

Dear

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DEMENTIA POST DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES**

I write in response to your request for information in relation to dementia post diagnostic services in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. Does your NHS Board provide a post-diagnostic service (PDS) for people with dementia?
2. If yes, is this service provided directly by the NHS Board, commissioned from a third-sector organisation, or delivered via a hybrid model?

Answer:

Yes, this service is provided in NHS Lothian by the four Health and Social Care Partnerships as follows:

Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership: The service is commissioned from Alzheimer's Scotland using the 5 pillar model and carried out in house by the Community Mental Health Team using the 8 pillar and crisis model.

Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership: The service is provided in house.

East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership: The service is commissioned from Alzheimer's Scotland using the 5 pillar model and carried out in house by the Community Mental Health Team using the 8 pillar and crisis model.

West Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership: The service is provided in house.

Question:

3. As part of post-diagnostic or related services, does your NHS Board carry out medication reviews for the commencement and ongoing monitoring of acetylcholinesterase inhibitors (e.g. donepezil, rivastigmine, galantamine)?

4. If medication reviews are undertaken, please outline: a) The timing/frequency of reviews following initiation (for example at 4 weeks, 12 weeks, or other intervals) b) Whether ongoing reviews continue beyond the initial titration period, and if so at what frequency.

5. Please indicate which staff groups undertake these medication reviews, for example: Registered nurses (and specialty if applicable); Unregistered nursing staff; Allied Health Professionals (please specify profession); Medical staff

6. Where applicable, please indicate whether reviews are undertaken under protocols, patient group directions, or clinical supervision arrangements.

Answer:

NHS Lothian carries out medication monitoring for the first 12 weeks before handing over to the GP. The details for each Health and Social Care Partnership below:

East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership: A registered nurse calls the patient at 12 weeks for side effects monitoring before handing over to GP.

Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership: A registered nurse takes observations at the time of assessment, visits after 4 weeks at titration and again at 12 weeks before handing over to GP.

Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership: Prescribing is at diagnosis. A registered nurse calls after 2 weeks and sees the patient at a clinic at 8 weeks for observation and side effects monitoring before handing over to the GP at 12 weeks.

West Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership: A registered nurse takes observations at the time of assessment, visits 2-4 weeks after diagnosis, again at or just after titration, and again at 12 weeks before hand over to GP.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at <https://www.foi.scot/appeal>. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the reviewer at the address at the top of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhslothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs**  
Cc: Chief Executive