

Cognitive Dementia and Memory Service (CDAMS) Referral Guidelines



The South West Healthcare CDAMS is a specialist diagnostic clinic which assesses early memory or cognitive issues in people living in the community.

Please review these guidelines before making a referral to ensure the referral meets eligibility criteria. Referrals with insufficient information will be returned, which may delay access to the service.

For all CDAMS enquiries please contact 5563 4000 or 0403 176 089.

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| <p>Service provided</p> | <p>CDAMS assessment is a two-part process involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment 1: Pre-Clinic Assessment with a CDAMS clinician • Appointment 2: Physician Assessment with a specialist Geriatrician <p>Assessment is conducted in the Community Health Centre at South West Healthcare. Home visits and Telehealth are available on request.</p> <p>Services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert clinical diagnosis • Education and information on appropriate treatment options and management strategies • Referral to <i>Dementia Australia</i> for education and support • Referral to other service providers as required (e.g. Allied Health, Dementia Support Australia) |
| <p>Consumer Eligibility</p> | <p>Persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presenting with progressive cognitive problems and/or progressive cognitive problems are reported by a family member, care partner or other informant close to client • with subjective cognitive complaints and evidence of risk factors for dementia (e.g. strong family history of dementia, diabetes, history of smoking, heavy alcohol use or other substance use) • requiring differential diagnosis of dementia (e.g. specific syndrome) • in early/prodromal stages of dementia/MCI requiring longitudinal tracking • presenting with behavioural and/or personality changes including behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD) (e.g. depressive symptoms, anxiety, apathy, agitation, sleep disturbance and wandering) <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consenting to participate in CDAMS assessment • consenting to involvement of family member, care partner or other informant close to client in CDAMS assessment • all required CDAMS referral information/investigations have been completed |
| <p>Exclusions</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptoms have been present for less than 6 months • Request for Neuropsychological or Capacity assessment only • Current alcohol / substance dependence (abstinence of 3 months minimum required) • Persons residing in permanent residential care or outside of Victoria • Persons with non-dementia related cognitive decline (e.g. clearly associated with an acute stroke or TBI) • Persons with cognitive changes within the context of a complex psychiatric disorder (Refer to Aged Persons Mental Health Service (APMHS) or Adult Mental Health Service). • Memory concerns in the context of untreated stress, anxiety or depression • Advanced cognitive symptoms (e.g. disorientation within the home/familiar environments, needs prompting or assistance with personal care, neglecting nutrition, significant safety risk or behavioural disturbance) (Refer to GEM At Home or Specialist Geriatric Outpatient Clinic) • Abnormal pathology results that could explain cognitive problems (e.g. NPH) |