



Dementia Priority Setting Partnership Form A: long list of dementia questions

This document contains 146 questions covering the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care of dementia that have been collected through consultation with people with dementia and their carers, health and social care professionals and members of the public.

Each question has been checked against up-to-date systematic reviews to ensure it has not already been answered by research. Where necessary, questions have been formatted and duplicate questions, or those very similar, have been combined. At the end of the document you will find a glossary of terms. The questions have been grouped into categories, which are arranged in alphabetical to make the document easier to follow.

Please read through the list of questions and use Form B to rank the top 10 that you would like to see prioritised for research.

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No.	Question
Care in different settings – care homes	
1	Is there any impact on the quality of life and quality of care of people with dementia when care is provided for-profit compared to not-for-profit?
2	What are the characteristics of a good care home for people with dementia (including consideration of barriers to care) and how can standards of care in care homes be improved and monitored?
3	Are people with dementia better cared for in care homes/mental health units with other people with dementia or with people who do not have dementia in terms of progression of the disease and quality of life?
4	Is it better for people with dementia to move to care homes at an earlier or later stage of the progression of the disease in terms of outcomes/trauma to the person?
5	Do improved conditions (e.g. salaries, career structure and training) for care staff improve quality of care/quality of life for people with dementia?
6	<p>Does high quality care from carers/care staff improve outcomes for people with dementia? What are effective ways to implement such high quality care in all settings including care homes and hospital?</p> <p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Care that considers person centred care, behavioural care interventions and kind, respectful and dignified caring - Effect on quality of life, behaviours that challenge and progression of the disease

7	What individual characteristics of care staff predict the ability to provide high quality/person-centred care for dementia?
8	Are specialist care homes/facilities/nurses for people with dementia more effective at maintaining quality of life, quality of care for people with dementia at all stages of the disease compared to non-specialist generic care?
Care in different settings – acute/hospital care	
9	What is the best way to care for people with dementia when they have acute health care needs?
10	Would a coordinated, specialist unit within an acute hospital, instead of admission to usual acute hospital ward for people with dementia affect length of stay, the experience and outcomes for the person with dementia, progression of the disease, cost and use of ambulance service?
Care in different settings – home/community care	
11	How does the input of day to day paid care and support (during the day and/or at night) compared to care from family/carers alone affect outcomes for people with dementia living at home? How does this impact on carers?
12	How effective is training for carers/family members on improving quality of care, quality of life, ability to stay in own home for people with dementia and outcomes for carers?
13	How does home care (with or without the input of additional professional care) compare to care homes for outcomes for people with dementia at all stages of the disease? In terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality of life - Behaviour - Physical function - Progression of the disease - Costs

14	<p>What are the most effective (and cost effective) ways of supporting people with dementia living at home and their carers, including during and after the diagnosis process?</p> <p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The specific type of help that is effective e.g. information, transport, telecare, etc. - How health and social care services and other agencies can best be coordinated? - How access to support and services can be improved e.g. one point of contact? - The effect on delaying admission to care homes - People with dementia that live alone - People with dementia who are carers for someone else
15	<p>Is regular attendance at Day Centres with activities and social interaction effective at improving outcomes for people with dementia and carers, including quality of life and ability to live at home for longer?</p>
16	<p>How effective are models of housing and care used in countries other than the UK in supporting care in the community for people with dementia?</p>
17	<p>How does the input of day to day professional care (during the day and/or at night) compared to care from family/carers alone affect outcomes for people with dementia living at home? How does this impact on carers?</p>
18	<p>How effective would easier access to short-break or respite care (at home or in other settings) be in reducing stress and maintaining quality of life for carers of people with dementia? How can respite care best be organised to support both the person with dementia and the carer?</p>
19	<p>How effective are different models of housing with care (integrated/separated/specialist/dedicated/hybrid) for supporting people living with dementia on quality of life/outcomes/costs of people with dementia and their carers? How do these compare to residential care?</p>



