



# **FY21 DHS Board Meeting**

## **Georgia Memory Net Highlights**

5.12.2021

*Rebecca Dillard – GMN Project Director*

# STATE OF GEORGIA ROLE & PARTNERSHIP



**GARD**  
— collaborative —

2014: GARD State Plan signed

2017: \$4.12M allocated for Georgia  
Alzheimer's Project //

Georgia Memory Net (GMN)

Continuing Budget in Georgia Department of  
Human Services

Oversight: Division of Aging Services

Primary Contract: Emory University  
Cognitive Neurology Program / Goizueta  
Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

Formal partnerships across multiple  
healthcare systems, community agencies,  
and state networks

## Establishing the Need:

Know the numbers.

It all adds up: The citizens and healthcare professionals of Georgia need the Georgia Memory Net.

People With  
Alzheimer's  
Growing:



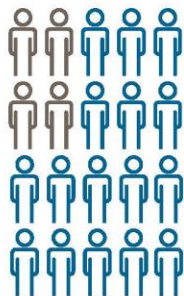
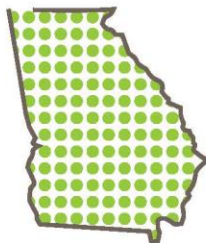
**140k**  
[2018]



**190k**  
[2025]

**1.4M**

People Over  
65 Years Old



**385k**  
with self-reported  
cognitive impairment

**80%**

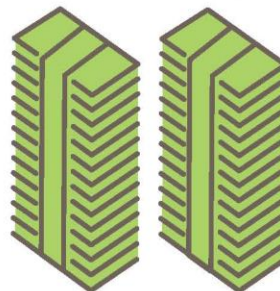
have not yet been  
evaluated or treated



**6 Year Average  
Delay In  
Memory-loss  
Diagnosis**

**\$2B**

In Preventable  
Admissions  
Expenses



# Georgia Memory Net Primary Goals

- ✓ Increase Primary Care Provider (PCP) awareness of and screening for cognitive impairment/memory loss
- ✓ Develop and maintain network of Memory Assessment Clinics (MAC)
  - ❖ Expand access to diagnostic services statewide
  - ❖ Enhance connectivity for Georgians with Alzheimer's and related dementias to community services and support
  - ❖ *Five sites established in year 1 as pilot*
- ✓ Develop and deploy robust IT infrastructure for comprehensive program evaluation, patient-level data capture, and statewide impact



# Memory Assessment Clinic Partnerships

## Albany, GA

Phoebe Putney / Phoebe Primary Care at Northwest

## Atlanta, GA

Grady Health System / Marcus Stroke and Neuroscience Outpatient Center

## Augusta, GA

Augusta University Health System / Memory & Movement Disorders Program

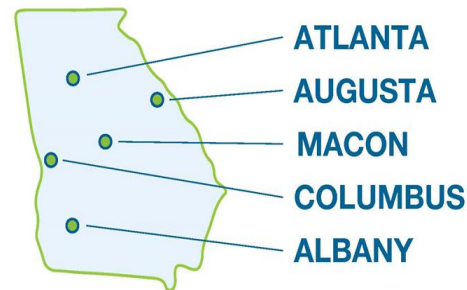
## Columbus, GA

Piedmont Healthcare / Piedmont Columbus Regional Family Medicine Center

## Macon, GA

Navicent Health / Family Health Center

### Memory Assessment Clinic Locations



# The Process: An Always Integrated Path

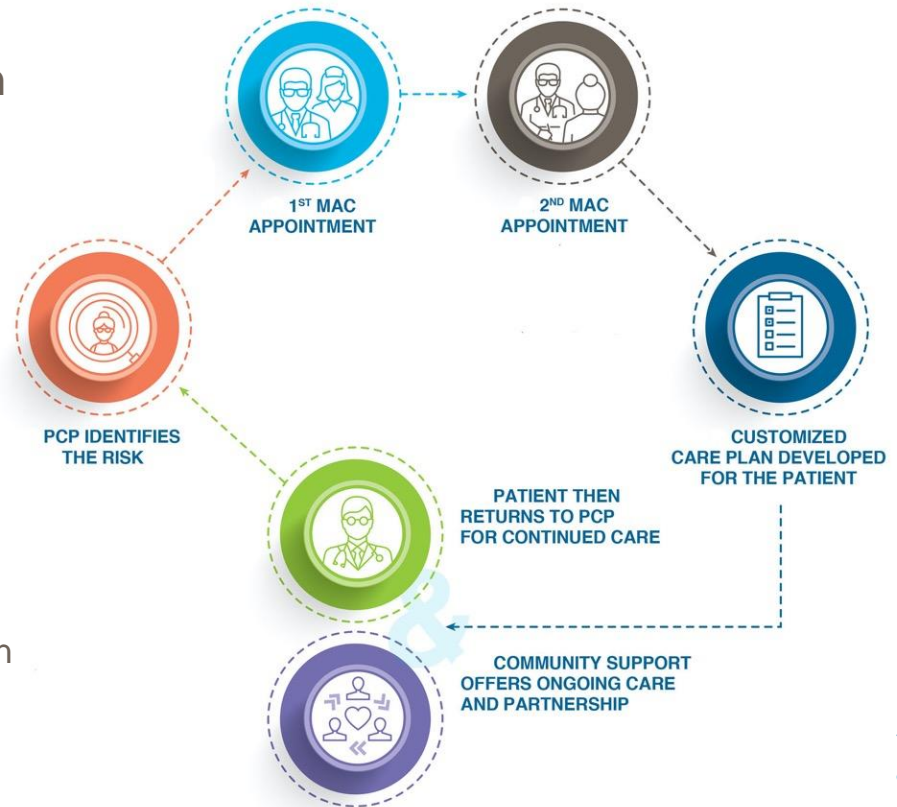
## Practice Change and Primary Care-Driven Model to Address Lack of Services

