



Memory Disorder

Pre-Referral Consideration:

1. Consider depression, delirium, obstructive sleep apnea and medication effects. Assess living situation (medication compliance, financial management, driving safety, nutrition, behavior, and caregiver stress).

Red Flags:

1. Items that suggest something other than Alzheimer's, consider imaging, alternate referral or emergent referral
2. Focal neurological findings, a gait disturbance, urinary incontinence or rapidly progressive symptoms

Laboratory Testing to be Ordered by PCP:

1. CBC, CMP, TSH, B12, Folic acid
2. If appropriate also include: drug screen, urinalysis

Imaging Studies:

1. Brain imaging with CT or MRI (preferred if vascular risk factors present) per PCP discretion
2. Please send images (CD) if any imaging study, such as head CT or MRI brain available

What to Avoid Ordering:

1. Don't order MRI brain, EEG, PET scan or neuropsych testing if have not been done

Comments:

Essential Patient Information:

1. Onset - slow or rapidly progressive
2. Use of psychotropic medications and complete medication list
3. History of hallucinations and other psychotic symptoms
4. History of any abnormal movements
5. Family history of memory disorder
6. Focal findings or any other abnormal movements on examination

Please include two sentences about the patient's memory complaint and reason for the consult, e.g.:

1. Initial diagnosis of memory disorder
2. Second opinion about the diagnosis of memory disorder
3. Assume ongoing care/management of diagnosed dementia
4. Assist with management of uncontrolled mood symptoms or dementia related behaviors
5. Request for case management support for caregiver/family



6. Decisional capacity assessment/guardianship evaluation
7. Citizenship test exemption evaluation
8. Patient/family request for consultation with reason not given

Note: Unnecessary testing should be avoided; however, if a primary care provider has a high index of suspicion of a specific diagnosis that merits further testing, appropriate pre-referral testing could be ordered.