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Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease

1. I would be grateful if you could send the Health and Social Care Trust's most recent planning document(s) for the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's Disease including implementation of lumbar punctures (CSF) and Blood-based Biomarker testing. Please include planning documents that cover the entire Health and Social Care Trust and specific department plans, such as neurology, psychiatry, care of the elderly, pathology or memory clinic teams.
2. How many patients were diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease (*ICD-10 codes = G30, G30.1, G30.8, G30.9, F00, F00.1, F00.2 or F00.9*) in your Health and Social Care Trust in the last 12-month period for which data are available?

	Number of patients
Total Alzheimer' Disease	<p>Total 440</p> <p>Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G30.0 Alzheimer's disease with early onset - 4 • G30.1 Alzheimer's disease with late onset - 123 • G30.8 Other Alzheimer's disease – 66 • G30.9 Alzheimer's disease, unspecified – 58 • F00.0 – 2 • F00.1 – 123 • F00.2 – 64 <p>F00.9 - 0</p>

3. How many patients were diagnosed with Mild Cognitive Impairment and / or Mild Dementia due to Alzheimer's Disease (*ICD-10 codes = G31.84, G30.1, or MMSE scores = 21 to 24*) in your Health and Social Care Trust in the last 12-month period for which data are available?

	Number of patients
Mild cognitive impairment (<i>ICD-10 = G31.84</i>)	170

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	Only record we have is under Mild Cognitive Disorder (ICD-10-UK: F06.7) but I cannot guarantee that these are all due to Alzheimer's Disease
Early onset Alzheimer's Disease (ICD-10 = G30.1)	4 Please note: Code 30.1 on EPIC relates to late onset Alzheimer's. I have provided numbers for the early onset Code 30.0
Mild cognitive impairment (Mini-mental State Examination MMSE = 21 to 24)	Electronic records not kept
Mild cognitive impairment (other sources of definition)	Electronic records not kept

4. Where, if at all, does the Health and Social Care Trust carry out lumbar punctures (cerebrospinal fluid) for diagnosing patients with Alzheimer's Disease?

	Yes / No
Lumbar punctures carried out within the Trust itself	Yes.
Lumbar punctures referred elsewhere and carried out external to the Trust	No.
Trust does not carry out lumbar punctures to diagnose Alzheimer's Disease	No. Belfast Health and Social Care Trust does currently have facility to carry out lumbar punctures to diagnose Alzheimer's disease via Neurology and Care of the Elderly Memory Clinics

5. Please provide a list of the full names of other Trusts or other organisations to which the Health and Social Care Trust refers patients for lumbar punctures in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease.

Full name of organisation(s)
Not applicable.

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6. What is the average waiting time for a patient to get an appointment for a lumbar puncture to test for a diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease?

	Number
Average waiting time (weeks)	For geriatrician-led service LPs which have been carried out from 29/01/24 to 17/06/25: Range 3 weeks to 5 months The average wait was 2½mths Numbers for neurology service may vary.

7. How many lumbar punctures to test for Alzheimer's Disease took place in the last 3-month period for which data are available?

	Number of procedures
Number of lumbar punctures	For geriatrician-led memory service: 10 Numbers for neurology service may vary.

8. How many Blood-based Biomarker (BBBM) tests from Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) to test for Alzheimer's Disease were conducted in the last 3-month period for which data are available?

	Number of tests
Number of Blood-based Biomarker tests (CSF)	CSF analyses undertaken for: Amyloid beta 1-42 p-tau 181 Total tau. No blood-based biomarkers are currently used in our service.

9. Where, if at all, does the Health and Social Care Trust carry out Blood-based Biomarker (BBBM) tests from Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) for diagnosing patients with Alzheimer's Disease?

	Yes / No
Pathology laboratory within the Trust	CSF analysed within Trust biochemistry labs No blood-based biomarker analyses are currently available.
Pathology laboratory external to the Trust	
Trust does not test for BBBMs to diagnose Alzheimer's Disease	

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10. Please provide a list of the full names of other Trusts or other organisations, to which the Health and Social Care Trust refers Blood-based Biomarker tests from cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) for pathology in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease.

Full name of Trust or organisation(s)
Not applicable for geriatrician-led memory service. Neurology may outsource tests.

11. What is the average waiting time for pathology results to come back from Blood-based Biomarker tests?

	Days
Average waiting time (days)	Accurate time frame not available, I would estimate a few months.

12. To what extent are there plans for service improvement of diagnosing Alzheimer's Disease?

	Yes / No
Implementation of plans has started	No
A plan exists and implementation has not started	No
A plan is being developed	Yes.
There is no plan	No
Other – please state	

13. Are the plans for service improvement of diagnosing Alzheimer's Disease related to:

	Yes / No
Cognitive assessment services	Yes.
Biomarker services	Yes.

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None / neither	
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14. Which of the following services does the Health and Social Care Trust have in place in preparation for increased service delivery for Alzheimer's Disease?

	Related to administration of lumbar punctures Yes / No	Related to Blood- based Biomarker testing Yes / No
Budget	Yes	No
People	Yes	Yes
Training	No	No
Clinic space / capacity	Yes	Yes
Governance arrangements	Yes	No