

Chapter 1

READ Codes

Using standardized READ Codes improves communication, documentation clarity, and supports integrated care pathways, leading to better healthcare outcomes and efficient service delivery.

Why READ Codes Matter



- ✓ **Improve dementia diagnosis tracking**
- ✓ **Ensure accurate patient records**
- ✓ **Support care coordination**
- ✓ **Enhance data reporting across services**

Context

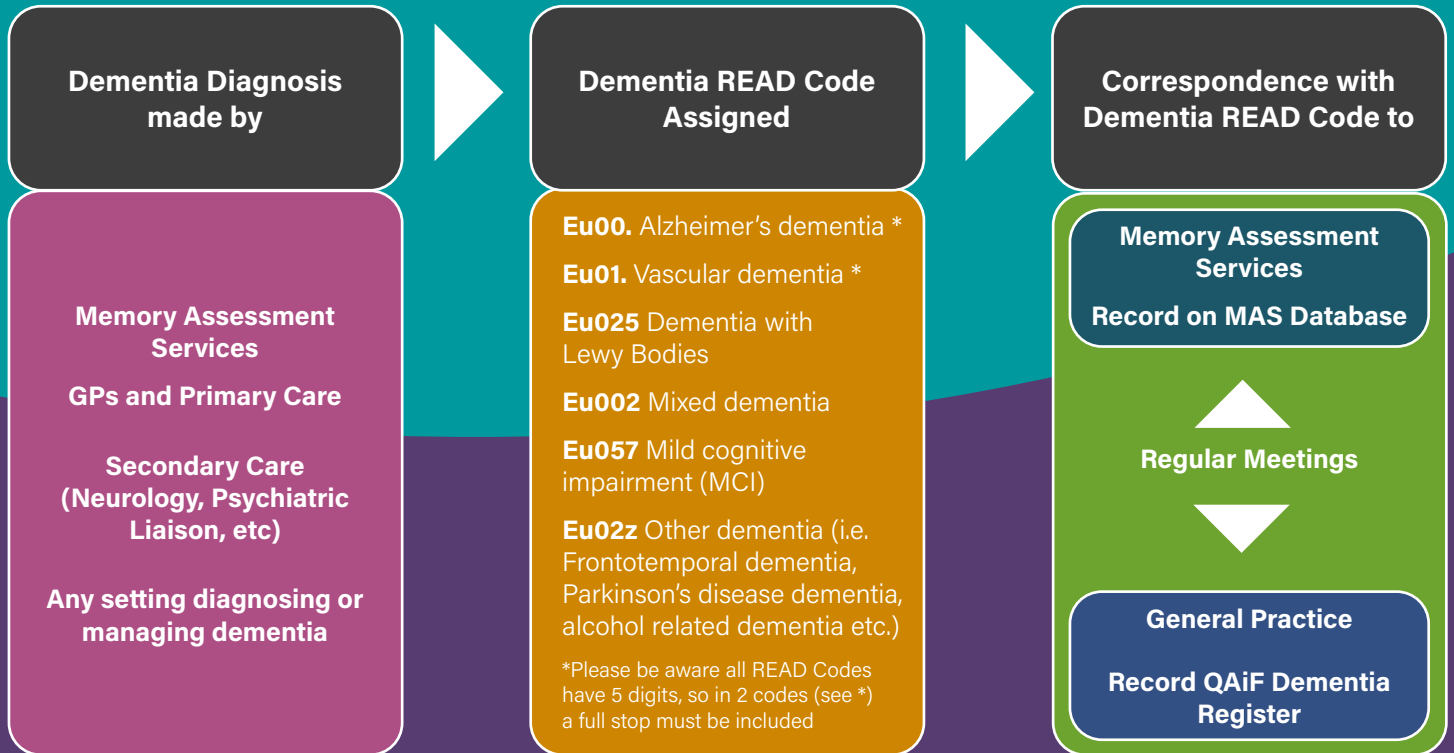


- **Dementia Action Plan (2018):** Wales needs to increase dementia diagnosis rates by 3% annually from 53% in 2017/18.
- **Welsh Health Circular (February 2022) 'Recording of Dementia READ Codes':** All correspondence to and within statutory services are expected to record the dementia diagnosis and the READ Code.
- **The All Wales Dementia Pathway of Standards (2021).**

Who Records & Shares READ Codes?



- **Memory Assessment Services (MAS)**
- **GPs & Primary Care**
- **Secondary Care (Neurology, Psychiatric Liaison, etc.)**
- **Any setting diagnosing or managing dementia**



Benefits of Implementing READ Codes

- ✓ Strengthen MAS-GP collaboration
- ✓ Improve accurate reporting in GP registers
- ✓ Increase dementia awareness among professionals & the public
- ✓ Support better health outcomes for dementia patients
- ✓ Aid early identification of cognitive impairment for timely care

Regions should implement Dementia READ Code practices as per the Welsh Health Circular (Feb 2022) to ensure compliance and better patient care.

Resources to download

- [Dementia READ Code Reminder Poster](#)
- [Dementia READ Code Reminder- Desk Card1](#)
- [Dementia READ Code Reminder- Desk Card2](#)
- [Dementia READ Code Reminder - Checklist](#)
- [Dementia READ Code Reminder - Measurements Guidance](#)