PATIENT

NAME:

test ToTest

***** BrainCheck

DOB: 12/12/1989

AGE: 35

SEX: F

PREPARED BY: Provider Test Account

1. DIAGNOSIS

DEMENTIA SEVERITY RATING SCALE: 15/54	ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING INDEX: 5/6	
0 – 18 Mild	5 – 6 Full function	
19 – 36 Moderate	3 – 4 Moderate impairment	
37 – 54 Severe	0 – 2 Severe functional impairment	

BRAINCHECK MEMORY NEUROCOGNITIVE ASSESSMENT

POPULATION RANK:	COMPOSITE IMPRESSION:
25 %	Likely

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT

Mild Cognitive Impairment

MCI is a transitional stage between normal aging and dementia, characterized by subjective and objective cognitive decline without significant impact on daily function. Patients may report memory lapses, especially for recent events, while maintaining independence. Around 10% - 15% of individuals with MCI go on to develop dementia each year. Clinical action includes regular cognitive monitoring, managing modifiable risk factors, and patient education. Neuroimaging or referral to neurology may be considered if symptoms progress.

DEPRESSION

0 – 4 Normal | 5 – 10 Possible indication of depression | >10-15 Likely indication of depression

GDS SCORE:	PRESENCE OF DEPRESSION:
11	Likely

Depression (major depressive disorder or clinical depression) is a common but serious mood disorder commonly characterized by difficulty concentrating, extreme feelings of sadness and worthlessness, and changes in appetite, sleep patterns, and/or behavior.

0 – 4 Normal | 5 – 9 Mild anxiety | 10 – 14 Moderate anxiety | ≥ 15-21 Severe anxiety

GAD7 SCORE:	PRESENCE OF ANXIETY:
8	Moderate

The DSM-5 defines anxiety as excessive anxiety and worry about a number of events or activities, occurring more days than not for at least six months. Unlike a healthy individual, those with anxiety find it difficult to control feelings of worry, and may experience restlessness, fatigue, difficulty concentrating, irritability, muscle tension, and sleep disturbances.

2. TREATMENTS

MEDICATION REVIEW

Medication Name	Dose	Route	Frequency	Continue	Change	STOP	Comments/Rationale

R	F	F	F	R	R	Α	ı	S
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□ Geriatrician Fssa	□ Hearing Screening	□ Neurologist
□ Neuropsychologist	☐ Occupational Therapist	□ Physical Therapist
□ Psychiatrist	□ Sleep Evaluation	☐ Speech-Language Pathologist
□ Vision Screening		
CONSIDERATION OF CLINI	CAL TRIAL:	
CONTACT INFO:		
FOLLOW UP APPOINTMEN	T SCHEDULED AT:	
FOLLOW UP BRAINCHECK	COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT SCHED	ULED AT:

NOTES	
NOTES	

3. HEALTHY BODY, HEALTHY MIND

A. GENERAL HEALTH

Mild Cognitive Impairment, or MCI, is a condition where someone experiences more noticeable changes in memory or thinking than is typical for their age, but these changes aren't severe enough to interfere with everyday life. You might find it harder to remember recent events, follow conversations, or manage more complicated tasks like finances. These shifts are often noticed by the person experiencing them or by family members and friends. While not everyone with MCI goes on to develop dementia, it's considered a higher-risk state. That's why regular follow-up with a healthcare provider is important—to monitor changes and discuss steps that may help, like managing other health conditions, staying mentally and physically active, and considering referrals for further testing or support.

B. LIFESTYLE

Nutrition

Research shows that certain eating patterns can help protect brain health. A diet rich in foods like those found in Mediterranean cuisine—with plenty of vegetables, fish, and healthy oils—provides nutrients that support brain function. You don't need to completely change your eating habits. Instead, try gradually including more of these brain-friendly foods:

- Colorful Fruits and Vegetables: Especially those with deep purple, blue, and red colors like blueberries, strawberries, and cherries, which contain protective compounds
- Fish: Aim for oily fish like salmon or mackerel twice a week for beneficial omega-3 fatty acids
- Whole Grains: Choose wholemeal bread, brown rice, and whole grain pasta when possible
- Healthy Fats: Use olive oil for cooking and dressing foods instead of butter or other solid fats
- Protein Sources: Include beans, lentils, nuts and seeds alongside moderate amounts of lean meat
- Lower Sugar and Salt: Reduce intake of sweets, processed foods, and added salt

Remember that food preferences and eating habits are personal. If these suggestions seem overwhelming, start with small changes. Consider speaking with a healthcare provider about nutritional counseling, which may be covered by insurance.

