



# Memory Clinics in Ireland

*A Guide for Family Caregivers  
and Health Service Professionals*

3rd edition

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*The*  
**ATLANTIC**  
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## Introduction

Alzheimer's disease and the related dementias have recently been singled out as a domain of increasing importance, globally and at a European level. For example, within the EU, under the European Initiative on Dementia, progress has been made on mobilising political action on dementia and several European countries including Norway, England, Wales, Scotland, and France have already well-developed National Dementia Strategies or Service Plans. Common to each of these Strategies is a focus on assessment and diagnostic services in future dementia care reform and an emphasis on the important role that Memory Clinics can play in the early detection, diagnosis, disclosure and treatment of dementia. In Ireland the government's commitment to developing a National Dementia Strategy and the recent research review work undertaken to underpin this will undoubtedly heighten public debate about preferred approaches to diagnostic services and will shed further light on the role of Memory Clinic services in Ireland in this context.

In recognition of the need for information to be more widely available on Memory Clinic services in Ireland, a Memory Clinic booklet was first designed for health service professionals and family members in 2010. The aim of the booklet was to detail the location and range of Memory Clinic services available around the country for people worried about their memory or cognitive problems or for family members. Since that time further service developments have taken place, including the launching of new Memory Clinic services. For this reason the 'Memory Clinics in Ireland' booklet is now on its 3rd iteration.

## What is a Memory Clinic?

Memory Clinics are independent clinics primarily aimed at improving practice in the identification, investigation and treatment of memory disorders including dementia. Staff employed at Memory Clinics are specially trained to diagnose memory problems and to provide people who are concerned about cognitive and memory problems with a diagnosis, information, treatment (when necessary) and advice. Whilst in Ireland (like other countries), many people with dementia have never had a formal diagnosis, it is noted that early diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease or any of the related dementias is critical to acquiring appropriate treatments, to managing financial and legal affairs (including getting an Enduring Power of Attorney) and to accessing support services. Early diagnosis also enables the person experiencing the symptoms to be more proactive in lifestyle decision-making and in planning his or her own future care options. Once a diagnosis is made, treatment can also be initiated by Memory Clinic staff and advice can be given on a whole range of topics including the use of memory aids, driving, banking, family matters, employment and leisure time interests. Memory Clinics may also provide post-diagnostic counselling and emotional support for people newly diagnosed. In Ireland, some Memory Clinics are actively involved in research.

## Numbers and locations of Irish Memory Clinics

There are currently 17 Memory Clinics operating in the Republic of Ireland. Details about each of these clinics are provided in this booklet. Of the 17 Clinics, seven are located in Dublin, four in the South (Cork, Cashel, Carlow and Wexford), three in the Midlands (Robinstown, Portlaoise and Mullingar), one in the West (Mayo), one in the Mid West (Co. Limerick) and another in the North East (Navan). Some parts of the country known to support large numbers of people with a dementia have no Memory Clinics. Kerry, Donegal and Galway, for example, known to have within each county around 2,000 older people with dementia have no Memory Clinic facilities whatsoever. This is despite emerging international and national evidence pointing to the value of such specialist services.

## How to avail of Memory Clinic services

Anyone is entitled to avail of a Memory Clinic service. However, most clinics only accept referrals from GPs or other medical doctors. Therefore, if you believe that your memory is not as sharp as before and if you are worried about this, you should discuss the matter with your GP. Your GP may decide that you are worrying unnecessarily or, following a series of tests make a diagnosis of dementia, or your GP may decide that further in-depth assessment is needed and may refer you to a Memory Clinic. Memory Clinics cater for people of all ages. The Memory Clinic in Clonsilla (Dublin) and the one in Robinstown (Mullingar) are dedicated to people with an Intellectual Disability and have a younger clientele.

## What information will be asked of clients and their family members at the Memory Clinic assessment?

When an appointment for a Memory Clinic is made, people are usually asked to have a family member or close friend accompany them. The reason for this is that the latter can, if necessary, provide staff with additional information regarding the person's memory and cognitive problems and overall health. During the clinic appointment, a series of questions will be asked by clinic staff of the person referred to the clinic. Where appropriate, additional questions will be asked of the family member. First baseline information is usually sought about the person's general health; the onset of, as well as signs and symptoms of memory problems; risk factors for Alzheimer's disease and the related dementias such as smoking, obesity, diabetes, family history and blood pressure. Other information usually sought includes that on behavioural/personality changes, educational attainments and literacy level, physical functioning and activities of daily living. Neuropsychological assessment/testing which usually involves a series of questions assessing short-term and long-term memory, language, orientation, attention, perception and calculation may also take place. The latter can be brief or may be more in-depth.



