

The Dementia Assessment Process



GP Assessment

- The GP will conduct the initial assessments for dementia and rule out other possible causes of memory or thinking changes
- The GP will ask about the history of changes, conduct brief memory and thinking tests, and blood tests
- They may also talk to a family member, order a CT scan, or conduct physical examinations
- What to expect: It might take several visits to get a clear picture
- Pro Tip: Book a long appointment to ensure you have enough time



After the GP Assessment

- May or may not make initial diagnosis of dementia
- May provide referral to specialist (private or public) for confirmation of dementia type or for diagnosis
- ★ Ask for specialist referral if you're not satisfied with the GP's findings



Specialist referral

- Referral to a specialist will depend on medical history, symptoms, age and availability
- May be a:
 - Geriatrician
 - Neurologist
 - Old age psychiatrist
 - Memory clinic
- Wait for a public specialist could be 12+ months



Specialist Assessment

- Can take 1-3 hours
- Assessment may include: Blood tests, CT, MRI or PET scan, neuropsychological testing, discussions with a family member
- May also involve a:
 - Nurse
 - Psychologist or Neuropsychologist
 - Occupational Therapist
 - Social Worker
- Will often require a second visit to get assessment results

