

Dear Senior Partner/ Dr John Smith

Re: Dementia Research

I am writing to ask if we can work together on an exciting new initiative for your patients.

Dementia is one of the biggest challenges the NHS faces today and the number of people with dementia is set to double over the next 30 years. Research offers hope and leads to improved understanding of what causes the condition, however for research to progress, more people are needed to take part in more studies.

That is why the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) in partnership with Alzheimer Scotland, Alzheimer's Research UK and Alzheimer's Society have developed Join Dementia Research. This service allows people to register their interest in participating in dementia research and for them to be matched to suitable studies.

The goal is to make it possible for everyone who wants to be involved in dementia research to have the chance to participate. Anyone 18 or over, **with or without** dementia, can register as a volunteer. A person with dementia can be signed up by their nearest family member providing they give consent.

Join Dementia Research supports ALL ethically approved dementia studies. This means there is a wide variety of studies suitable for everyone's interests and capabilities. This can include studies on lifestyle, drug trials, therapies, and studies focused on care and carers as well as studies looking at improving accurate diagnosis and prevention of dementia.

Our proposed approach is to use the Docmail service to support you to write to patients at your practice who are over 55, or who have been identified as having a memory problem, providing them with information about Join Dementia Research and asking them to consider registering through one of the charity helplines, an application form, or via the website. Using the Docmail service will minimise the work required at the practice, keeping it within the scope of the work already recompensed in the sessional payments. Once your patients register with Join Dementia Research, all the information they provide is held securely and subject to ethical and information governance arrangements endorsed by the Health Research Authority. The full costs of the mailing will be met by xxx.

This approach was piloted last year in the West of England area, and as a result over 500 new people registered (around 7% of everyone contacted).

I hope you will agree that as dementia is such a pressing issue and a high priority for the NHS, this initiative is one we should be supporting, and one that is worthy of such an exceptional request.

I have enclosed some information about Join Dementia Research and will be contacting you again in a few weeks to discuss whether this is a possibility and how it would work practically.

Yours sincerely

To discuss please contact:
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