### **Do all people who attend a Memory Clinic receive a diagnosis?**

Generally, everybody who attends a Memory Clinic receives feedback on the results of the formal assessment. These results may show that there is no organic memory problem despite the fact that the person has a subjective memory complaint, or that the person has a Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI), a significant cognitive impairment which is not a normal for ones age and education but is not a diagnosis of dementia, or that the person actually has a dementia. If a clinical diagnosis is established, this will be discussed with the person in accordance with his/her wishes. It is generally recommended that clinic staff discuss the diagnosis with the person, unless there are clear reasons against doing this.

### **At Memory Clinics, what information is given to people worried about their memory and to those diagnosed with MCI or dementia?**

Extensive information is provided to people who attend Memory Clinics. The type of information provided typically includes:

- Ways to improve and maintain cognitive health
- Clarification of memory problem symptoms
- Diagnosis, including differential diagnosis
- General tips for dealing with possible memory problems
- Treatment information such as advice about anti-dementia drugs and how they work
- Advice about continuing or not continuing to drive
- Advice about continuing or not continuing to work
- Leisure time activities

## **What treatments and services are offered at Memory Clinics?**

Treatments and services offered at Memory Clinics vary and ideally they should be individualised to address each person's respective needs. These treatments are usually classified as pharmacological (drugs) or non-pharmacological (no drugs). In some cases pharmacological interventions such as anti-dementia drugs (cholinesterase inhibitors) are offered to people in the early stage of dementia or occasionally to those with a Mild Cognitive Impairment. These drugs may help to slow down memory loss or the rate of progression of dementia but it needs to be remembered that the drugs are not curative and do not tackle the underlying cause of the condition. Anti-dementia drugs can be effective in the short-term but unfortunately only work in about one third of all cases. A different type of drug called Memantine is sometimes offered to people with more advanced dementia.

Non-pharmacological interventions are also often offered through most Memory Clinic services. Such interventions include information, counselling, advice on practical everyday aids designed to help improve quality of life, and recommendations about relaxation therapies and ways to help reduce challenging behaviours.

## **Do Memory Clinics charge patients for their services?**

Most Memory Clinics are funded through the HSE and, therefore, provide services free of charge. However, in some instances there may be some "out of pocket costs" incurred by patients for CT or MRI scans. Four of the seventeen Memory Clinics are privately run. In these circumstances some service costs may be recouped through health insurance schemes.

## **Does attending a Memory Clinic mean being admitted to hospital?**

People should be reassured that most Memory Clinics are out-patient services and do not generally involve hospital admission. One exception is the Memory Clinic at St Patrick's Hospital, which is private, and offers both in-patient and out-patient assessment services. There, the average length of stay for assessment is three days and the cost of in-patient services is covered by private health insurance.





## Mercers Institute for Research on Ageing (MIRA) Memory Clinic, St James's Hospital, Dublin

**Director:** Professor Brian Lawlor

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**Location and Contact:** Hospital 4, St James's Hospital, James's Street, Dublin 8, tel: (01) 416 2640

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**Profile:** MIRA offers diagnosis, information, advice and practical support about living with dementia for the patient and family members. It is run collaboratively between Medicine for the Elderly and Psychiatry of Later Life, and has a strong multi-disciplinary element. The Memory Clinic is consultant-led.

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**Catchment area:** Nationwide

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**Frequency:** Monday to Friday

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**Waiting time:** Information not currently available

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**Referral:** Mainly from GPs or medical doctors

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**Funding:** HSE

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**Costs:** No cost to patients

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**Treatment:** Pharmacological and non-pharmacological

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**Follow-up:** Clients with an uncertain diagnosis or those diagnosed with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) are followed up on a six/twelve month basis. Patients with a confirmed diagnosis are referred back to their GP or to an appropriate consultant physician for follow-up

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**Staff:** Old Age Psychiatrist; Geriatrician; Neuropsychologist; Clinical Nurse Manager; Social Worker

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**Support Services:** Psychological support, Social Work, family meetings, referral to community care services

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**Services available to patients under 65:** Yes

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**Services available to patients with an intellectual disability:** Yes

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## Memory Clinic at St Patrick's University Hospital, Dublin

**Director:** Dr Declan Lyons

**Location and Contact:** St Patrick's University Hospital Campus, James's Street, Dublin 8, tel: (01) 249 3437 (Contact person: Prisca Coleman)

**Profile:** The Memory Clinic assesses and diagnoses people with a variety of subjective memory complaints and formulates a treatment plan. Consultant-led with a strong multi-disciplinary element.

