

8 July 2026

Alzheimer's Disease

1. I would be grateful if you could send the most recent planning document(s) for the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's Disease, whether these are from the Health and Social Care Trust, Integrated Care Board (ICB), or the region. I am particularly interested in planning documents that cover lumbar punctures (CSF) and Blood Biomarker testing.

Belfast Trust does not have planning document(s) for the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's Disease.

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

	Yes / No
Implementation of plans has started	• Yes Practice differs between Psychiatry of Old Age (POA) and Geriatric led service. • Geriatric led service- have an established CSF biomarker service and are developing a blood-based biomarker service improvement project (recurrent funding / implementation pending).
A plan exists and implementation has not started	See above.
A plan is being developed	See above.
There is no plan	See above.
Other – please state	See above.

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

	Yes / No
Cognitive assessment services	No.
Biomarker services	Yes.
None / neither	N/A.

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4. 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?

CSF service funding meets the current demand and has some room for an increase in capacity within existing resources. We would not have capacity to meet an anticipated increase in demand should DMTs become available at the NICE review in July 2026 – (based on published estimates which our team have been involved in from BHSCT geriatrician led service and UCLH+partners)

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

5. How many lumbar puncture procedures to test for Alzheimer's Disease were performed in the last three-month period for which data are available?

	Number of procedures
Number of lumbar punctures	10

6. Please provide the number of BBM tests for Alzheimer's Disease conducted over the last three-months, regardless of whether they were carried out within your organisation or sent to an external pathology laboratory.

	Number of tests TOTAL	Number of tests NHS patients	Number of tests Private Sector
Number of Blood Biomarker tests	0		

7. Which of the following biomarker tests were used to detect Alzheimer's Disease?

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	Yes / No
pTau181 immunoassay tests	Blood – No. CSF – Yes.
pTau217 immunoassay tests	No.

8. Please provide a list of the full names of other Trusts or other organisations, to which the Trust refers samples for pTau181 and pTau217 immunoassay testing for Alzheimer's Disease?

Full name of Trust or organisation(s)
None.

9. How many pTau181 immunoassay tests were conducted to test for Alzheimer's Disease in the last three-months?

	Number of tests TOTAL	Number of tests NHS patients	Number of tests Private Sector
Number of pTau181 tests	23 (CSF)	23 (CSF)	0

10. Is pTau181 testing for Alzheimer's Disease linked to, or conducted in conjunction with, clinical trials?

	Yes / No
pTau181 Testing associated with clinical trial activity	Yes.

11. How many pTau181 immunoassay tests were conducted for Alzheimer's Disease as part of a clinical trial?

Number of pTau181 tests	<5 (0 in last 3 months).
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12. How many pTau217 immunoassay tests were conducted to test for Alzheimer's Disease in the last three-months?

	Number of tests TOTAL	Number of tests NHS patients	Number of tests Private Sector
Number of pTau217 tests	0	0	0

13. Is pTau217 testing for Alzheimer's Disease linked to, or conducted in conjunction with, clinical trials?

	Yes / No
pTau217 Testing associated with clinical trial activity	No.

14. How many pTau217 immunoassay tests were conducted for Alzheimer's Disease as part of a clinical trial?

Number of pTau217 tests	0
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Some figures have been withheld and replaced with less than five (<5). This is because disclosure of small numbers has the potential to identify individuals. The information is therefore exempt under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Personal Information relating to a third party. Its release would contravene the data protection principles set out in the UK GDPR.