

Cognitive, Dementia & Memory Service (CDAMS)

The aim of CDAMS is to provide early diagnosis, advice, support and referral for people with cognitive difficulties causing confusion, memory loss or thinking problems. The primary target group for CDAMS is dementia related illness with a particular focus on clients with newly emerging cognitive issues. CDAMS also aims to support family and carers of those with newly emerging cognitive issues.

Categories for Appointment

	Clinical description	Timeframe for Appointment
Category 1 - Urgent	Not used for CDAMS	
Category 2 - Routine	All referrals. May prioritise those who are younger than 65 or there are concerns re: carer stress but most referrals treated equally	3 months approximately until first appointment whether it be a Home visit or Clinic Medical assessment
Emergency	Not used for CDAMS	

Eligibility Criteria

- Individuals within CDAMS geographical catchment area (Edithvale to Portsea)
- Individuals of any age experiencing impaired memory, cognitive decline or behavioural changes which may be secondary to dementia
- Clients seeking a diagnosis for suspected early dementia
- Previous CDAMS Clients who may have received a diagnosis of Mild Cognitive Impairment or when diagnosis was unclear
- Clients wanting a second opinion

Exclusions

- Individuals outside CDAMS geographical catchment area (Edithvale to Portsea)
- Individuals with cognitive impairment relating to ABI, Intellectual disability and alcoholism with no suspicion of dementia
- Clients who already have a diagnosis and have accessed treatment
- Referrals for Neuropsychology only e.g. for competency
- Individuals who live in residential care (except if early dementia is suspected).

Alternative Referral Options

- Consider more appropriate Specialist for their condition e.g. Private Neuropsychologist, ABIASS, Alcohol services
- Consider if there is already a diagnosis but may need carer support i.e. Alzheimer's Australia, Alfred Health Carers
- May need extra services so consider Aged Care Assessment Service assessment, Council services
- May need advice on behaviours so consider Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Service (DBMAS) or Aged Person's Mental Health Team
- Consider referral to Geriatric Medicine Review Clinic if individual being discharged from an inpatient facility and may have had a Delirium or if the person has multiple health issues.

Clinic Information

- CDAMS Clinics are held on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays at The Mornington Centre and Wednesdays at Rosebud Community Rehab Centre. All occur in the afternoon.
- CDAMS Clinicians are based at The Mornington Centre and can be contacted on 5976 9012.

Minimum Referral Information Required

(Please note, cannot be processed if minimum information is missing)

- For referral to CDAMS Clinic ring ACCESS on 1300 665 781 or complete the subacute access referral form and fax to 9784 2309.
- Referrals should ideally be accompanied by a medical history and have dementia screening such as Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE) or Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) completed prior to being seen by CDAMS. To ensure your patient is attended to as quickly as possible, could you please provide the results of the following investigations with the enclosed medical referral.

Dementia Screening

- Blood tests performed within three months of referral
 - full blood examination
 - urea and electrolytes
 - se calcium, magnesium and phosphate
 - liver function
 - thyroid function
 - Se vitamin B12 and folate levels
- CT or MRI Brain (MRI preferable if affordable) to exclude modifiable causes of cognitive decline, cerebral atrophy, vascular injury performed within one year of referral
- 12 – lead ECG – as cholinesterase inhibitors may be indicated