**Catchment area:** Nationwide

**Frequency:** Once per week

**Waiting time:** Four to eight weeks

**Referral:** Mainly from GPs or from psychiatrists working within St Patrick's Hospital, as well as Neurologists, Psychiatrists and other specialists working outside of St Patrick's Hospital

**Funding:** Private

**Costs:** Initial assessments are carried out through the Dean Clinic network and are free. Costs for in-patients including scans are covered by private health insurance. There is a charge for out-patient services, which are not covered by private health insurance. (Resulting scans may be covered by private health insurance).

**Treatment:** A full broad-based treatment plan tailored to the individual is devised and the plan may include, where appropriate, drug treatments, Occupational Therapy evaluation (including a functional assessment), referral to Neurology and Psychological support.

**Follow-up:** As necessary

**Staff:** Principal Clinical Psychologist/Neuropsychologist; Psychiatric Registrar; Occupational Therapist; Clinical Nurse Specialist; Ward-based Nurse; Social Worker; Pharmacist

**Support Services:** Social Work; Psychological support

**Services available to patients under 65:** Yes

**Services available to patients with an intellectual disability:** No

## Mater Hospital Memory Clinic, Dublin

**Director:** Dr Joe Duggan, Dr Cora McGreevy, Dr Lorraine Kyne

**Location and Contact:** Day Hospital for the Older Person, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Eccles St, Dublin 7. Tel: (01) 8034242

**Profile:** The Mater Memory Clinic is a consultant-led service offering diagnosis, information and advice about living with dementia for both the patient and family members

**Catchment area:** North Dublin

**Frequency:** Once weekly

**Waiting time:** 4-6 weeks

**Referral:** Mainly from GPs or colleagues from other specialties in the Mater

**Funding:** HSE

**Costs:** No cost to patients

**Treatment:** Pharmacological and non-pharmacological

**Follow-up:** Clients are followed up 2 months after their initial appointment, with further appointments on a 6 monthly or yearly basis depending on diagnosis

**Staff:** Geriatrician; Specialist Registrars; CNM; with access to neuropsychologist/social worker

**Support Services:** Social Work, family meetings, referral to community care services

**Services available to patients under 65:** Yes

**Services available to patients with an intellectual disability:** Yes

## The Dementia Advisory Resource Centre, Daughters of Charity Service, St Joseph's Centre, Clonsilla, Dublin

**Director:** Professor Mary McCarron

**Location and Contact:** The Dementia Advisory Resource Centre, St Joseph's Centre, Clonsilla, Dublin 15, Tel: (01) 824 8658. evelyn.reilly@docservice.ie; pamela.dunne@docservice.ie

**Profile:** This specialist Memory Clinic provides baseline screening, dementia assessment and comprehensive diagnostic work up for persons with an intellectual disability (ID). A multi-disciplinary team works together and will form a consensus diagnosis and recommend pharmacological and psychosocial interventions as deemed appropriate to each individual. In addition a dementia education programme is offered to staff, families and peers. Nurse led with a strong multi-disciplinary element.

**Catchment area:** The Daughters of Charity Services, Dublin, Roscrea and Limerick.

**Frequency:** Monday to Friday

**Waiting time:** Three to four weeks

**Referral:** Psychiatry/ Psychology or Physicians at the Daughters of Charity Service. Limited referrals are also accepted from other Intellectual Disability and generic services.

**Funding:** HSE Funded

**Costs:** No cost to patients; possible charge for some scans and consultancy.

**Treatment:** A full broad-based treatment plan tailored to the needs of the individual is devised and may include a range of pharmacological and non-pharmacological approaches.

**Follow-up:** Clients with Down syndrome over the age of 35 years, and all persons with an intellectual disability with a confirmed diagnosis of dementia are reviewed by the memory clinic team on an annual basis, or more frequently if there are additional concerns.

**Staff:** Policy and Service Advisor, and two full time Clinical Nurse Specialists in Dementia. In addition, Consultant Psychiatrist, Physician, Psychologist, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Therapist, Social Worker, Dietician are all available on a sessional basis.

**Support Services:** Day Service, Respite support, Palliative and End of Life Care, and staff, family and peer education.

