

Does your brain deserve a checkup?

Memory loss, occasional difficulties communicating, some trouble concentrating, these may be a part of normal aging. But coupled with other symptoms, they may signal the onset of dementia or conditions that early on could be mistaken for dementia amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), depression, Parkinson's disease or even a small stroke.

Accurately diagnosing any neurocognitive condition requires a comprehensive checkup by a multi-disciplinary team of healthcare experts. That important service is available at Dignity Health Yavapai Regional Medical Group through the Dementia Screening Clinic (DSC).

A referral to DSC may be made by a primary medical provider. A DSC evaluation takes place in our Clinic over 2–3 hours. It includes the individual undergoing the assessment and their primary care partner.

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Dignity Health Yavapai Regional Medical Group Dementia Screening Clinic

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Contact us to request a new patient packet and to schedule an evaluation.

The patient and their care partner meet with DSC for a comprehensive evaluation which includes:

- Neurocognitive testing Assesses important aspects of brain function including attention, memory, language, reaction time and perception.
- Physical examination Focuses on identifying potential causes of memory issues that are unrelated to dementia.
- Medication evaluation Involves a review of the patient's medications for their risks, benefits, side effects and interactions, performed by a clinical pharmacist.
- Social needs assessment Includes a discussion of the patient's living environment, financial situation, care partner concerns and more.
- Functional assessment Screens for balance, mobility and safety.
- Sensory testing Includes hearing and olfactory (sense of smell) screenings.
- Mental health screen Checks for depression, anxiety and other mental health concerns.

DSC results and recommendations

Following the evaluation, our expert team develops a report and a care plan with specific recommendations and an assessment of the patient's cognitive diagnosis. The report is sent to healthcare providers designated by the patient.

The DSC Team

Our team includes top healthcare professionals from:

- Geriatrics
- Neuropsychology
- Nursing (clinic nurse navigator)
- Palliative Medicine
- Pharmacy
- Social Work

For information about the DSC team, visit DignityHealth.org/YRMC and search for "geriatric services."