	Care - general
20	What is the best way to care for people with advanced dementia (with or without co-morbidities) at the end of life?
21	What are the best ways to care for people from ethnic minority groups with dementia in all care settings?
22	How can the best and most cost-effective ways to care for people with dementia, including research findings, be most effectively disseminated and implemented into care practice in all care settings?
23	What are the most effective methods to improve the awareness and attitudes of all health and social care professionals towards people with dementia in all settings and improve their understanding of the challenges faced by carers and families?
24	What interventions/techniques/facilities/staff training are of most benefit in improving the quality of life for people with dementia and their carers in all settings and at all stages of the disease?
25	What are the most effective management approaches and models of care for people with concurrent dementia and vision problems/sight loss in all settings and at all stages of the disease?
26	What are the most effective management approaches and models of care, including equipment, for people with concurrent dementia and hearing loss in all settings?
27	Does intervention to correct vision problems/sight loss in people with dementia improve symptoms including quality of life?
	Care planning
28	What do services need in terms of education, information and resources to ensure people who have dementia are actively involved in all aspects of their care and planning?

29	What are typical timescales for progression of each stage of all types of dementia and what are the typical characteristics and care needs at each stage to allow better planning for carers and people with dementia?
30	Is advanced care planning for both the person with dementia and carers effective for outcomes for the person with dementia (including quality of life and acute events), and for good end of life care that meets the previously expressed wishes of the person with dementia?
Carers	
31	Do carers of people with dementia have a greater risk of developing dementia?
32	What is the impact of long term care for a person with dementia at home on the life of the carer/family? Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality of life - Physical and mental health - Finances - Morbidity/mortality
33	What practical and psychological interventions are effective for carers to help people with dementia?
34	Does currently available treatment (including pharmacological and other treatments) for people with dementia improve mental health and quality of life in their carers (by improving attitude and mood in the person with dementia)?
35	Is psychological therapy effective in reducing stress and improving quality of life of carers of people with dementia?
36	How effective is training for carers/family members on improving quality of care, quality of life, ability to stay in own home for people with dementia and outcomes for carers?

	Communication
37	What techniques are effective to allow health and social care professionals to communicate most effectively with people with dementia and what is the effect on other outcomes e.g. agitation, quality of life etc.?
38	Is speech therapy or linguistics effective in improving/maintaining speech and communication skills and behaviour in people with dementia and in maintaining swallowing and chewing reflex for longer in people with dementia?
39	Can speech and language therapy assessment be effective in contributing valuable information for diagnosis of dementia?
	Design
40	What are the most effective design features for producing dementia friendly environments at both the housing and neighbourhood levels, that best support and enable people with dementia and carers to maintain quality of life, manage symptoms, minimise behavioural problems, slow progression of the illness and allow people to stay in their own homes for longer? Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For different cultural and ethnic groups - Design/adaptation of housing, signage, scenery, space, light.
	Diagnosis – early diagnosis
41	What is the impact of early diagnosis (and early/subsequent treatment/planning and support) on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health-related outcomes for people with dementia and their carers? - Wider outcomes in society for people with dementia and carers/family? - Health and social care services?
42	How can GPs/primary care provide a more effective service for diagnosis/early diagnosis of dementia, including faster referral to specialists when appropriate, including for all sub-types of dementia?

43	Would clear guidelines for GPs about diagnosis of dementia improve rate and accuracy of diagnosis/early diagnosis?
44	How could an effective self-diagnosis test (or a test that could be used by family or carers at home) for dementia be developed and what would be its effects?
45	Are there very early signs or precursors of dementia that could be used to indicate the onset of dementia? Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biological, physical, behavioural, neurological and cognitive precursors - Those that are able to differentiate dementia from other diseases
46	How can people be educated to spot the signs of dementia earlier so that they go for assessment, diagnosis and treatment?
Diagnosis – improve diagnosis	
47	What diagnostic tests/methods/strategies are clinically effective (and cost-effective) to improve diagnosis/early diagnosis of dementia? Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In different settings - Consideration of scans, biomarkers, blood tests, cognitive tests, family history, new techniques - Consideration of care/medical pathways - Different sub-types of dementia - For different cultural and ethnic groups
48	What is the best way to communicate a diagnosis of dementia, including who is the best person to communicate the diagnosis and where should it be delivered? How can relatives/carers best be involved in the diagnosis taking confidentiality into account?
49	Can changes in behaviour be used to aid diagnosis of dementia (perhaps using a list of known behaviour stages)?