**Services available to patients under 65:** Yes

**Services available to patients with an intellectual disability:** Yes

## Memory Works, Dublin City University, Dublin

**Clinical Lead:** Dr Kate Irving

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**Location and Contact:** Memory Works, Healthy Living Centre, Dublin City University, Dublin 9, tel: (01) 700 7171

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**Profile:** Memory Works is an assessment service which helps people get an early diagnosis by giving them access to information, providing screening and advocating for them in a referral process; also helps patients access support, information and advice on healthy living. Memory Works is nurse-led.

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**Catchment area:** Nationwide

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**Frequency:** Two appointments weekly

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**Waiting time:** Approximately four weeks

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**Referral:** No formal referral needed

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**Funding:** Private through Dublin City University

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**Costs:** Fee of €100. Based on ability to pay.

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**Treatment:** Non-pharmacological such as psychotherapeutic treatment, health promotion, advice, support, education

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**Follow-up:** Yes

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**Staff:** Nurse

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**Support Services:** Counselling and Psychotherapy services, nutrition service

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**Services available to patients under 65:** Yes

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**Services available to patients with an intellectual disability:** Yes

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## Bloomfield Memory Clinic

**Director:** Dr Jennifer Hoblyn

**Location and Contact:** Bloomfield Health Services, Stocking Lane, Rathfarnham, Dublin  
16. Tel (01) 495 6853/ 1890 123 124. Fax (01) 495 1006

**Profile:** The Bloomfield Memory Clinic is a multi-disciplinary, consultant-led service providing assessment, diagnosis and support to patients presenting with memory difficulties and other cognitive complaints resulting from a wide spectrum of different causes. Full consultation entails three separate outpatient visits to the clinic, for initial interview, full neuropsychological assessment and feedback of results and treatment plan.

**Catchment area:** Nationwide

**Frequency:** Once per week

**Waiting time:** 6 weeks

**Referral:** Mainly from GPs but also from consultants

**Funding:** Private, not-for-profit organisation

**Costs:** There is a set cost for each assessment, which consists of 3 outpatient appointments. Most scans will be covered by private insurers.

**Treatment:** Treatment is pharmacological and non-pharmacological. A full treatment plan based on our multi-disciplinary team assessment is provided, which is tailored to the individual's needs, featuring individualised advice and, where appropriate, recommendations for drug treatment, psychological therapy and other interventions and supports that may be beneficial. Full feedback is provided as part of treatment planning, to ensure that the individual and their family members have a good understanding of the outcome of assessment, including recommendations for interventions and community support services that can help.

**Follow-up:** Yes

**Staff:** Consultant Psychiatrist, Senior Neuropsychologist, Occupational Therapist, Nurse

**Support Services:** Referral to community care services.

**Services available to patients under 65:** Yes

**Services available to patients with an intellectual disability:** No

## Highfield Healthcare, Memory Clinic, Swords Road, Co. Dublin

**Clinical Director:** Dr Denis Eustace

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**Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry:** Dr Andrew Eustace

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**Location and Contact:** Highfield Healthcare Memory Clinic, Swords Road, Whitehall, Co. Dublin, tel: (01) 837 4444

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**Profile:** Memory assessment clinic for early diagnosis of dementia. It is consultant-led.

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**Catchment area:** Nationwide

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**Frequency:** Monday to Friday

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**Waiting time:** Approximately two weeks

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**Referral:** Mainly from GPs

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**Funding:** Private

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**Costs:** There is a set cost for initial assessment. Neuropsychology can be provided on an out patient or in-patient basis.

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**Treatment:** Pharmacological and non-pharmacological in the form of family meetings, assistance with accessing services, support and information

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**Follow-up:** Yes

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**Staff:** Old Age Psychiatrist, Neuropsychologist, Social Worker, Occupational Therapist

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**Support Services:** Social Work and Occupational Therapy; a Liaison Nurse provides services to community-dwelling patients

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**Services available to patients under 65:** Yes

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**Services available to patients with an intellectual disability:** No

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## Cognitive Clinic, Kennedy Road, Navan, Co. Meath

**Director:** Dr Aisling Denihan

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**Location and Contact:** Cognitive Clinic, Kennedy Road, Navan, Co Meath,  
tel: (046) 905 9002

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**Profile:** The service provides assessment, early intervention and early diagnosis for people with memory concerns. It is jointly neuropsychologist and consultant-led.

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**Catchment area:** Co. Meath

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**Frequency:** One day per week

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**Waiting time:** One week (following receipt of all required information from referring doctor)

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**Referral:** Mainly from GPs

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**Funding:** HSE

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**Costs:** No cost to patients

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**Treatment:** Pharmacological; referral to support services

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**Follow-up:** 4 weeks if treatment initiated and 1 year if indicated.