Exercise

Regular movement is one of the most powerful tools for supporting brain health. Exercise increases blood flow to the brain, promotes the growth of new brain cells, and helps maintain existing neural connections. Even moderate activity can make a significant difference. Here's what research recommends:

- Aim for regular activity: Try for 30 minutes of moderate activity (like brisk walking) five days a week, or 25 minutes of more vigorous activity (like swimming or cycling) three days a week
- Start where you are: If 30 minutes feels overwhelming, begin with 10-minute sessions and gradually build up
- Include different types of movement: While aerobic (heart-pumping) exercise is especially beneficial for the brain, strength training 2-3 times weekly also provides important benefits
- Focus on consistency: Regular, moderate activity is more beneficial than occasional intense workouts

- Choose enjoyable activities: Walking with friends, gardening, dancing, or gentle yoga can all provide benefits while being pleasurable

Outdoor Activity

Sunlight is one of the best natural sources of vitamin D, which supports overall health—including brain health. Fresh air and natural light can also help improve mood, reduce anxiety, and support better sleep. Even a short time outdoors can make a big difference. Here are some simple ways to enjoy the outdoors:

- Aim for 15 to 30 minutes outside, two to three times a week, if possible.
- Go outdoors during times of stress or restlessness. A change in environment can help reduce agitation.
- Try relaxing activities like sitting on a porch, enjoying a garden, or taking a short morning walk.
- Choose familiar places—these can offer comfort and a sense of security.
- If walking is difficult, simply sitting in the sun with a hat and sunscreen can still offer benefits.

Always make sure the person is dressed appropriately for the weather and stays safe during outdoor time.

C. SENSORY

Changes in vision and hearing often accompany aging and can compound the challenges of dementia. These sensory changes may cause confusion or communication difficulties that might be mistaken for cognitive problems.

People who are 65 or older, especially those with cognitive changes, should have regular vision and hearing tests. Addressing sensory problems often improves quality of life and can reduce some dementia-related challenges.

D. COGNITIVE STIMULATION

Keeping the Mind Active

Learning new skills creates beneficial connections in the brain at any age. These new pathways can help compensate for changes that occur with dementia. The key is trying activities that are new and moderately challenging:

- If crossword puzzles are already a favorite activity, try something different like sudoku
- Learn to play a new card game or board game
- Try a new hobby like painting, learning common phrases in another language, or playing chess
- Join a class at a community center to learn something you've always been curious about

Activities should be enjoyable and slightly challenging, but not frustrating. The goal is to engage the brain in new ways while having a positive experience.

Social Connection

Regular social interaction is essential for brain health. Staying connected with others helps maintain thinking skills and emotional wellbeing. Simple ways to stay socially active include:

- Joining groups based on interests, such as book clubs or walking groups
- Attending community center activities or classes
- Spending time with family and friends in comfortable settings
- Volunteering for causes that matter to you
- Participating in faith community activities if this is important to you

As disease progresses, social situations might become more challenging due to memory difficulties or communication changes. Creating supportive, understanding environments where the person feels safe and valued is important. Even brief, positive social interactions can provide significant benefits.

4. MOOD and EMOTION

Psychological symptoms commonly occur alongside cognitive decline. These conditions should be addressed because they have the potential to accelerate cognitive decline and increase the risk of developing dementia. Behavioral problems and mood disorders, such as depression and anxiety, can occur early in the progression of dementia and gradually increase in severity over time.