50	How can the difference between normal age related memory problems and dementia be distinguished?
51	Is diagnostic assessment of dementia more accurate when the observations of carers/partners/family are incorporated into the diagnostic procedures? Can diagnostic tests be developed that incorporate the observations of carers/partner/family?
52	How can best practice in dementia diagnosis, treatment and care and consideration of international practice be standardised across the UK?
53	Can blood tests to measure homocysteine levels contribute useful information for diagnosis of dementia?
54	How does dementia present in people with autism/Asperger's syndrome and what are the appropriate diagnostic criteria in these people?
55	How effective are memory clinics for the diagnosis and assessment of dementia, including differential diagnosis of different types of dementia and for providing support to people with dementia and carers?
Diagnosis – other	
56	How accurate, reliable, valid and cost-effective are the assessment and diagnostic tools for dementia that are currently available? Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compared to each other - Compared to post-mortem data and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) data - Scans and neuropsychological assessment
57	What is the psychological impact of a diagnosis of dementia on the person, carers and relatives?

Emotional needs	
58	How can the emotional needs of people with dementia best be assessed and what techniques can be used to meet these needs e.g. improve self-esteem?
59	Does the cost of paying for care (including those at home/care homes) for those with sufficient assets impact on the emotional wellbeing/quality of life of people with dementia and their carers/families?
60	What is the level of awareness/understanding of people with dementia about their own life/surroundings/condition/emotions/thoughts (and of others) at all stages of the disease (even if they have lost language and struggle to communicate verbally)? How can this be measured?
Learning disabilities	
61	What strategies are effective for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care of dementia in people with learning disabilities? Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consideration of pharmacological and non-pharmacological methods and service provision - People with Down's syndrome
Maintaining independence	
62	What are the most effective and cost-effective components of care in people with dementia that keep the person with dementia as independent as they can be (while minimising stress to carers/families) at every stage of the disease and in all care settings e.g. at home, in care homes, in the community?
63	Is it better for a carer to allow the person with dementia to manage their own day to day life as best as possible (even if they are struggling) or to 'take over'/do it for them in terms of progression of the disease/rate of deterioration?
64	Is assistive technology (e.g. devices to aid memory and aids for sight and hearing) for dementia effective for people with dementia in maintaining function/quality of life? How useful, acceptable and effective are assistive technology devices for carers, their neighbours,

	care staff and housing managers?
Managing behaviour	
65	Is it better for carers to go along with the misconceptions of a person with dementia (e.g. believing someone is still alive when they are dead or when they are lying in bed believing that they are drowning in the bath) or to explain the reality in terms of reducing anxiety, agitation, improving quality of life, and other outcomes?
66	Is 'reality orientation' (as a specific therapy) effective for the management of behaviour in dementia?
67	What pharmacological and/or non-pharmacological interventions (or combinations) are most effective (for people with dementia and carers) for managing challenging behaviour/neuropsychological symptoms in dementia?
68	Is sedation at night for people with dementia (to allow carers to sleep) effective and what is the effect on behaviour, quality of life during the day, and time to move to a care home?
69	What are effective ways to care for people with dementia who are in denial about their condition (care, medical and legal routes)?
70	Why do people with dementia have cognitively 'good' and 'bad' days or moments? Could this information be used to identify effective interventions or be used to improve behavioural management?
71	What are the most effective methods to manage sleep disorders and sleep patterns in people with dementia?
72	What are the most effective ways to manage 'wandering' or walking in people with dementia?
73	What are the most effective ways to manage 'sundowning' (becoming more agitated and confused in the late afternoon and early evening) in people with dementia?