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**Staff:** Old Age Psychiatrist; Nurse; sessional input from Neuropsychologist

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**Support Services:** Social Worker available

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**Services available to patients under 65:** Yes

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**Services available to patients with an intellectual disability:** Yes

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## Intellectual Disability Mental Health Service, Co. Westmeath

**Director:** Dr Mark Roe

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**Location and Contact:** Intellectual Disability Mental Health Service, Unit 7E, Lough Sheever Corporate Park, Robinstown, Co. Westmeath, tel: (044) 939 0024

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**Profile:** Memory Clinic service is incorporated into the general Intellectual Disability Mental Health clinic, and provides a specialised intellectual disability dementia diagnosis and treatment service. The clinic is consultant-led.

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**Catchment area:** Laois, Offaly, Longford and Westmeath

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**Frequency:** Two days per week

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**Waiting time:** Four to eight weeks

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**Referral:** Mainly from GPs

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**Funding:** HSE

---

**Costs:** No cost to patients

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**Treatment:** Pharmacological treatment; advice and support to patient and carers

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**Follow-up:** Yes

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**Staff:** Consultant Psychiatrist; Non-consultant Hospital Doctor; Community Nurse

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**Support Services:** Social Work, Psychological support, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy are all available through referral

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**Services available to patients under 65:** Yes

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**Services available to patients with an intellectual disability:** Yes

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## Midland Regional Hospital Memory Clinic, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

**Director:** Dr Clare Fallon

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**Location and Contact:** Midland Regional Hospital, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath,  
tel: (044) 939 4528

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**Profile:** Memory assessment service focusing on diagnosis, as well as Geriatric assessment. It is a consultant-led clinic.

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**Catchment area:** Longford, Westmeath, Laois, Offaly; referrals also accepted from other counties

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**Frequency:** Twice per month

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**Waiting time:** Approximately eight to twelve weeks

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**Referral:** Mainly from GPs; Consultant colleagues

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**Funding:** HSE

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**Costs:** No cost to patients

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**Treatment:** Pharmacological; access to Occupational Therapy, Psychological support

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**Follow-up:** Yes

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**Staff:** Geriatrician; Nurse

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**Support Services:** Neuropsychology, Old Age Psychiatry, Occupational Therapy and other community services through referral

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**Services available to patients under 65:** Yes

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**Services available to patients with an intellectual disability:** Yes

## Sacred Heart Hospital Memory Clinic, Carlow

**Director:** Dr Rory McGovern

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**Location and Contact:** Sacred Heart Hospital Memory Clinic, Care of the Elderly Facility, Sacred Heart Hospital, Old Dublin Road, Carlow, tel: (059) 913 6492

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**Profile:** Consultant diagnostic service within a Geriatric outpatient service with a Memory Clinic focusing on post-diagnosis care support, maintenance and management.

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**Catchment area:** Carlow

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**Frequency:** Half a day per week

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**Waiting time:** Varies/based on need (as person is referred from hospital Geriatric department)

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**Referral:** From Geriatric day hospital at Sacred Heart Hospital

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**Funding:** HSE

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**Costs:** No cost to patients

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**Treatment:** Post-diagnostic support including maintenance and management of medication and patient/carer social support, assistance with accessing services

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**Follow-up:** Yes

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**Staff:** Consultant Geriatrician refers patients to Memory Clinic from day hospital; Clinical Nurse Managers; Health Care Assistant

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**Support Services:** Referrals to community services for Social Work support and Psychological support

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**Services available to patients under 65:** Yes

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**Services available to patients with an intellectual disability:** Yes

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## Wexford General Hospital Memory Clinic, Wexford

**Director:** Dr Eithne Harkin and Dr Michael Reardon

**Location and Contact:** Wexford General Hospital Memory Clinic, Day Hospital for the Elderly, Wexford General Hospital, Wexford, tel: (053) 915 3270

**Profile:** Memory Clinic service focusing primarily on diagnosis and memory problems. It is a consultant-led clinic.

**Catchment area:** Co. Wexford

**Frequency:** One afternoon per month

**Waiting time:** Approximately three to four months

**Referral:** Mainly from GPs

**Funding:** HSE

**Costs:** No cost to patients; possible charge for some scans

**Treatment:** Medication as appropriate; access to support services, Community Psychiatric Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy

**Follow-up:** As necessary

**Staff:** Nurse; Community Psychiatric Nurse; Consultant Geriatrician; Occupational Therapist on referral

**Support Services:** Referrals to community support services

**Services available to patients under 65:** Yes

**Services available to patients with an intellectual disability:** Yes

## St Patrick's Hospital Memory Clinic, Cashel, Co. Tipperary

**Co-ordinator:** Ann Quinn

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**Location and Contact:** St Patrick's Hospital Memory Clinic, Cashel, Co. Tipperary,  
tel: (062) 70325

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**Profile:** Memory assessment focusing on early access and early diagnosis, supported by a full multi-disciplinary team. It is jointly nurse/consultant-led.