A. DEPRESSION

A person with depression may struggle with low feelings including sadness, guilt, and hopelessness. Treatment may include medication, counseling, and gradual reconnection with meaningful activities and people. Other approaches include:

- For mild depression, supportive groups and self-help strategies can be beneficial
- Establish predictable daily routines, especially in the morning
- Incorporate regular gentle exercise, particularly early in the day
- Plan enjoyable activities and visits to favorite places
- Acknowledge feelings without dismissing them, while offering realistic hope
- Celebrate small achievements and special occasions
- Encourage participation in daily activities, recognizing any contribution
- Express appreciation and reassurance of being valued
- Address underlying issues like pain or loneliness

B. ANXIETY

People who have anxiety may feel restless, tired, uneasy, irritable, and struggle to concentrate. They may also have physical symptoms – fast or irregular heartbeats (palpitations), shortness of breath, dizziness, nausea or diarrhea.

Anxiety and agitation can be common behaviors and are important to discuss with your provider. It's important to remain calm and patient. Here are some recommendations:

- Create a calm, predictable environment with familiar routines
- Address specific fears such as falling (through strength exercises, grab rails, clutter reduction)
- Ensure pain is properly managed
- Encourage appropriate social connections
- Involve a support network including family, friends, and professionals
- Adapt the home environment to feel more secure and less stressful
- Encourage open communication about worries in a comfortable setting

- Continue with prescribed treatments even if improvement seems slow

C. MOTIVATION CHANGES

Changes in motivation and initiative are common experiences when cognitive processes require more effort than before. When the brain needs to work harder on tasks that were once automatic, it can lead to a natural conservation of mental energy. This isn't laziness or a character change—it's a normal response to the increased mental effort required for everyday activities. Rather than being frustrated with yourself for 'not doing enough,' you can recognize that your brain is working differently and adapt accordingly with strategies that support initiation and follow-through.

- Create structured routines with scheduled activities
- Break tasks into smaller, manageable steps
- Set reminders for important activities using alarms or notes
- Schedule activities with others as a source of external motivation
- Celebrate small victories and accomplishments
- Focus on activities that still bring joy and meaning
- Consider professional support from occupational therapists who can suggest helpful strategies

D. PERCEPTUAL CHANGES

Our brains constantly process an enormous amount of sensory information, automatically filtering what's important from what can be safely ignored. This complex processing can sometimes be affected by cognitive changes, leading to differences in how you perceive and interpret your environment. Some people notice changes in visual perception, and others may find that their ability to filter background noise during conversations requires more effort than before. This doesn't mean something is seriously wrong—rather, it reflects the brain's changing approach to managing sensory input. Many people find that reducing sensory overload helps not only with perception but also with thinking clarity and emotional well-being.

- Ensure adequate lighting to reduce visual ambiguity
- Reduce background noise when having conversations
- Keep living spaces uncluttered to reduce visual confusion
- Consider wearing sunglasses in bright environments if they cause discomfort
- Speak with your healthcare provider about any persistent perceptual changes
- Have regular vision and hearing checkups

E. FRUSTRATION & STRONG EMOTIONS

It's natural to experience frustration or strong emotions when tasks that were once easy become more challenging. These emotional responses don't reflect a lack of patience or resilience—they're normal reactions to real changes that affect daily life. Here are some helpful approaches:

- Recognize that these feelings are normal responses to challenges
- Take brief breaks when feeling overwhelmed
- Practice self-compassion and patience with yourself
- Create a calm environment with minimal distractions
- Develop simple phrases to use when you need time ("I need a moment to think")
- Identify and minimize triggers for frustration when possible

- Talk about your feelings with trusted friends or professionals

5. BEHAVIORAL STRATEGIES

Individuals with MCI may begin to notice changes in their memory, such as forgetting appointments or misplacing items more often. They might have difficulty concentrating or remembering recent conversations. Sleep patterns can be affected, with some people experiencing trouble falling asleep or staying asleep through the night. Communication may take longer, as finding the right words or following a conversation can become more challenging. Though these changes are often subtle, they may lead to frustration or anxiety, and it can help to establish regular routines and use reminders to reduce stress.

