

Georgia Memory Net Accelerates Alzheimer's Diagnosis
By Georgia Memory Net Staff

Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are a big challenge in Georgia. Almost 400,000 Georgians report that they're experiencing some type of cognitive impairment, but only 20% of them have been evaluated or treated for Alzheimer's disease or a related form of dementia.

That's why the state of Georgia, in partnership with some of our state's most experienced healthcare institutions, created Georgia Memory Net (GMN). Georgia Memory Net helps Georgians showing signs of memory loss or cognitive decline get accelerated and accurate diagnoses for Alzheimer's disease or other related dementias, as well as a personalized care plan. GMN also connects diagnosed patients with support services in their local area.

GMN has created five Memory Assessment Clinics located throughout the state in Albany, Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus, and Macon. For patients who are unable to access a clinic in person, GMN also provides diagnoses through telemedicine using a smartphone or computer.

A referral is necessary to receive a diagnosis through GMN, so interested patients should talk to their Primary Care Provider and ask if a referral to Georgia Memory Net is right for them. Once someone has a referral, the Georgia Memory Net process consists of two visits to the Memory Assessment Clinic, whether in person or by telemedicine. At the first visit patients and specialists discuss issues, do diagnostic testing, and determine if any additional studies or assessments are needed. At the second appointment patients and their care partners review the data and discuss their diagnosis with GMN specialists, and also meet with a Community Services Educator for personalized patient and family-centered goal setting and care planning based on the diagnosis. The Community Services Educator will also connect the patient and care partners with resources and community support in their local area. Patients then return to the ongoing care of their Primary Care Provider, armed with a personalized care plan.

Of course, we all hope a cure for Alzheimer's disease is just over the horizon. Until then, Georgia Memory Net is dedicated to improving the quality of care for

Georgians living with this challenging disease. To learn more about Georgia Memory Net and how to get a referral, please visit www.GAMemoryNet.org. There, you will find the referral form along with other helpful information about Georgia Memory Net for you and your patients.

Did you miss the recent GAFP Virtual Webinar “Alzheimer’s Disease and Aducanumab: What Now?” Click <https://youtu.be/GPqYfs5DSZ8> to view this presentation”