

## News

### NHS will not fund new drug to slow Alzheimer's

Donanemab, A new drug that slows the pace of Alzheimer's disease is too expensive for too little benefit to be used on the NHS in England, NICE says. The drug was approved and given a licence by the safety regulator, the MHRA, which means it can be prescribed privately.

<u>Alzheimer's Society responds to Care Quality Commission's (CQC) State of Care report</u> This latest <u>report</u> from Care Quality Commission (CQC) shines a light on the well-documented health and social care challenges faced by around 826,000 people living with dementia in England.

### Tens of thousands of UK dementia patients to be enrolled in clinical trials

Researchers are launching the Dementia Trials Accelerator, a £20m initiative funded by the Medical Research Council (MRC) to tackle the "historically low" numbers enrolled into trials. The UK Dementia Research Institute (UK DRI), which is spearheading the scheme along with Health Data Research UK (HDR UK), said it would recruit tens of thousands of dementia patients to help fast-track the discovery of new treatments for the disease.

#### Improving dementia treatment and care through data

David Thomas, Head of Policy and Public Affairs at Alzheimer's Research UK explains Why data collection is so important in dementia?

#### New hope for dementia diagnosis 'in five minutes'

A new laser-based test has been created that could diagnosis dementia in "less than five minutes". The project has been a collaboration between experts at University Hospital Southampton and the University of Southampton. The new technology, known as Multi-excitation Raman spectroscopy (MX-Raman), uses lasers to analyse the composition of a single drop of a bodily fluid – this can be blood, spinal fluid or mucus. The light allows scientists to examine and look for changes in the proteins, lipids, sugars and other biomolecules.

## Loneliness Takes a Toll on the Brain

Feeling lonely raises the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia in old age, according to a new analysis. The findings add to growing evidence that loneliness and social isolation are bad for the brain. The report analyzed data from 21 international studies on aging involving more than 608,000 men and women from around the world. Loneliness was linked to a 15 percent increased risk of general memory and thinking problems, and a 31 percent increased risk of developing dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, over the long term.

#### Liverpool University Hospitals to trial Melo app for dementia care

Liverpool University Hospitals (LUHFT) NHS Foundation Trust is trialling a platform which tracks dementia patients' behaviour with the aim of supporting better care. Melo uses information, which clinical staff enter into the system, to identify behavioural triggers in patients with neurological illnesses, with the aim of enriching the information available to make effective clinical decisions.













# Research

Developments in dementia treatments

This briefing focuses on two disease-modifying dementia drugs that are currently being appraised by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE): lecanemab and donanemab.

## **Public Advice**

Young onset dementia: perimenopause and menopause

An estimated 70,800 people in the UK are living with young onset dementia, where symptoms begin before the age of 65. For some women, dementia symptoms may develop at the same time as perimenopause or menopause, which can bring additional challenges.