A. SYMPTOMS

Here are some common symptoms and what to do with them.

Cognitive Changes

Various aspects of cognitive ability may be affected including memory, language, judgment, problem-solving, and spatial awareness. As the disease progresses, these symptoms tend to become more pronounced, making it increasingly challenging for individuals to remember recent events, recognize familiar faces, communicate clearly, concentrate, and perform everyday tasks. The following are some tips could be helpful for these cognitive changes:

- Create a structured and safe environment to help reduce confusion and increase familiarity
- Reduce background noise and distractions to help them focus on the task at hand
- Use memory aid such as labels, notes, calendars, alarms or timers, pill dispensers
- Simplify a task into smaller steps and provide clear instructions
- Encourage physical and social activities
- Establish a consistent daily routine

Sleep Issues

Quality sleep is vital for brain health and overall wellbeing. During sleep, the brain repairs cells, balances hormones, and processes information from the day. Most older adults need 7-9 hours of sleep each night, the same as younger adults. These practices can help improve sleep:

- Maintain a schedule: Go to bed and wake up at consistent times, even on weekends
- Create a restful environment: Use soft lighting in the bedroom and keep the room comfortable
- Manage noise: Try using gentle background sounds, calming music, or earplugs if needed
- Reserve bed for sleep: Avoid watching TV or eating in bed to help the brain associate bed with rest
- Limit daytime napping: If napping, keep it brief and earlier in the day

B. COMMUNICATION

Many people experience troubles remembering and concentrating in the early stages of cognitive impairment. They may frequently repeat the same question or story, lose the train of thought during

conversation, find it hard to follow instructions, and feel increasingly overwhelmed and frustrated. Try some of these tips for successful communication:

- Be patient and calm. Don't rush. Give plenty of reassurance and encouragement.
- Keep it simple. Use short, clear sentences. Say one thing at a time.
- Speak softly and slowly. Use a calm tone. Avoid interrupting or correcting them.
- Use positive suggestions. For example, say "Let's go here" instead of "Don't go there."
- Speak like you would to any adult. Avoid baby talk or condescending tones.
- Listen with care. Even if they repeat themselves, listen with patience and without judgment.

C. ACTIVITY OF DAILY LIFE

It may become more challenging to handle some daily tasks such as grocery shopping, housework, finances, and food preparation over time as their cognitive ability continues to decline. Regular monitoring of their abilities and adjusting the level of assistance provided as needed can help ensure that they are able to maintain their independence and quality of life for as long as possible. Here are some suggestions to help manage these tasks:

- Create a consistent and structured routine. For example, establish a regular day and time for grocery shopping or housework, and stick to it as much as possible.
- Simplify tasks into smaller, more manageable steps. For example, instead of asking the person to prepare an entire meal, suggest they help with a specific task such as chopping vegetables.
- When cognitive function declines, it can be helpful to use memory aids such as lists, labels, or notes around the residence to help prompt memory, keep track of tasks, and stay organized. For example, make a shopping list before going to the store, or label cabinets and drawers to help with finding items.
- Simplify finances: Consider simplifying finances by setting up automatic bill payments or delegating financial management to a trusted family member or financial advisor.

Some basic self-care tasks like bathing could also be challenging and need extensive assistance:

Feeding

Mealtime challenges often emerge as dementia progresses. Changes in perception, coordination, and food preferences are common. Here are some tips:

- Create a calm, quiet eating environment with minimal distractions
- Use contrasting colors to help distinguish food from the plate (for example, dark plates for light-colored foods)
- Serve only one or two foods at a time to prevent overwhelm
- Check food temperature before serving
- If utensils become difficult, offer finger foods like sandwich quarters, fruit pieces, or chicken strips
- Model eating movements if needed
- Make mealtimes social by eating together
- Allow plenty of time for meals
- Watch for signs of swallowing difficulties—coughing during eating, a wet-sounding voice, or frequent throat clearing might indicate a need for evaluation by a healthcare professional

6. PLANNING

Thoughtful preparation across several key areas can help ensure dignity and peace of mind as dementia progresses. Early planning allows the person to participate in decisions and express their wishes for future care.