74	How effective is a regular routine and consistent environment for managing symptoms/behaviour/outcomes for people with dementia compared to a less stable and consistent environment (for example, should the person with dementia be stimulated by changes e.g. holidays and changes of scenery)?
Management of physical conditions	
75	How can urinary tract infections be prevented in people with dementia and what is the effect of urinary tract infections on the symptoms and progression of dementia?
76	What are the best ways to manage incontinence in people with dementia?
MCI (mild cognitive impairment)	
77	What are the characteristics of MCI and early dementia and how can they be distinguished?
78	How can you predict whether a person with MCI will develop dementia or not?
Medication - Effectiveness of current treatments	
79	Is combined treatment of dementia with cognitive stimulation and acetylcholinesterase inhibitors clinically effective and cost-effective (compared to either treatment on its own) in terms of cognition, global functioning, daily living activities and quality of life?
80	<p>Are acetylcholinesterase inhibitors (donepezil, galantamine, rivastigmine) or memantine effective and cost-effective for people with dementia (and its sub-types)</p> <p>In terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving quality of life - Reducing non cognitive symptoms (including challenging behaviour) - When used long term (more than 6 months) - For slowing progression of dementia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In treatment of severe dementia - Compared to non-pharmacological therapies - Which are most effective when compared to each other
81	Are any combinations of acetylcholinesterase inhibitors and /or memantine or switching from one drug to another more effective for treatment of dementia than a single drug at all stages of the disease in managing symptoms/slowing progression of dementia?
82	What are the characteristics of people with dementia (including those with a family history/genetic markers) for whom current treatments are effective (compared to ineffective) or who suffer side effects (compared to those who do not suffer side effects)? Can treatment be optimised by linking to individual profiles?
83	Is it possible to say if there is a stage of dementia when it is the optimum time to stop prescribing acetylcholinesterase inhibitors or memantine?
84	What are the most effective ways of treating and caring for people in the advanced stages of dementia when they are no longer responding to acetylcholinesterase inhibitors or memantine?
Medication (general)	
85	Can the prescription of all types of medication for people with dementia be reduced by improving quality of care/meeting care needs of people with dementia more fully?
86	Are there any drugs/medications that are effective in preventing/delaying the onset of dementia? Are they also effective in those with a family history or genetic risk factors for dementia?
87	Is aspirin effective for the prevention or treatment of dementia? What dose is effective? Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Those with mild cognitive impairment (MCI)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Those with normal cognition but with evidence of early disease pathology - Including those with a family history/genetic risk factors for dementia?
88	Can statins prevent/delay onset of dementia when therapy is started in mid-life? Are they effective for those with a family history/genetic risk factors for dementia?
89	Does long-term use of any drugs/medications or combinations of drugs (including recreational drugs) for other health conditions increase risk of dementia?
90	Is there a link between drugs used to treat anxiety/depression/mental health conditions (e.g. benzodiazepines such as diazepam (valium) or anti-depressants) and risk of dementia?
91	How effective are medicines designed for other illnesses for the treatment of dementia (e.g. treatments for Parkinson's disease)?
92	Is there any interaction between drugs used to treat dementia and other commonly prescribed drugs for co-morbidities (e.g. diabetes, hypertension, thyroid problems, Parkinson's disease), including at all stages of the disease?
93	How can the side effects of drug treatment for dementia be minimised?
94	What is the impact of anaesthesia on subsequent outcomes/progression of the disease in people with dementia?
Mental health/psychological therapies	
95	What are the most effective treatments for depression and/or anxiety in dementia and can the effective treatment of depression/anxiety improve outcomes in those with dementia including slowing cognitive decline and progression of the disease?
96	Can traumatic emotional events be a trigger for dementia (e.g. bereavement, grief, divorce)?

97	Is counselling or other psychological therapies effective to prevent/delay the onset of dementia or to treat and manage dementia? At what stage of life do these need to start to be effective? How can access to these therapies be improved?
98	What coping strategies are effective for people with dementia to deal with cognitive decline/memory failure?
Monitoring	
99	<p>What methods are effective to assess and monitor people with dementia and their carers and the effect of treatment?</p> <p>Including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The frequency of monitoring and length of assessments (shorter versus longer) - Which health and social care professionals are best placed to conduct monitoring? - The impact of monitoring on carers - The effectiveness of home visits (for people with dementia and carers)
Prevention – lifestyle	
100	<p>Can the onset of dementia be prevented or delayed by dietary or nutritional factors?</p> <p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Types of diet (e.g. Mediterranean, low fat), dietary patterns, components of diet e.g. macronutrients, caffeine, types of food e.g. fruit and vegetables, vitamins, minerals or nutritional/food supplements and drinks. - For different sub-types of dementia e.g. Alzheimer's, vascular, Lewy Body - In people with a family history/genetic risk factors for dementia - The effectiveness of diet/nutrition started in older age compared to earlier in the life course
101	<p>Is exercise/physical activity effective (and cost-effective) for preventing or delaying the onset of dementia?</p> <p>Including:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For different sub-types of dementia e.g. Alzheimer's, vascular, Lewy Body. - The type (e.g. walking, dancing, outdoor activities etc.) of and amount of physical activity that is effective. - The effectiveness of activity started in older age compared to earlier in the lifecourse. - In people with a family history of dementia or genetic risk factors.
102	<p>Are 'brain games' and other cognitive stimulation or learning processes effective at preventing or delaying the onset of dementia? Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For different sub-types of dementia e.g. Alzheimer's, vascular, Lewy body - The types of cognitive stimulation processes that are effective - People with family history/genetic risk factors for dementia - The conversion of mild cognitive impairment (MCI) to dementia
103	<p>Is social interaction effective at preventing or delaying the onset of dementia?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Including the type of factors in the social environment that are most effective
104	<p>Can the onset of dementia be prevented or delayed by level of alcohol consumption? What is the effect of alcohol consumption in older age compared to earlier in the lifecourse?</p>
105	<p>Is there a link between amount of sleep/sleep patterns (including night shifts) and risk of dementia?</p>
106	<p>Can the onset of all types of dementia be prevented or delayed by controlling or minimising stress?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Including in people with a family history/genetic risk factors for dementia
107	<p>Do interventions to stop/prevent smoking help to prevent/delay onset/progression of dementia?</p>

