Are you concerned about memory loss?

Further information and support
Visit [www.nhs.uk/dementia](http://www.nhs.uk/dementia) or [www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk) or call the Alzheimer’s Society Dementia Helpline on 0845 300 0336 (Monday to Friday 8.30am-6.30pm).
Diagnosing memory loss

From 1 October 2012, all patients aged 75 years and over who are admitted into hospital will be screened for signs of memory loss.

Memory loss can be caused by stress, tiredness, certain illnesses, or the medications for them. Memory loss can also be associated with conditions such as dementia. It is important to diagnose the cause of memory loss, so the right treatment and support can begin.

Dementia

One in three people over the age of 65 develop dementia. There are currently 800,000 people with dementia in the UK and there will be over a million people with dementia by 2021. Currently only 43% of people with dementia receive a diagnosis.

What is dementia?

Dementia is a group of symptoms caused by damage to the brain. Symptoms can include:

- Memory loss, such as remembering past events much more easily than recent ones
- Problems thinking or reasoning, or finding it hard to follow conversations or TV programmes
- Feeling anxious, depressed or angry about memory loss, or feeling confused, even when in a familiar environment.

What does screening involve?

- A nurse or doctor will ask you and/or your family if you have been forgetful in the last 12 months. If the response is yes, you will be asked to take part in an assessment.
- The nurse or doctor will ask you 10 simple questions to assess your memory. For example “Do you know who the Prime Minister is?”
- The results will be shared with you the same day. If the results show that further investigation is needed, you will be referred to your GP, who can provide further assessments, advice and support.

If you have any questions please speak to your nurse or doctor.