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**Catchment area:** South Tipperary geographical area

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**Frequency:** Two days per week

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**Waiting time:** Approximately 12 weeks

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**Referral:** Mainly from GPs but also from local acute hospital

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**Funding:** HSE

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**Costs:** No cost to patients

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**Treatment:** Pharmacological; also information, support and advice on lifestyle

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**Follow-up:** If requested

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**Staff:** Nurse; Advanced Nurse Practitioner; Consultant Geriatrician; Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist; Occupational Therapist. Also access to a Consultant Neuropsychologist and a Public Health Liaison Nurse.

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**Support Services:** Patients may be referred to the community Social Worker as appropriate, or other community based services

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**Services available to patients under 65:** Yes

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**Services available to patients with an intellectual disability:** No

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## Old Age Psychiatry Memory Clinic, St Finbarr's Hospital, Cork

**Director:** Dr Aoife Ní Chorcorain

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**Location and Contact:** Assessment and Treatment Centre, St Finbarr's Hospital, Douglas Road, Cork, tel: (021) 492 7266

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**Profile:** Offering a multi-disciplinary assessment service, diagnosis, follow-up, support and management of dementia and related symptoms

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**Catchment area:** Priority given to residents of South Lee Local Health Office area; service also extends to the rest of Co. Cork and to Co. Kerry

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**Frequency:** One day per week

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**Waiting time:** 2-4 weeks

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**Referral:** Mainly GPs

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**Funding:** HSE

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**Costs:** No cost to patients

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**Treatment:** A range of treatments including pharmacological treatment, Occupational Therapy assessment, Psychological assistance, carers course, information sessions (treatment options available vary according to where clients reside)

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**Follow-up:** Yes

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**Staff:** Consultant Psychiatrist; Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors; Nurse; Psychologist

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**Support Services:** Psychological support; community services on referral

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**Services available to patients under 65:** Yes

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**Services available to patients with an intellectual disability:** No

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## Cognitive Assessment Service, Laois/Offaly Mental Health Services, St Fintan's Hospital, Portlaoise

**Clinical Directors:** Dr Dervila Hennelly (Consultant Psychiatrist)  
Rosalia Kavanagh (Assistant Director of Nursing)

**Location and Contact:** St Fintan's Hospital, Portlaoise, Co.Laois, Tel: 05786 70245

**Profile:** Diagnostic service offering assessment, diagnosis, follow-up, support and management of dementia and related symptoms. Nurse-led.

**Catchment area:** Laois and Offaly

**Frequency:** 2.5 days per week

**Waiting time:** 4 weeks

**Referral:** GP referral

**Funding:** HSE

**Costs:** No cost to patients

**Treatment:** Assessment and diagnosis; post-diagnostic support including maintenance and management of medication; patient/carer social support; assistance with accessing services

**Follow-up:** Yes

**Staff:** A/Clinical Nurse Manager 2: Claire Fennell, A/Clinical Nurse Specialist: Joan Mannion, Consultant Psychiatrist: Dr. Dervila Hennelly, Assistant Director of Nursing: Rosalia Kavanagh

**Support Services:** Cognitive Behavioural Therapist, Social Worker, Clinical Psychologist

**Services available to patients under 65:** Yes

**Services available to patients with an intellectual disability:** Yes

## Mobile Memory Clinic, Community Action on Dementia in Mayo, Primary Care Centre, Kevin Barry Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

**Project Manager:** Frances Maloney, Community Action on Dementia in Mayo

**Clinical Lead:** Nurse Paula Frain MSc. BSc. RPN

**Location and Contact:** Memory Clinic, Community Action on Dementia in Mayo, Alzheimer Society of Ireland, Snugboro, Castlebar, Co. Mayo. Tel: 094- 27761 & 086-8366312

**Profile:** The Memory Clinic is based at Primary Care Level & offers a screening service for those who are worried about their memory. It assists by helping people get a timely diagnosis by allowing them to self-refer to the service. It provides information & support and will also advocate for the person during the referral process, it also caters for people post diagnosis by providing a Dementia Advisor service. This memory clinic is Nurse led.

