagnosing Alzheimer's Disease related to:

	Yes / No
Cognitive assessment services	No
Biomarker services	No
None / neither	Yes

14. Which of the following services does the Trust have in place in preparation for increased service delivery for Alzheimer's Disease?

	Related to administration of lumbar punctures Yes / No	Related to Blood-based Biomarker testing Yes / No
Budget	No	No
People	No	No
Training	No	No
Clinic space / capacity	No	No
Governance arrangements	No	No

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If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Department
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net