

History-taking Recommended Questions for Patients with Possible Dementia

- Has there been change over time?
 - How long ago did it start?
 - Is the change stable or deteriorating?
 - Gradual / sudden / stepwise/ or fluctuating change?
- What things are being forgotten?
 - Recent events?
 - Conversations?
 - Names?
 - Appointments?
 - How to use technology such as the microwave oven or the TV remote?
- Loss of interest or ability in usual interests and activities?
- Difficulty managing usual domestic tasks such as cooking, housework, finances?
- Problems managing medications?
- Safety concerns, especially with regard to driving, working in the kitchen, wandering, or getting lost?
- Difficulties with language, eg, using wrong words or unable to find the right words?
- Any behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia(BPSD)? Check the list in the When to Refer to a Specialist topic of the Goodfellow Unit Dementia Resource.

Please note: These are the instructions for the four northern region DHBs (Northland DHB, Waitemata DHB, Auckland DHB, and Counties Manukau DHB). GPs in other regions of New Zealand: check your respective Cognitive Impairment Pathway as instructions may vary in your area.