

Dementia is a general term for loss of memory, language, problem-solving and other thinking abilities that are severe enough to interfere with daily life. Dementia may be due to or inherent to other diseases, such as alcohol or drug use, or caused by traumatic brain injury.

The following types of dementia are progressive and not reversible:

- Alzheimer's
- Vascular
- Lewy Body
- Parkinson's
- Frontotemporal

Behavioral disturbances may be linked to dementia, such as:

- Agitation
- Psychotic disturbance
- Mood disturbance
- Anxiety
- Sleep disturbance
- Social or sexual disinhibition

Documentation Tips:

Documentation for dementia should **always** include the following:

- **Type, based on etiology**
 - Vascular
 - In diseases classified elsewhere
 - Lewy bodies, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's
 - Unspecified/NOS
- **Severity**
 - Mild (requires occasional assistance with daily life activities)
 - Moderate (requires frequent assistance with daily life activities)
 - Severe (complete dependency)
- **Linked behavioral disturbance**
 - Sundown Syndrome
 - Agitation
- **Underlying physiological condition or sequelae**

Include	Examples
Clear and concise diagnosis	Medical, nursing, and allied health visit findings
Management of diagnosis	Interpreted test and lab results
Linked acute condition(s)	Unstable DM due to non-compliance from dementia
"Delirium," not "confusion"	Dementia-related acute delirium due to infection
Etiology	Alzheimer's dementia, vascular dementia

For questions or more information, please contact:

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