

Inequalities in health care service use

Health care service utilisation after a diagnosis of dementia or another neurodegenerative condition – assessing the impact of inequalities

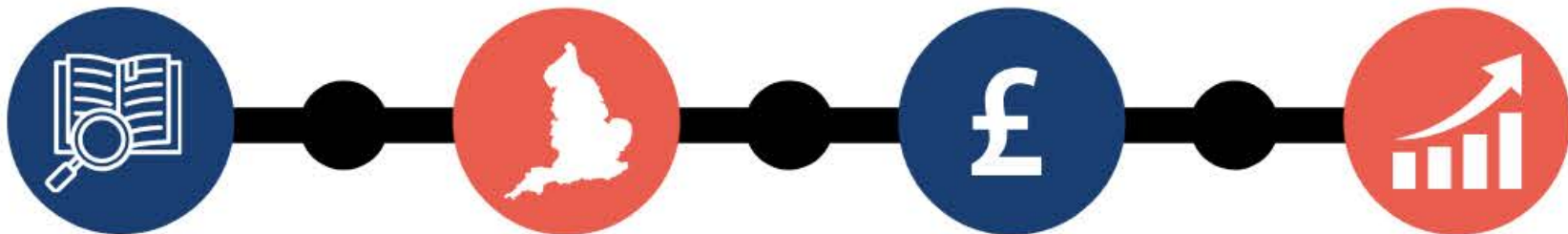
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Influencing future policy to improve outcomes for all

We want to understand four things:

2. What are the differences that these personal characteristics make in accessing primary and secondary care if you have one of these conditions in England?

4. Are these differences in accessing health care services increasing over time?



1. What is already known about the differences your personal characteristics, such as ethnicity or where you live, have on your use of health care services if you have a neurodegenerative condition?

3. How do these differences affect the cost of health services used by people with these conditions?

Methodology - How are we doing it?

We will review the evidence that has already been published. We will search scientific journals for existing reviews on the topic.



We will use clinical records to look at how people with neurodegenerative conditions use health care services. We will look at how patterns of use change by age, gender, region, deprivation and ethnicity in the first, second and third year since diagnosis.

We will calculate the costs of these services using NHS reference costs and national tariff prices.



We will look over the past 15 years to see whether patterns of service use have changed over time and whether inequalities have increased.



Policy relevance and planned outputs

Reducing inequalities in accessing health and social care has long been a policy aim in the UK, but with little increase in budget to support this it is often described as a 'postcode lottery'. The research base to support policy making in this area is relatively small, particularly around post-diagnostic care for people with dementia and other neurodegenerative conditions.



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The project will generate evidence about where to direct resources in order to reduce inequalities.

