

WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Title:
SUPPORTING PRIMARY CARE TO PLACE INDIVIDUALS WITH DEMENTIA ON THEIR PRACTICE DEMENTIA REGISTERS

Date of Expiry / Review – Review on 1 February 2016

For Action by:
1 April 2015

Action required by: *1 April 2015*

Sender: Dr Sarah Watkins

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Enclosure(s): 1

**To: GP Practices
General Practitioner Committee Wales
Royal College of General Practitioners
Directors of Primary Community and Mental Health
Assistant Medical Directors
Mental Health General Managers
Primary Care Quality and information Service PHW
Memory Clinics
British Geriatric Society (Cymru)
Care of the Elderly Medicine**

Dear Colleague,

SUPPORTING PRIMARY CARE TO PLACE INDIVIDUALS WITH DEMENTIA ON THEIR PRACTICE DEMENTIA REGISTERS

We have a shared aim to improve early diagnosis and identification of dementia in Wales. It has emerged that one key obstacle to patients being placed on GP dementia registers is that diagnostic terminology can be unclear. For example "*probable Alzheimer's*" to specialist staff means that the diagnosis is clinical rather than pathological, but to primary care staff may simply imply uncertainty as to formal diagnosis. This is compounded by the issue that dementia as a group have at least 58 potential READ codes, which may mean staff do not identify the correct codes assigned to the patients.

In order to address this problem, memory services in Cardiff and London have piloted use of four READ codes alongside any diagnosis of dementia at the top of any letter or discharge summary concerning patients with dementia. After consultation with stakeholders, a code for Lewy Body dementia was proposed given its prevalence. The proposed codes with diagnoses are for adoption across Wales, to reduce variation and improve consistency, and have been very positively viewed by teams in the pilot areas.

The codes we ask that all services utilise are:

- Eu00. Alzheimer's dementia
- Eu01. Vascular dementia
- Eu002 Mixed dementia
- Eu02z Other dementia (i.e. FTD, DLB, PDD, alcoholic dementia etc.)
- F116. Lewy Body dementia

Please be aware READ codes have 5 digits so in three proposed codes a full stop is integral to the code.

I attach below a sample letter with the diagnosis and READ code highlighted as the top line. This has been previously notified in August and November 2014, so we would expect this to be implemented as of the date of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Sarah Watkins

**Is-adran Grwpiau Iechyd Meddwl ac Agored i Niwed
Head of Mental Health & Vulnerable Groups Division**

**Uwch Swyddog Meddygol
Senior Medical Officer
Adran Iechyd y Cyhoedd a'r Proffesiynau Iechyd
Public Health and Health Professions Department**

Sample Memory clinic letter to GP

Re Mr XXX XXX of XX Street, XXX DOB XXXXXX

Diagnosis; Alzheimer's dementia READ code Eu00.

Dear Dr xxx ,

This pleasant man was assessed by our memory clinic/ discharged from hospital on the 3rd of July . He gave a history of xxx
The following assessments were completed xxxx.
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