108	Are breathing exercises to increase oxygen flow around the body/brain effective to prevent/delay onset/manage dementia? At what age, if any, do these need to start to be effective?
Prevention – health risk factors	
109	Do strategies to control vascular risk factors (e.g. high blood pressure and cholesterol) prevent/delay the onset of dementia? Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For different sub-types of dementia e.g. vascular, Alzheimer's, Lewy Body dementia - In people with a family history/genetic risk factors for dementia - In people with hypertension in middle age
110	Do prevention strategies for diabetes prevent/delay onset of dementia? - Including for different sub-types of dementia e.g. vascular, Alzheimer's, Lewy Body.
111	Are strategies to control weight (obesity, underweight and overweight) effective to prevent/delay onset of dementia?
112	Are there any links between visual impairment/hearing impairment/dual sensory impairment and dementia?
113	What is the impact of heart disease and heart problems and their treatment (pacemaker and heart bypass surgery) on subsequent risk of dementia?
114	Is there a link between infections and risk of dementia?
115	Is there a link between migraine and the risk of dementia?
116	Are strategies to prevent physical trauma (brain/head injury) effective for the prevention of dementia, including in those with a family history/genetic risk factors for dementia?

Prevention – other risk factors	
117	<p>Could modification of environmental factors prevent/delay the onset of dementia?</p> <p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electromagnetic fields, chemicals, pollution/vehicle fumes, lead, mobile phones, mobile phone masts, radiation and water sources - In those with a family history/genetic risk factors for dementia - Different sub-types of dementia - At what stage in life do environmental factors have an effect
118	Is there a link between where people live geographically and dementia?
119	Is there a link between exposure to aluminium (from any sources including medications, water, cooking utensils) and dementia?
120	Is there a link between autism/Asperger's syndrome and dementia?
121	Is there a link between socioeconomic status and dementia?
122	Are people from black and other ethnic minority groups at greater risk of dementia (including all types of dementia)?
123	Is there any link between an academic/intellectual personality or level of education and dementia in later life?
124	Do any particular personality traits appear to be common in people who eventually develop dementia?
Predictive tests	
125	What tests can be used to predict whether a person will develop dementia in later life (including blood tests, cognitive tests, biomarkers, brain scans, genetic tests, new techniques) for all sub-types of dementia?

126	What tests/methods/strategies are effective to predict the rate of progression of dementia (e.g. rapid or slow progression) and response to therapy?
Screening	
127	Is screening for dementia clinically effective (and cost-effective) for improving outcomes for dementia? At what age would it be most effective to start? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Including in people with a family history/genetic risk factors for dementia.
128	What tests are clinically effective (and cost-effective) for screening for dementia (including all sub-types) and improving outcomes for dementia? At what age would it be most effective to start? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Including in people with a family history/genetic risk factors for dementia.
Treatment and care therapies	
129	What is the impact of a diet/nutrition intervention for people with dementia on prevention of dementia-related malnutrition and weight loss, dementia symptoms and the progression of the disease? Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In all sub-types of dementia - For end-of life care
130	What are the most effective ways to encourage people with dementia to eat/drink/maintain nutritional intake in all settings (including the role of professional and family carers) and what effect, if any, does this have on weight, physical functioning, behaviour and progression of the disease?
131	What is the impact of improved hydration (drinking of fluids) on dementia at all stages of the disease?

