



Neurosciences Unit: Young Onset Dementia Clinic (YOD)

What is YOD

YOD is an assessment and clinical management program for patients with a diagnosed or strongly suspected young-onset neurodegenerative condition (age of onset below age 65). Referrals into this clinic are for Neurology review. If considered relevant to the clinical management, patients may subsequently also be eligible to access input from Psychiatry, Social Work, Speech Pathology, and Clinical Neuropsychology.

Referral criteria

Diagnosed or strongly suspected young-onset neurodegenerative condition, where the age of onset is before 65 years old. Referrals are accepted for diagnostic purposes and/or ongoing clinical management.

Referral sources

- Referrals are invited from medical specialists and general practitioners:
 - Where the relevant medical work up is complete or in progress (i.e., standard cognitive/dementia blood tests, neuroimaging)
 - For referrals from Neurologists, please advise if the intent is to transfer the care of the patient into YOD.
 - For referrals from Psychiatrists, please include details regarding the assessment of psychiatric co-morbidities and probable exclusion of these as the primary contributor for the presenting symptom(s).
- We are unable to accept referrals directly from non-medical sources (e.g., allied health). Allied health and other service providers are encouraged to liaise with the patient's medical specialist regarding referral to the Neurosciences Unit and to provide supporting information.

Referral documentation

- Referral letters are accepted, however, referrers are strongly encouraged to use the YOD Referral form (found on our website: <https://www.nmhs.health.wa.gov.au/Hospitals-and-Services/Mental-Health/Specialties/Neuro>).
- Referrals must include relevant background information including specialist letters of assessment, cognitive screening results, brain imaging reports (images uploaded to PACS if applicable), and blood test results.
- Incomplete referrals will be responded to with a request for additional information prior to presentation at clinical intake meetings.

Exclusion criteria

We do not accept referrals for the following, where:

- The age of onset is above 65 years of age.
- The patient is more appropriately managed at another specialist service, e.g., Parkinson's Disease Clinic, Motor Neuron Disease Clinic.
- Assessments are primarily for legal purposes, work or driving clearances, or insurance claims. These should be directed to the private sector. We can provide a list of some Perth practitioners upon request.