### Two Visit Process

- Visit 1 - Initial Diagnostic Assessments
- Visit 2 - The Conversation: Care and Support

### Return to PCP and Community Resources

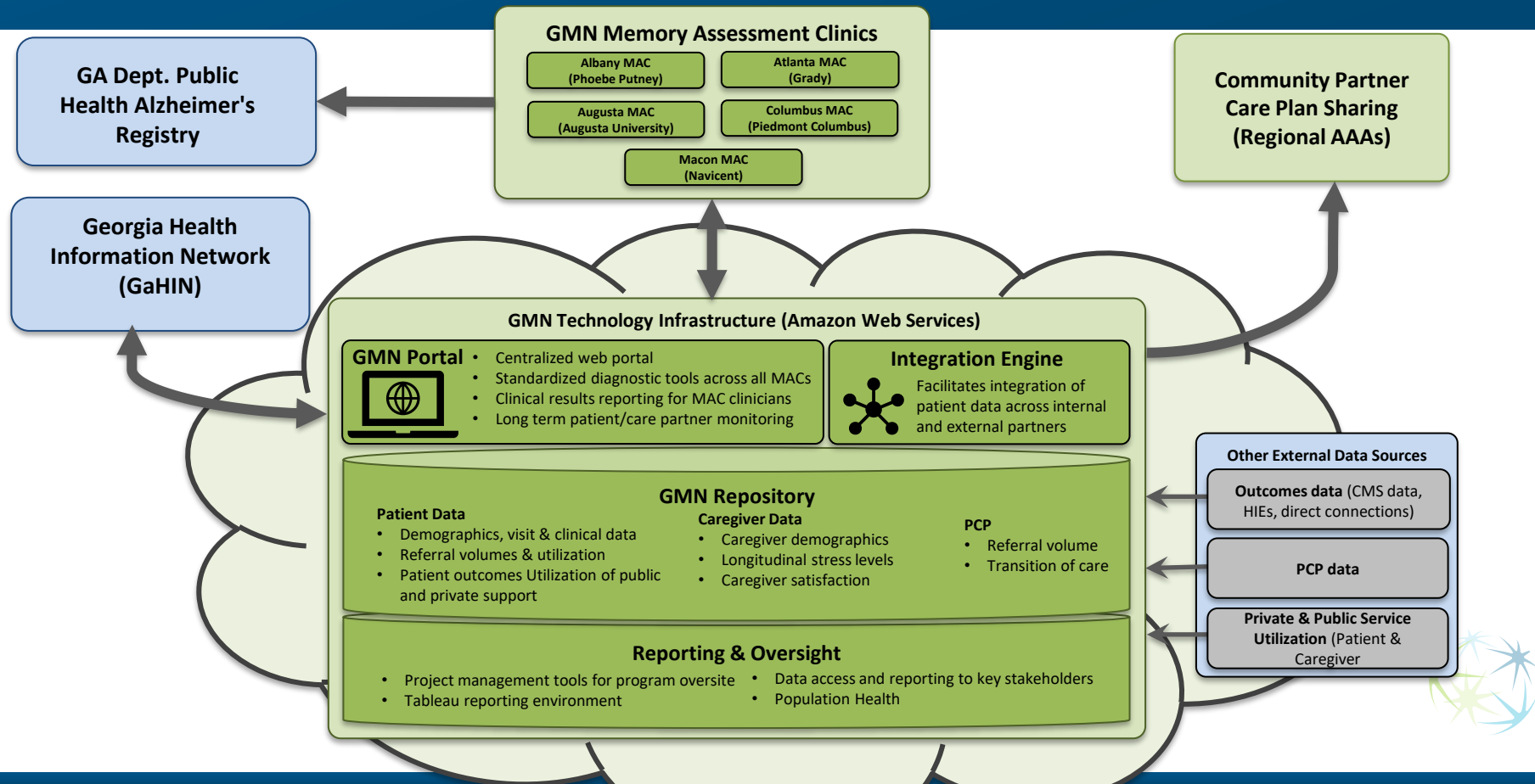
- Detailed report from MAC to PCP
- PCP provides on-going maintenance and management of patient care
- Care plans and coordination with Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)