**Catchment area:** County Mayo

**Frequency:** Monday & Tuesday & a half day Wednesday

**Waiting time:** Currently 2 to 3 weeks

**Referral:** Self-Referral, GP's, PHNs or other health care professionals.

**Funding:** HSE & Atlantic Philanthropies through the Genio Trust

**Costs:** No charge to patients

**Treatment:** Non-pharmacological such as the Dementia Advisor Service, advocacy, support, how to live well with dementia, staying active.

**Follow-up:** Clients with a borderline screening rating are placed on 'watchful waiting' & are screened again in 6 months. With the consent of the client a report is formulated by the clinic & issued to the GP with recommendations- a less medical report is sent to the client. The Dementia Advisor will follow up with the clients approximately 2 to 3 weeks after initial screening to provide support & advice.

**Staff:** Nurse, Dementia Advisor & Early Activities Co-ordinator

**Support Services:** Counselling, Signposting to services within community & Advocacy (Dementia Advisor). One to One individualised supports (Early Activities Co-Ordinator), On-going point of contact (Project Manager). Other supports: Family meetings, Family carer training, Dementia Friends Volunteers.



## St Ita's Community Hospital Memory Clinic

**Directors:** Dr Margaret O'Connor (Consultant Physician),

Dr Paul Reynolds (Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry)

**Location and contact:** St Ita's Community Hospital, Newcastle West, Co Limerick

**Tel:** 069 66552/66525 **Fax:** 069 62866

**Profile:** St Ita's Memory Clinic is a multi-disciplinary, consultant-led service providing assessment, diagnosis and support to patients presenting with memory difficulties resulting from a wide spectrum of different causes. Full consultation entails two separate outpatient visits.

**Catchment area:** Co Limerick, South Tipperary, North Kerry, North Cork.

**Frequency:** Every two months.

**Waiting time:** Four to five months.

**Referral:** Mainly from GPs but also from consultants.

**Funding:** Public.

**Costs:** No fees.

**Treatment:** Treatment is pharmacological and non-pharmacological. A full treatment plan based on our multi-disciplinary team assessment is provided, which is tailored to the individual's needs, featuring individualised advice and, where appropriate, recommendations for drug treatment, psychological therapy and other interventions and supports that may be beneficial. Full feedback is provided as part of treatment planning, to ensure that the individual and their family members have a good understanding of the outcome of assessment, including recommendations for interventions and community support services that can help.

**Follow-up:** As appropriate.

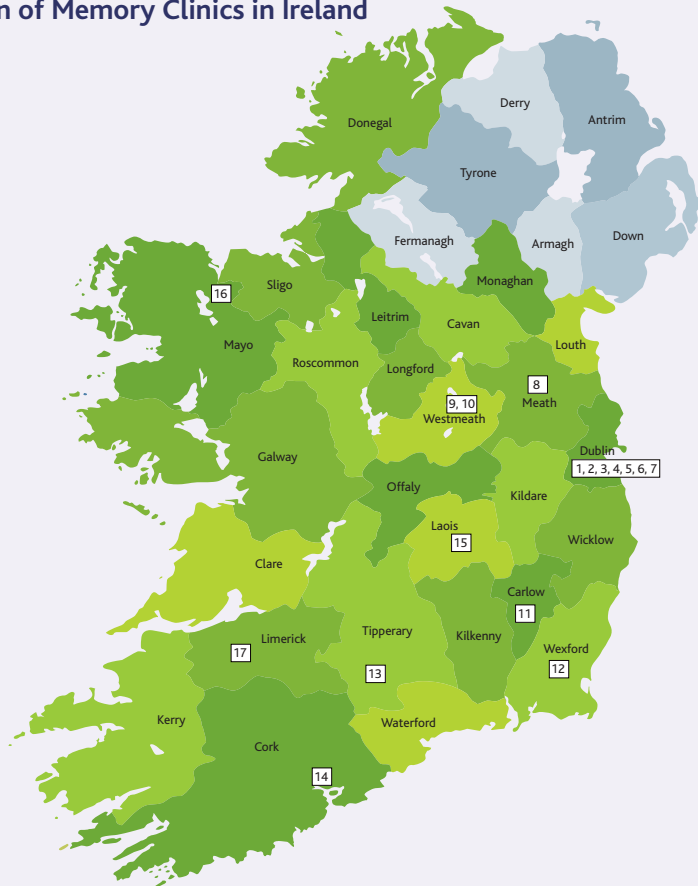
**Staff:** Consultant Physician, Consultant Psychiatrist, Occupational Therapist, Nurse.

