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To: CCG Clinical Leads

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Dear Colleagues

As you are aware NHS England has an ambition that two thirds of the estimated number of people with dementia should have a diagnosis and access to post diagnostic support by March 2015. Initial analysis of the latest data indicates that we are not making sufficient progress to increase diagnosis rates. I am aware that there is a tremendous amount of work being undertaken by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) across the country to improve dementia diagnosis rates. However, there is still a great deal that needs to be done to reduce wide variation and to help CCGs with the furthest distance to travel.

In order to support you with this work, I have brought together a package of support, resources, tools and best practice examples, which are available to help CCGs and the wider health and social care system to improve dementia diagnosis and support. This is attached, and I hope you find this useful.

In the coming weeks, an intensive offer of support will be available to CCGs who have the furthest distance to travel and those who feel they would benefit from additional support. Through a collective effort, the intensive support offer will work with these CCGs to identify local barriers to improving diagnosis rates and support the identification and delivery of solutions. I would be interested in hearing from anyone who feels that they could offer their expertise in contributing to the intensive support offer or to register your interest in accessing the help that the intensive support will provide. Please in the first instance contact michelle.place1@nhs.net

Yours sincerely



Alistair Burns
National Clinical Director for Dementia
NHS England

cc. CCG Accountable Officers

Dementia Package of Support for Clinical Commissioning Groups

Tools, resources and guidance to support better understanding and improvements in local dementia data and information

- **Dementia Prevalence Calculator (DPC v3):** now available on the Primary Care Platform, this tool allows you to gain a better understanding of local estimated prevalence of dementia in the community, and among people living in local care homes. It provides the opportunity for comparison and to update local data. To register and access the Calculator visit www.primarycare.nhs.uk
- **Improving the identification of people with dementia in primary care:** a simple systematic audit of coding on general practice dementia registers can be used to improve identification and increase registration numbers and therefore supporting people to access the right care and support. For an examples of this work [view here](#) and [here](#)
- **More frequently available of data:** work is currently underway with the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) to centrally collate monthly dementia reported prevalence; this will be completed in autumn 2014. In the interim, the HSCIC will provide monthly data from the QOF through CQRS as soon as it becomes available. The first available data is expected in July 2014.
- **Updated prevalence of dementia:** the Alzheimer's Society is leading a review of the current prevalence figures; which will provide more accurate data for commissioners and services when published in September 2014.

Commissioning Guidance

- **NICE guidance:** there is dementia care commissioning guidance available on the NICE website [view here](#) as well as dementia quality standards [here](#)
- **The Alzheimer's Society:** have a range of resources including a commissioner's contact list to help support local service provision [view here](#)
- **The Joint Commissioning Panel for Mental Health:** primarily written for Clinical Commissioning Groups, Local Authorities, and Health and Wellbeing Boards; this guide describes what a good quality, modern dementia service looks like. [view here](#)
- **The Dementia Partnerships Website:** visit the commissioning section of this portal for a range of resources [view here](#)

Learning from others and best practice examples

- **Dementia Diagnosis & Care in England: *learning from clinical commissioning groups***: this report details the findings from a number of CCG visits undertaken last year. It highlights the tremendous work that CCGs are undertaking to improve the timely diagnosis of dementia as well as learning, key themes and actions needed to meet the dementia ambition [view here](#)
- **Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) Dementia Roadmap**: developed in the South West (by the RCGP, Alzheimer's Society and Strategic Clinical Network for Mental Health, Dementia and Neurological Conditions South West); this tool can be adopted by CCGs to provide high quality information about the dementia journey, alongside local information. The tool aims to assist busy primary care professionals to provide effective support to people with dementia and their families [view here](#)

Financial incentives available to support the timely assessment of people who may have dementia

- **The Enhanced Service for Dementia (DES)**: the enhanced service gives GP practices the opportunity to undertake a proactive approach to the timely assessment of patients who may have dementia. The 2014/15 specification aims to build on last year's enhanced service by putting in place additional arrangements to improve services for patients with dementia and their carers. The current national uptake of the DES by GP practices is 81%, with high uptake within CCGs that have made the greatest improvement in diagnosis rates [view here](#)
- **Dementia CQUIN**: now in its third year, the CQUIN provides the opportunity for commissioners to incentivise hospitals to identify people who may have dementia, and refer on to specialist services, whilst also offering carer support. We are seeing a steady increase in the number of people referred for further assessment and support through this scheme [view here](#) . There are also examples of hospitals who are driving improvements in the care of people with dementia e.g. Bath, Central Manchester, Royal Free Hospital, Bradford, Nottingham, Heartlands Hospital Birmingham.

Further system support

Strategic Clinical Networks for Mental Health, Dementia and Neurological Conditions: are valuable sources of expertise that can offer support to CCGs in a number of ways:

- Promoting and supporting the use of tools such as DPC v3.
- Sharing good practice between stakeholders so that commissioners can benefit in planning and delivering dementia services through good practice examples and lessons learned.
- Facilitating integrated working by collaboration between all elements in the system – service users, health, social care, charitable and 3rd sector, research and academia.
- Communication hubs – bringing stakeholders together, and providing information on events, resources, news and research in your areas.