COLLECTING PERSONAL INFORMATION

Gathering personal information early on is recommended. This can include information such as:

- Social Security Number
- Insurance policy numbers (long-term care, life, home, and car)
- Contact information of attorneys, financial advisors or accountants the person with dementia has established services with
- All income sources (pension plans, stock certificates, etc).
- Tax records
- Credit card and outstanding debt (bills and mortgage papers)

This type of information may be needed to access government benefit programs like Medicare or veterans' benefits, private insurance information, and loan and savings information.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL BINDER

Creating an emergency medical binder, kept in a safe and accessible place, will be helpful when dealing with urgent medical issues. The emergency medical binder should include:

- Current Medication List
- Pharmacy contact information
- Medical history
- List of any allergies
- List of emergency contacts
- Healthcare providers' contact information
- Any other official medical documentation preferences (see below)

CARE OPTIONS

Depending on the stages of disease, there are a number of housing options to consider:

- Independent living or retirement communities for those who can maintain their daily activities independently.
- Assisted living facilities with some in-house care and organized activities, and special sections for residents with dementia.
- Life care or continuing care retirement communities with a lifetime commitment to continued care as older adults age.
- Nursing homes or skilled nursing care facilities offering long-term, 24-hour care for late-stage dementia, with special memory care sections.

- Palliative care, which is specialized medical care focused on symptom management to improve the quality of life for individuals with serious illnesses, and provide additional support services.
- Hospice care, available for those with terminal illnesses in the home, hospital, or hospice facility, with Medicare covering costs for older adults with dementia.

Talk to your provider which care options are appropriate for your stage.

For more information, please visit the Resources section.

7. SAFETY OF ENVIRONMENT

As the disease progresses, it is important to evaluate potential safety issues and understand how to create an environment as free from danger as possible. Engage the person in conversation to talk about living decisions, enabling them to make choices where possible. The best living environment for them is one that helps them to be as happy and independent as possible.

Consider these recommendations to increase home and individual safety.

Falls

Falls are a significant cause of morbidity among the older adults, particularly the ones with cognitive declines. Here are some tips to reduce the risks:

- Remove clutter, loose rugs, and obstacles from pathways
- Ensure good lighting, especially on stairs and in hallways
- Install grab bars in bathrooms and handrails on stairs
- Consider contrasting colors at the edges of steps to improve visibility
- Choose footwear with non-slip soles that fit properly
- Consider a physical therapy evaluation for personalized balance exercises
- Be aware that some medications can increase fall risk
- Address vision problems promptly

8. CAREGIVER SUPPORT

While caring for an individual with dementia can be very rewarding, it can also be very overwhelming. The roles associated with caring for another person can be stressful and, at times, can take a toll on your health, as all your time and effort is focused on the patient's needs. Remember to maintain your physical and emotional health by taking time for yourself to exercise, eat healthy food choices, connect with others who can offer emotional support and look for resources to help. It's important to take care of yourself as well as your loved one.

A. LIFESTYLE CHANGES

Possibly due to shared environmental exposures, caregivers who are spouses of persons with dementia may be at increased risk of developing dementia themselves. Caregiving can be stressful. Be aware of dementia risk factors (hypertension, poor diet, diabetes, etc.) to decrease your risk of developing dementia, and consider making lifestyle changes (see lifestyle section above) to maximize your health.

B. RESPITE CARE

Respite care provides temporary relief for primary care partners, allowing time for rest, personal activities, and self-care. Regular breaks from care responsibilities are essential for preventing burnout and maintaining your own health.

Types of respite care include:

- In-home services: Trained companions or home health aides who come to your home
- Adult day centers: Programs where your loved one can participate in activities and receive care during daytime hours
- Short-term residential stays: Temporary care in assisted living or nursing facilities
- Family and friend support: Coordinated help from your personal network

Respite care might be covered by long-term care insurance, veterans' benefits, or state-based programs. The ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center can help identify options in your area.

