

Title Tag (Up to 60 characters)	Finding comprehensive dementia care for your patients
Page Description (Up to 155 characters)	If you need to refer patients with dementia, consider the nationally recognized Emory Integrated Memory Care Clinic.
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Finding comprehensive dementia care for your patients

Each year, [one out of three](#) patients is referred to a specialist, and the average primary care physician sends referrals to [229 specialists](#). According to a [case study](#) from the Alzheimer's Association, when primary care physicians are faced with patients who have Alzheimer's disease, they are most likely to get a second opinion or refer them to another health professional.

As the population ages, the number of patients diagnosed with dementia and Alzheimer's disease will rise. Alzheimer's is considered the most common cause of dementia. Currently, 5.6 million adults in the United States have Alzheimer's, but this number is expected to increase to [13.8 million](#) by 2050. As a physician, you have to be prepared for this increase and must find a trusted clinic where you can send referrals.

Finding nationally recognized, patient-centered care

Patients who have dementia require a special level of care. They can benefit from extra help managing their dementia symptoms, as well as other chronic conditions. However, not every provider has the time or flexibility to offer this level of comprehensive care. This is where Emory Brain Health Center's Integrated Memory Care Clinic (IMCC) can help you.

The Emory Integrated Memory Care Clinic is a nationally recognized and patient-centered medical home that provides the kind of individualized, complete care dementia patients need. Emory's team at IMCC has extensive experience and expertise working with dementia patients. They understand the effects dementia can have on patients, caregivers, and primary care physicians.

Many physicians worry about coordinating care with referrals, but Emory is prepared to handle this. In 2016, the Emory Integrated Memory Care Clinic earned the National Committee for Quality Assurance's (NCQA) highest level of recognition. This Patient-Centered Medical Home Level 3 Recognition demonstrates Emory's ability to coordinate care among all health care providers and other community-based resources. If you send a referral to the Integrated Memory Care Clinic, you can be confident that Emory's health care team will work with you before, during, and after they see a patient.

When you refer patients, you can also be sure they will receive the best care possible. At less than 1%, the Emory Integrated Memory Care Clinic's rate for ambulatory sensitive hospitalizations is well below the national average of 13%. The patient satisfaction rate for IMCC providers was 97% for the period of September 2016 through August 2017.

Working as a team for patients



The Emory Integrated Memory Care Clinic approaches care as a team with a nurse practitioner, a registered nurse, a clinical social worker, and a patient care coordinator working alongside the patient, their family members, and caregivers to achieve the best outcome for the patient.

The Integrated Memory Care Clinic develops individualized treatment recommendations and offers several additional services to established patients. The team solicits ongoing feedback from their patients and families. IMCC even established a Patient and Family Advisory Council to help drive the design and delivery of care.

When you send a referral to IMCC, patients get access to these additional services:

- **Chronic care management:** Eligible patients are enrolled in Medicare's chronic care management in order to coordinate services outside of clinic visits.
- **Care coordination:** The Emory Integrated Memory Care Clinic provides recommendations and referrals to community-based resources. The team also coordinates referrals to other health care services.
- **Caregiver classes:** Social worker offers educational classes for caregivers covering common difficult behavioral symptoms, end-of-life concerns, and other relevant topics.
- **Family meetings:** The clinic offers opportunities to discuss care goals with family members and caregivers.
- **Transition of care:** Staff can coordinate transitions to higher levels of care and post-hospitalization discharge.
- **After-hours calls:** Established patients have access to nurse practitioners during evenings, holidays, and weekends.

All of these additional services relieve stress and save time for primary care physicians.

Seeing results

Since opening in 2015, the Emory Integrated Memory Care Clinic has received positive feedback from physicians, caregivers, and patients. Here is one example: When Leah Humphries was struggling to find adequate care for her mother, Carol, she turned to IMCC.

"Our lives changed from the moment we connected with the Integrated Memory Care Clinic," Leah said. "Dad was scared, but the support the Clinic provided, especially the Savvy Caregiver class, really empowered him."

Learning more and referring a patient

If you would like to learn more about the Emory Integrated Memory Care Clinic or think one of your patients could benefit from the services, please call 404-712-6929 or learn more at emoryhealthcare.org/imcc.