

MEMBER SHOWCASE

Case study

NHS CONFEDERATION



NHS

Harrogate and Rural District
Clinical Commissioning Group

Improving dementia reviews

Harrogate and Rural District Clinical Commissioning Group

The challenge

In Harrogate, people with dementia traditionally had three routine reviews a year: two at the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust memory clinic, and one at their GP practice. This limited the number of appointments available at the memory clinic, and meant those who really needed specialist care had to wait longer for it.

What was done

Harrogate and Rural District Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust worked with local GP practices to improve the system for routine reviews. Since 2014, such reviews have been shared between the trust and GPs. Those with dementia are now seen alternately by their GP and the memory clinic at six monthly intervals.

The relationships and confidence generated by this initiative is such that all people with uncomplicated dementia are now followed up entirely by their GP rather than at the hospital.

The CCG has also worked with care homes to ensure specialist dementia care is available when needed, and simplified support packages for carers of those with the condition.

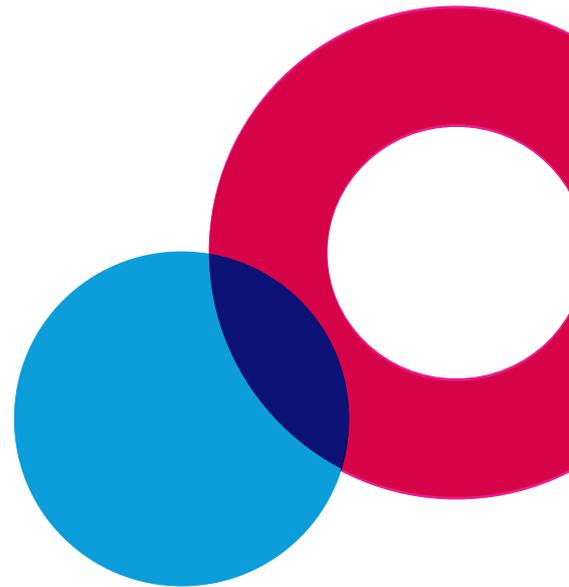
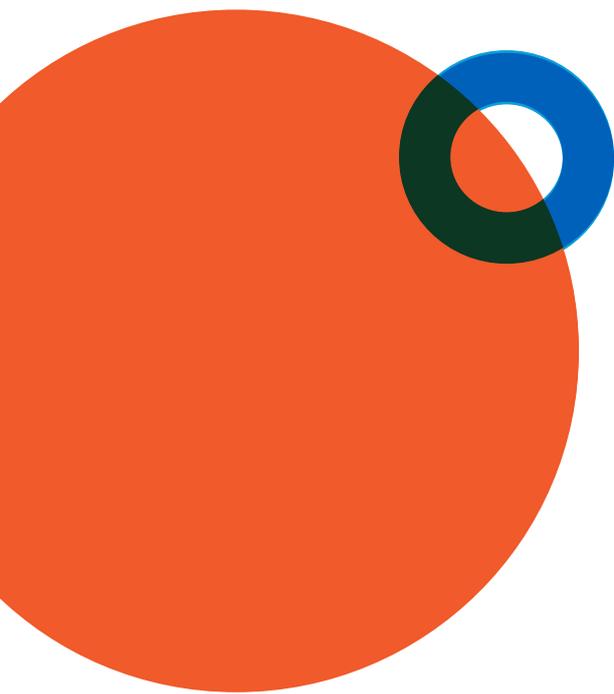


The results

Having two rather than three routine reviews a year increases convenience for patients. The change also made an additional 780 appointments available at the memory clinic for those who need specialist care. Hospital staff can now focus on those with complex problems, as well as young people and care home residents with dementia. They are also able to spend more time on diagnosis and support.

Waiting times for appointments at the memory clinic have fallen from 74 to 28 days. In the event of a hospital stay for a crisis, people with dementia now have an average length of stay of 10.7 days – down from 19 previously.

The diagnosis rate for dementia has increased locally, meaning more of those who need support are identified and able to receive it.



Acknowledgements

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