

FOI REF: 26/425

7th August 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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Further to your recent request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, I now set out our answers to your specific questions, and any clarifications sought and provided, as follows:

Please see the attached document: 'FOI 26/425 Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease'.

I trust this information is helpful in its detail or explanation however, if you are dissatisfied with the response, then you have the right to request an internal review. If you wish to seek an internal review, please write to the Freedom of Information Team at esh-tr.foi@nhs.net quoting the above FOI reference number, within 40 working days. Please note the Trust is not obliged to accept a request for an internal review after this time period.

Yours faithfully

Freedom of Information (FOI) Team
East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
0300 131 4716
Core Hours of Business: Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm

1. I would be grateful if you could send the most recent planning document(s) for the diagnosis and treatment of **Alzheimer's Disease**, whether these are from the Trust, Integrated Care Board (ICB), or the region. I am particularly interested in planning documents that cover lumbar punctures (CSF) and Blood Biomarker testing.

For context, the current pathway for patients referred from primary care into Neurology typically involves:

- Full assessment by a Neurology consultant
- Cognitive function testing
- Neuroimaging (MRI or CT)
- Blood investigations (locally)

Following review of results, patients are then referred on to Memory Clinic or Cognitive Clinic services at University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust, as appropriate.

Patients with suspected Alzheimer's disease are not typically referred from primary care to Neurology.

Instead:

- Primary care (GPs) refer directly to local Memory Assessment Services / Memory Clinics
- These services lead the diagnostic pathway for dementia, including Alzheimer's disease

Neurology involvement:

- Usually reserved for complex, atypical, or unclear cases
- Not part of the routine diagnostic pathway

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

Not applicable.

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

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

Not applicable.

	Yes / No
Cognitive assessment services	
Biomarker services	
None / neither	

4. 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	Related to Blood Biomarker testing
Budget	No.	No.
People	No.	No.
Training	No.	No.
Clinic space / capacity	No.	No.
Governance arrangements	No.	No.

5. How many lumbar puncture procedures to test for **Alzheimer's Disease** were performed in the last three-month period for which data are available?

Not applicable.

	Number of procedures
Number of lumbar punctures	

6. Please provide the number of BBM tests for **Alzheimer's Disease** conducted over the last three-months, regardless of whether they were carried out within your organisation or sent to an external pathology laboratory.

Not applicable.

	Number of tests TOTAL	Number of tests NHS patients	Number of tests Private Sector
Number of Blood Biomarker tests			

7. Which of the following biomarker tests were used to detect **Alzheimer's Disease**?

Not applicable.

- ESHT does not carry out blood biomarker testing for Alzheimer's disease at all
- They also do not perform lumbar punctures for Alzheimer's diagnostics internally
- Patients are instead referred onward (e.g. to memory services in Brighton)

	Yes / No
pTau181 immunoassay tests	
pTau217 immunoassay tests	

8. Please provide a list of the full names of other Trusts or other organisations, to which the Trust refers samples for **pTau181** and **pTau217** immunoassay testing for **Alzheimer's Disease**?

Full name of Trust or organisation(s)
Memory Assessment Service Brighton & Hove
University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust

9. How many **pTau181** immunoassay tests were conducted to test for **Alzheimer's Disease** in the last three-months?

We do not hold this data.

	Number of tests TOTAL	Number of tests NHS patients	Number of tests Private Sector
Number of pTau181 tests			

10. Is **pTau181** testing for Alzheimer's Disease linked to, or conducted in conjunction with, clinical trials?

Not applicable.

	Yes / No
pTau181 Testing associated with clinical trial activity	

11. How many **pTau181** immunoassay tests were conducted for **Alzheimer's Disease** as part of a clinical trial?

Not applicable.

Number of pTau181 tests	
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12. How many **pTau217** immunoassay tests were conducted to test for **Alzheimer's Disease** in the last three-months?

We do not hold this data.

	Number of tests TOTAL	Number of tests NHS patients	Number of tests Private Sector
Number of pTau217 tests			

13. Is **pTau217** testing for **Alzheimer's Disease** linked to, or conducted in conjunction with, clinical trials?

Not applicable.

	Yes / No
pTau217 Testing associated with clinical trial activity	

14. How many **pTau217** immunoassay tests were conducted for **Alzheimer's Disease** as part of a clinical trial?

Not applicable.

Number of pTau217 tests	
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