

Neurocognitive Clinic

Referrer Resource Pack





Each Neurocognitive Clinic Assessment is tailored to the individual, dependent upon a number of factors, including their symptoms, current level of functioning and their specific needs.

Visits to the Bloomfield Neurocognitive Clinic will include:

- Full Assessment which will include a Neuropsychological Assessment (Assessment of thinking skills) and Psychiatric assessment.
- Diagnosis.
- Information, education and support for the individual and family.
- Formal feedback report to your referrer, GP or Consultant.

Our commitment is to:

- Provide an outpatient based specialist assessment for Adults (age 18-65) with suspected neurocognitive disorders or symptoms suggestive of cognitive impairment in the context of neurological or systemic disorder.
- Provide differential diagnosis in the context of mood issues and cognitive impairment.
- Provide pre-diagnostic, diagnostic and follow up service options for individuals and support for their caregivers/family members.
- Improve the early detection of neurocognitive disorders and referral to services locally and regionally if required.

- Provide referral for further specialist evaluation if required.

The importance of Assessment in Neurocognitive Disorders

As the referring Doctor, you are the most likely first point of contact and a source for ongoing disease management and support to patients with potential neurocognitive disorders and their families. Existing diagnoses, as well as concerns expressed by self-report and family members can be significant cues to the need for formal Neurocognitive Clinic assessment. Formal assessment can answer questions regarding diagnosis, treatment and can provide advice and education to patients and families, which may help to optimise current functioning and assist future planning.

Steps involved in the Neurocognitive Clinic Assessment

Referral

- Initial referral of the patient by G.P./ Consultant using our Referral Form and MoCA which are available online www.bloomfield.ie/BloomfieldHospital/OutpatientServices/NeurocognitiveClinic.aspx

Upon initial appointment The Neurocognitive Clinic Team will:

- Obtain consent for records and collateral information.

- Identify treatment of psychiatric conditions that may be affecting the individual's presentation e.g. depression, substance abuse etc.
- Conduct further preliminary investigations and liaison with the referring Doctor, as required.

Neuroimaging

Specific need for imaging will be based upon history, initial assessment and any existing imaging information provided to the Neurocognitive Clinic Team at Bloomfield Hospital. After careful consideration of all imaging modalities available, a recommendation shall be made to the individual referred to the service.

Pre-diagnostic Counselling

It is important that we provide this service for a variety of reasons:

- To provide an initial assessment of an individual's capacity to consent to the process of evaluation.
- To provide education about the actual process of the Neurocognitive Clinic's Assessment and procedures to the individual and their Partner/Caregiver.
- To educate the individual and their Partner/Caregiver about the possible outcomes of these assessments including potential diagnosis of Neurocognitive disorder and the implications of such a diagnosis.
- To provide information about post-diagnostic services which are available at Bloomfield Hospital.

The Neurocognitive Clinic Process

First Appointment

- Review by Consultant Psychiatrist.
- Completion of comprehensive history during initial interview with Neurocognitive Clinic Team.
- Assessment of Activities of Daily Living.
- Review of the Investigations and relevant records to date.
- Arrangements made for neuroimaging as required.
- Collection of Partner or Caregiver collateral information and exploration of their concerns.
- Consent to release of medical records, as necessary

Second Appointment

- Neuropsychological assessment completed by a Neuropsychologist: approximately 3 hours.
- Additional assessment by members of the Multi-disciplinary team, as necessary.

Third Appointment

- All results, diagnosis and possible treatment recommendations will be discussed with the individual and their partner or caregiver (as previously agreed with the individual and family).
- The aim of this meeting is to provide a clear diagnosis (using internationally agreed consensus criteria) and discussion of prognosis.
- Discussion of Post-Diagnostic programme and supports available if required.
- Medication recommendations, as necessary.
- Advice and Education.

Post Diagnostic Support and Programme

- A report will be forwarded to the referring Doctor for ongoing care and support
- Referral to appropriate community supports.
- Reassessment as necessary.

Who to refer to The Bloomfield Neurocognitive Clinic?

- Adults (age 18-65) presenting with diagnosed or queried systemic illness/ neurological disorder and symptoms/ queried symptoms of cognitive impairment.
- Adults presenting pre and post neurosurgical intervention should also be referred for pre and post-surgical assessment, in order to establish baseline cognitive functioning and post-operative comparison.
- Adults presenting with unusual neurological presentations e.g. query pseudoseizures; query substance/ medication induced neurocognitive disorder; query functional neurological symptom disorder.
- Patients aged 65 years and below presenting with Dementia-like symptoms.

The Neurocognitive Clinic at Bloomfield Hospital is a specialist service designed to provide outpatient based assessment, diagnosis, support and follow up for Adults (aged 18 – 65) experiencing cognitive symptoms arising from potential neurological and physical disorder. In this context, we provide a comprehensive, evidence-based assessment service to those with queried neurocognitive disorders, with the provision of post diagnostic treatment, if required. We are a nationwide service, providing assessment and support to individuals from across Ireland.

The Team at the Bloomfield Neurocognitive Clinic will be able to assist your patients who may present with a wide variety of potential neurocognitive disorders, including:

- **Traumatic Brain Injury e.g.**
 - Road Traffic Accident
 - Falls
- **Stroke**
- **Young-onset Dementia**
- **Neurosurgical intervention (pre and post-operative assessment available), e.g.:**
 - Epilepsy surgery
 - Oncological neurosurgery
 - Arteriovenous Malformation resection
 - Stereotactic Radiosurgery
- **Neurological disease, e.g.:**
 - Multiple Sclerosis
 - Parkinson's Disease
 - Epilepsy
 - Brain Tumour
 - Concussion
- **Physical diseases which can cause cognitive symptoms**
- **Unusual/unexplained neurological presentations e.g. query pseudoseizures; query substance/ medication induced neurocognitive disorder; query functional neurological symptom disorder.**

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