



## Top 10 Things PCPs Should Know About Georgia Memory Net



### 1. What is Georgia Memory Net?

Georgia Memory Net (GMN) is a statewide program dedicated to the early diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. GMN is supported by the Georgia Department of Human Services' Georgia Alzheimer's Project and managed by the Goizueta Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at Emory University.



### 2. What are the main goals of Georgia Memory Net?

- To improve primary care clinicians' screening and care of Georgians with memory loss via a sustainable Annual Wellness Visit model or through other clinical observations.
- To establish Memory Assessment Clinics around the state that can accurately diagnose Alzheimer's and related disorders.
- To provide oversight and evaluation of project performance and collect data for the Alzheimer's Registry in the Georgia Department of Public Health.



### 3. Which patients are most likely to benefit from a referral to a GMN Memory Assessment Clinic (MAC)?

Patients most likely to benefit may:

- Show signs of dementia related or mild cognitive impairment
- Be unsure about having dementia or a diagnosis
- Be concerned about their behaviors, or have family members who are
- Currently live in the community
- Get a MiniCog™ score of less than 3
- Be residents of Georgia



### 4. Which patients are least likely to benefit from a referral to a GMN Memory Assessment Clinic?

Patients least likely to benefit may:

- Be a dementia patient looking for more services
- Already have a definitive diagnosis
- Be younger than 50
- Have a history of traumatic brain injury
- Already live in a permanent facility
- Have severe, advanced dementia
- Get a MiniCog™ score of over 3



## 5. What services are available for patients at a MAC?

- MACs provide in-depth memory evaluations and a formal diagnosis from trained clinicians over the course of two visits.
- MAC providers discuss a formal diagnosis, management and treatment for the patient.
- The Community Services Educator (CSE) meets with the patient and care partner to discuss the diagnosis and to connect the patient with community resources.
- The CSE facilitates the handoff of the patient back to the PCP.
- Personalized care plans for the patient are forwarded to the PCP to support the continued care of the patient.



## 6. Why refer a patient to a MAC instead of a neurologist?

General neurologists treat a wide range of conditions and diseases, while cognitive neurologists specialize in memory loss and dementia. Few cognitive neurologists are accessible outside of Atlanta. MACs provide access to cognitive neurologists; clinicians and scientists specialized in memory issues and cognitive decline; and a Community Services Educator for care recommendations.



## 7. Where are the MACs located?

There are five MACs located throughout the state of Georgia: Albany, Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus and Macon.



## 8. How do I refer patients to a Georgia Memory Net MAC?

Following an abnormal cognitive screening by the PCP, patients can be referred to one of the five regional Memory Assessment Clinics across the state. A referral form should be completed and faxed to the appropriate MAC, along with notes on which cognitive screening tool was used and the outcome. To request a referral form, please email [Connect@GaMemoryNet.org](mailto:Connect@GaMemoryNet.org) and include your name and the name of your practice. Referral pads can be requested from MACs as well. Other documentation such as labs or scans are helpful but not required for a referral.



## 9. What happens with my patient after I refer them to a MAC?

After their second MAC visit, your patient will be returned to you for continued care. Georgia Memory Net will send you the comprehensive care plan from their MAC visit, including a diagnosis and the personalized care plan for your patient.



## 10. Will the Community Services Educator maintain a care coordination role following a patients' MAC visit?

No. The MACs do not provide ongoing patient care, so the CSE will not be able to provide ongoing care coordination, case management, or counseling services. The CSE will connect people living with dementia and their care partners to local community resources that can address their individualized needs. These resources may include the Area Agencies on Aging, the Alzheimer's Association and the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving.