

Dementia

May 2020a

Library &
Information
Service



COVID-19

[Fifth of all people who have died from COVID-19 in England and Wales had dementia](#) More people with dementia died from COVID-19 in England and Wales compared to any other pre-existing condition, according to new figures. [The Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#) show that of the 33,841 deaths including COVID-19 in England and Wales between March 1 and April 30, 6,887 (20.4%) had dementia and Alzheimer's disease as the main pre-existing health condition. These findings come on the same day as statistics show that over 40% of people who died due to COVID-19 in care homes also had dementia.

[Dementia among "overlooked" conditions linked to high risk of severe COVID19 in older people](#) A new analysis shows which certain pre-existing diseases may put older people at risk of developing more severe COVID-19, implying they may need special treatments and more shielding. A team based at the University of Exeter and the University of Connecticut in the USA found that older people with dementia were three times more likely to have severe COVID-19 than older people with no dementia. This may have been as a result of greater exposure to the virus, for example in nursing homes, or it may be caused by the dementia disease process itself.

[Alzheimer's Society makes recommendations for local authorities adopting Care Act easements](#) With local government considering whether to relax certain responsibilities during the pandemic, Alzheimer's Society has made recommendations on how to appropriately adopt Care Act easements on behalf of people affected by dementia. You can download the full [briefing on adopting Care Act easements](#).

[COVID-19: management of exposed staff and patients in health and social care settings](#) This updated guidance now includes a section on residents in care settings.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): support for care homes](#) This publication out the support package to keep care homes safe during the coronavirus pandemic.

[Government launches new portal for care homes to arrange coronavirus testing](#) All care home staff and residents are now eligible for testing with priority for those in homes that look after the over-65s. A [new online portal](#) that makes it easy for care homes to arrange deliveries of coronavirus test kits has been launched.

[Dedicated app for social care workers launched](#) A new dedicated app for the adult social care workforce in England has been launched to support staff through the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

[Top tips for GPs caring for Care Homes](#) RCGP clinical advisers were surveyed to look at excellence in primary care practice across the UK during the pandemic and a summary of those interventions is provided in this document.

Dementia

May 2020a

Library &
Information
Service



Studies

[‘A4’ Study Links Beta-Amyloid To Early Alzheimer’s](#) Data from a new study looking at the brains of cognitively normal adults at increased risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease puts a new spotlight on beta-amyloid, a toxic protein that builds up in the brains of those with Alzheimer’s disease.

[Poor Vision May indicate Increased Risk Of Dementia](#) In a study involving 1061 older women, researchers found that compared to their peers with good vision, those with visual problems were two to five times more at risk of having dementia or mild cognitive impairment.

Statistics

[Recorded Dementia Diagnoses - April 2020](#) The latest data on recorded diagnoses of dementia has been published by NHS Digital.

Resource

[Dementia and Self-Management: Peer to Peer Resource](#) This booklet was written and researched by the Scottish Dementia Alumni, a group of people who have each been living with different diagnoses of dementia for over ten years. The contributions to this booklet came directly from people with a diagnosis of different types of dementia with an aim to express and share their experiences of ‘self-management’ and living with dementia with others.

Cochrane Clinical Answer

[What is the accuracy of Mini-Cog for the diagnosis of dementia in secondary care settings?](#) This Cochrane clinical answers review found several limitations in the available studies, did not combine studies in a meta-analysis and rated none of the studies as being at low risk of bias for all four criteria related to conduct of the tests or selection of participants. Consequently, conclusions regarding the accuracy of Mini-Cog for the diagnosis of dementia in secondary care settings cannot be drawn.