**Support services:** Referral to community care services.

**Services available to patients under 65:** Yes.

**Services available to patients with an intellectual disability:** If appropriate.

## Location of Memory Clinics in Ireland



1. (MIRA) Memory Clinic, St James's Hospital, Dublin
2. Memory Clinic, St Patrick's University Hospital, Dublin
3. Memory Clinic, Mater Hospital, Dublin
4. Memory Clinic, St Joseph's Centre, Clonsilla, Dublin
5. Memory Works, Dublin City University, Dublin
6. Bloomfield Memory Clinic, Rathfarnham, Dublin
7. Highfield Healthcare, Memory Clinic, Swords Road, Co Dublin
8. Cognitive Clinic, Kennedy Road, Navan, Meath
9. Intellectual Disability Mental Health Service, Co Westmeath
10. Midland Regional Hospital Memory Clinic, Mullingar, Co Westmeath
11. Sacred Heart Hospital Memory Clinic, Carlow
12. Wexford General Hospital Memory Clinic, Wexford
13. St Patrick's Hospital, Memory Clinic, Cashel Co Tipperary
14. Old Age Psychiatry Memory Clinic, St Finbarr's Hospital, Cork
15. Cognitive Assessment Service Laois/Offaly Mental Health Services, St Fintan's Hospital, Port Laois
16. Mobile Memory Clinic, Ballina, Co Mayo
17. St Ita's Community Hospital Memory Clinic, Newcastle West, Co Limerick



## Summary

The National Dementia Strategy in England has a clear vision to make early diagnosis and treatment the rule rather than the exception and in England the Department of Health has already expanded the number of Memory Clinics available to the public across the country. The UK Prime Minister's recent challenge on dementia includes a commitment to ensure that GPs and other Health Care Professionals will make patients aged 65 and over aware of Memory Clinics and refer those in need of assessment. In Ireland, a recent research review has shown that Memory clinics are not available in every HSE area and where clinics do exist there is considerable variability between them, in relation to staffing composition, frequency of service, resources and costs. Our ageing population and the increasing numbers of people likely to develop a dementia in the future means there is an urgent need for more adequate resources to be invested into the expansion and enhancement of these important services.

Finally, many people still believe that memory loss problems are a normal part of ageing and do not believe they need to seek out medical help. Others delay making an appointment to see the doctor because they want to avoid hearing the truth about their condition. In fact, memory problems can result from a variety of medical conditions and making an appointment with a family doctor to discuss concerns about memory loss is the first step towards seeking a diagnosis. Pending the GP's assessment and decision, a referral to specialist staff at a Memory clinic may help to rule out the existence of other conditions, may help to identify the dementia subtype or may provide treatments and strategies to reduce significant memory problems in the future. This booklet has attempted to bring together all available information on Memory Clinic services in Ireland. It is hoped it will be a useful resource to both the public and to health service professionals.

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## Useful websites

[www.alzheimer.ie](http://www.alzheimer.ie)

[www.alzheimercafe.ie](http://www.alzheimercafe.ie)

[www.dementia.ie](http://www.dementia.ie)

[www.dohc.ie](http://www.dohc.ie)

[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)

[livingwithdementia.tcd.ie](http://livingwithdementia.tcd.ie)

[www.memoryclinics.ie](http://www.memoryclinics.ie)

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## Other publications available through [www.dementia.ie](http://www.dementia.ie)

- Future Dementia Care in Ireland: *Sharing the Evidence to Mobilise Action*
- Creating Excellence in Dementia Care: *a research review for Ireland's national dementia strategy*
- Life for Caregivers after Placing a Relative with Dementia in a Nursing Home: *A Guide for Family Caregivers and Nursing Home Staff*
- Cognitive Impairment and Dementia: *A Practical Guide to Daily Living for Family Caregivers*
- Living in a Nursing Home - Quality of Life: *The Priorities of Older People with a Cognitive Impairment*
- Finding a Suitable Nursing Home for a Relative with Dementia: *A Guide for Family Caregivers to Placing a Relative with Dementia in a Nursing Home*
- Coping with the Early Stages of Dementia: *A Guide for People Worried About Memory and Cognitive Problems or those Recently Diagnosed with Dementia.*

Available from [www.dementia.ie](http://www.dementia.ie) or alternatively by contacting Dementia Services Information and Development Centre on **01-4162035**



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[livingwithdementia.tcd.ie](http://livingwithdementia.tcd.ie)  
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