C. EMOTIONS

It is common for caregivers to feel overwhelmed, anxious, frustrated, and even angry at times. Seeking support can be beneficial. Joining a caregiver support group can provide a safe and supportive environment to share experiences, ask questions, and receive emotional support from others who are going through similar experiences. Consider reaching out to local organizations or support groups to find one that fits your needs.

Grief and Loss

As dementia is a progressive and fatal condition, caring for a loved one experiencing these changes can be difficult. You may experience grief and loss throughout your caregiving journey. It is a slow, gradual loss. Allow yourself to grieve these losses and don't push these feelings down. Name your feelings, accept the changes, create room for hope and talk about them with a trusted friend, family member, counselor, or provider. Sometimes talking with another caregiver with a similar experience can be helpful, as you can each share your feelings and strategies for coping and living with the losses. Talking about your emotions with a professional may help you feel less alone.

9. RESOURCES

NIA Alzheimer's and Related Dementias Education and Referral (ADEAR) Center (nia.nih.gov/health/alzheimers)

Learn more about the disease, and get news, tips, and resources provided by the National Institute on Aging (NIA).

Alzheimer's Association (alz.org)

Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. 24/7 Helpline (800.272.3900) is available for crisis guidance, decision support etc. In addition, both in-person (alz.org/events/event_search) and online (alzconnected.org) support groups are available.

Alzheimer's Foundation of America (alzfdn.org)

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America's (AFA) mission is to provide optimal care and services to individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and related illnesses and to their families and caregivers.

Alzheimers.gov (alzheimers.gov)

Explore the Alzheimers.gov portal for information and resources on Alzheimer's and related dementia caregiving from across the federal government.

AARP (aarp.org/caregiving)

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that empowers people to choose how they live as they age.

Family Caregiver Alliance® (caregiver.org)

Family Caregiver Alliance is the first community-based nonprofit organization in the country to address the needs of families and friends providing long-term care for loved ones at home.

ALZConnected® (alzconnected.org)

ALZConnected is a dedicated community where people with Alzheimer's, their caregivers, and others affected by the disease can share answers, opinions, ideas, and support.

Eldercare Locator (eldercare.acl.gov | 1-800-677-1116)

A public service of the U.S. Administration on Aging connecting you to services for older adults and their families.

Community Resource Finder (communityresourcefinder.org)

Alzheimer's Association AARP Community Resource Finder is a database of dementia and aging-related resources powered by Healthlinkdimensions®.

Home Health Care Services (medicare.gov/care-compare/?providerType=HomeHealth)

Home health care aides are skilled, licensed medical professionals who come to your home and help you recover from a hospital stay, illness, or injury.

National Respite Locator Service (archrespite.org/caregiver-resources/respitlocator/)

Respite services provide short-term care which allows the caregiver to get a break to rest or go on a vacation.

BenefitsCheckUp (benefitscheckup.org | 1-571-527-3900)

Help people to understand benefits available from federal, state, and local programs by the National Council on Aging (NCOA).

Meals on Wheels Association of America (mealsonwheelsamerica.org | 1-888-998-6325)

Provides information on local meal delivery and group meal locations for seniors.

SAMHSA (samhsa.gov | 1-800-662-4357)

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration National Helpline is free, confidential, 24/7, 365 days a year treatment referral and information service in English and Spanish for individuals and families facing mental issues.

NAMI Helpline (nami.org/help | 1-800-950-6264)

National Alliance on Mental Illness Helpline is a free, nationwide peer-support service (10 am - 10 pm ET) providing information, resource referrals and support to people living with a mental health condition and their family members and caregivers.

MyGrief.ca (mygrief.ca)

An online resource to help people move through their grief.

The Conversation Project (theconversationproject.org)

Offers a guide for how to talk about the end of life.

National Association for Elder Law Attorneys (naela.org)

Offers a directory of elder law attorneys.

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (allianceforcareathome.org/find-a-provider)

Provides information about hospice and palliative care and local hospice and palliative care organizations.

LOCAL RESOURCES

Review the local resources and provide any necessary contact information.

Name	Contact Information		