

# It's Dementia Action Week from 20th-26th May

## Are you missing dementia in the patients you are seeing?

*In London it is predicted that nearly 20 thousand people are living with dementia without a diagnosis.*

Getting a diagnosis enables people to:

- Plan for the future
- Access post diagnostic support
- Have a care plan which prevents crisis and hospital admissions

**Action you can take: Keeping dementia at the forefront of your mind when seeing these patient groups:**

### Care homes

A systematic approach is required to ensure everyone in a care home who has dementia has a diagnosis and this is coded. [DiADeM](#) is a tool to support diagnosis. [DeAR GP](#) is a case finding tool for care home workers.

### Mild cognitive impairment

People with MCI are at higher risk of developing dementia. Ensure MCI registers in all practices (or at memory service) and yearly review (until diagnosed with dementia, static cause determined or resolved).

### Physical health

People accessing physical health services are at risk of dementia. It is important to consider memory during clinical contact, and ensure clear pathways to diagnosis and coding (eg diabetes / Parkinson's disease / post stroke / falls / learning disabilities / frailty services).

### Old age

There is some evidence that people over 90 are not getting a diagnosis as professionals may not think about the benefits of a diagnosis in this age group.