132	Is physical activity (including outdoor exercise) effective in the treatment and care of dementia, including effect on behavioural, physical, psychological symptoms, quality of life, progression of the disease?
133	<p>Are 'brain games' and other cognitive stimulation or learning processes effective for the management of dementia (e.g. slowing cognitive decline and the progression of the disease, managing behaviour, anxiety and agitation, maintaining quality of life)?</p> <p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The types of cognitive stimulation that are effective - Which are effective in different settings e.g. at home or in care homes - Effectiveness compared to general activity/social groups - The most effective mode of delivery e.g. one to one/groups/individually tailored
134	Is social interaction effective in maintaining quality of life and slowing progression of the disease in people with dementia (and maintaining quality of life of carers)?
135	<p>Are non-pharmacological (not drug) or alternative therapies effective (and cost-effective) for the treatment and management of dementia?</p> <p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For different sub-types of dementia (e.g. vascular dementia, Lewy body dementia) - The effectiveness in different settings (e.g. at home/care homes) - Which therapies are most effective? - The effectiveness of including carers (family/home carers or care staff) in treatment programmes - The effectiveness for preventing and managing behaviours that challenge others
136	Is music (e.g. singing, playing recordings, playing instruments) effective in helping to improve symptoms of dementia, including quality of life?
137	What is the effect of reminiscence therapy/life story work on outcomes in dementia, including quality of life?

138	Are activities for people with dementia (including outdoor activities, art therapy) effective in management of mood, behaviour, anxiety, and agitation in people with dementia and can they reduce the need for psychoactive drugs in people with dementia?
139	Is occupational therapy effective for the management of dementia (including cognition, behaviour and quality of life) in all settings?
140	Is physiotherapy effective for the management/improvement of physical functioning/delaying progression of the disease for people with dementia (all sub-types) in all settings?
141	Is (amyloid) vaccination therapy effective for the treatment of dementia?
142	Are stem cells effective for the prevention or treatment of dementia? Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In people with a family history/genetic risk factors for dementia - For different sub-types of dementia
143	Can systematic investigation to look for co-morbidities in people with dementia and appropriate treatment for co-morbidities lead to better outcomes for dementia? What are optimum ways to treat and care for people with co-morbidities and dementia?
Young/early onset dementia	
144	What are the risk factors for early onset dementia? Including any links with other illnesses e.g. autoimmune, neurological etc.
145	Is it better for young/early onset people with dementia to be cared for with other young/early onset people instead of in care homes/units with older people in terms of quality of life and outcomes?
146	What are the most effective methods (pharmacological and non-pharmacological) for treating and caring for young/early onset people with dementia in all settings?



Glossary of terms

Acetylcholinesterase inhibitor – A group of drugs used to treat Alzheimer's disease, which includes donepezil (Aricept), galantamine (Reminyl) and rivastigmine (Exelon).

Biomarker – A biological marker is an identifiable indicator that can be detected by doctors to diagnose a condition and monitor disease progression.

Co-morbidities – co-existing medical conditions or diseases.

Homocysteine – An amino acid produced by the body that is linked with heart and circulatory disease.

Memantine (Ebixa)– Is an NMDA (*N*-methyl-D-aspartate) receptor antagonist and works differently to acetylcholinesterase inhibitors.

Mild cognitive impairment (MCI) – a condition involving problems with cognitive function that in some (but not all) people can be an early sign of future dementia.

Neuroimaging – Techniques used to produce images of the brain.

Statins – A class of drugs used to lower cholesterol levels

Stem cells – A group of cells that are able to divide and differentiate into any cell in the body.

Subtypes of dementia – Dementia is an umbrella term to describe the symptoms that occur when the brain by certain diseases or conditions. There are many different types of dementia including Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, Dementia with Lewy bodies, Fronto-temporal dementia, Pick's disease and Korsakoff's syndrome.

Sundowning – Increased agitation and confusion in people with dementia that occurs in the late afternoon and early evening.