

# Dementia

## **COVID-19**

[Pilot for family members to get regular testing for safer care home visits](#) Named family and friends may soon be able to regularly visit loved ones in care homes as a new testing pilot is launched.

[Stopping movement of staff between care settings](#) Consultation on plans to minimise the risk of coronavirus (COVID-19) infections by making residential and nursing care home providers restrict the movement of care staff.

[COVID-19: guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable](#) (Updated) Information for shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable from COVID-19.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): looking after people who lack mental capacity](#) (Updated) Guidance for health and social care staff who are caring for, or treating, a person who lacks the relevant mental capacity.

[Clinically extremely vulnerable receive updated guidance in line with new national restrictions](#) Further precautions advised on top of the tougher national measures being introduced, as cases continue to rise.

## **Studies**

[Use of Patient-Reported Symptoms from an Online Symptom Tracking Tool for Dementia Severity Staging: Development and Validation of a Machine Learning Approach](#) This paper reports on the use of a supervised machine learning algorithm which exhibited positive performance in identifying dementia stages based on dementia symptoms reported in an online environment.

[Vascular and metabolic risk factor differences prior to dementia diagnosis: a multidatabase case-control study using European electronic health records](#) Routine clinical data show emerging divergence in levels of BMI and SBP prior to the diagnosis of dementia but less evidence for DBP or total cholesterol levels. These divergences should receive at least some consideration in routine dementia risk screening, although underlying mechanisms still require further investigation.

## **Consultation**

[Changes to how new drugs are assessed could help dementia treatments get to people sooner](#) Alzheimer's Research UK says proposed changes to the way new treatments are assessed could give the dementia drugs of the future 'a better chance of getting to the people who need them'. [NICE](#) has launched [a public consultation](#) that sets out the case for change to the methods it uses to develop guidance on medicines, medical devices and diagnostics.

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## **Cochrane Review**

[Pharmacotherapies for sleep disturbances in dementia](#) This systematic review discovered a distinct lack of evidence to guide decisions about drug treatment of sleep problems in dementia. There were no RCTs of many widely prescribed drugs, including the benzodiazepine and non-benzodiazepine hypnotics, although there is considerable uncertainty about the balance of benefits and risks for these common treatments. There was evidence of some beneficial effects on sleep outcomes from trazodone and orexin antagonists and no evidence of harmful effects in these small trials, although larger trials in a broader range of participants are needed.

## **Clinical Answer**

[What are the effects of enhanced rehabilitation and care models for adults with dementia undergoing hip fracture surgery?](#) For adults with dementia undergoing hip fracture surgery, enhanced rehabilitation may reduce postoperative delirium, but evidence showing its effects on other outcomes is very uncertain.

## **Guidance**

[Reminiscence](#) This article from Dementia UK provides an overview guide to starting reminiscence therapy.

## **News**

[Speak out with dementia – An online peer support group for LGBTQ+ people living with a diagnosis of dementia](#) Speak out with dementia is a new online group for people who are living with a diagnosis of dementia, and who identify as LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer). The group will give members the chance to express themselves and support each other in a safe environment where their experiences, their identity and their relationships will be affirmed. Meetings will be held on Zoom.

## **Case Study**

[Using Ambient Assisted Living to Monitor Older Adults With Alzheimer Disease: Single-Case Study to Validate the Monitoring Report](#) This case study suggests that, trends identified by AAL monitoring are consistent with clinical reports.

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