# GMN Technology Overview

GMN Network

External to GMN



# GA DPH & GMN: ADRD Registry Integration



GMN has facilitated build out of IT interface between MAC electronic medical records to ADRD Registry



Records automatically be shared via secure server from local Electronic Medical Record to Registry (vs. Doctors manually inputting individual patient data)

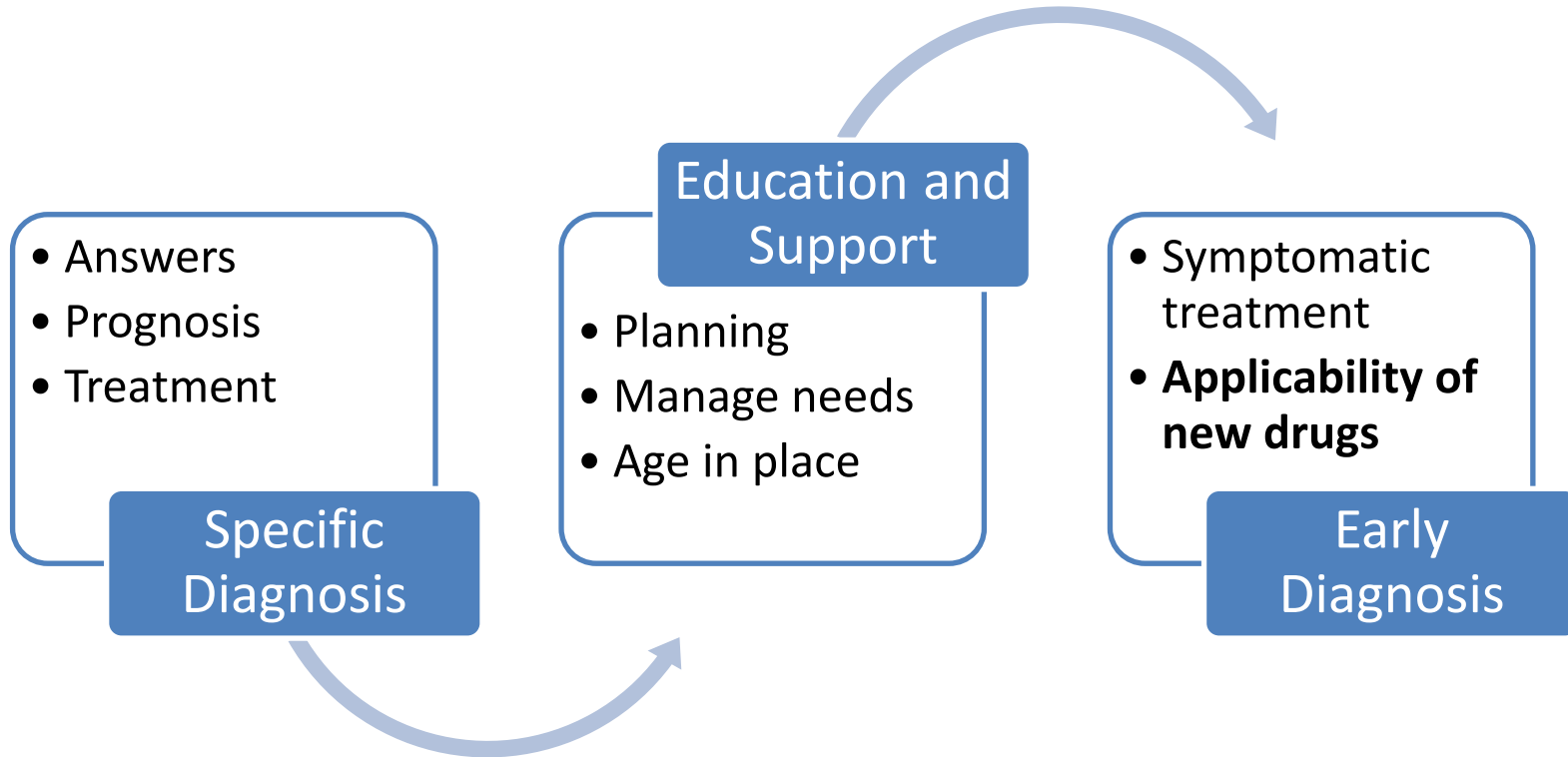


Albany, Augusta, Atlanta, Emory Live; Columbus, Macon in final process to link  
*19786 Total Files Reported as of 4/30/2021 (12 records in registry at baseline)*





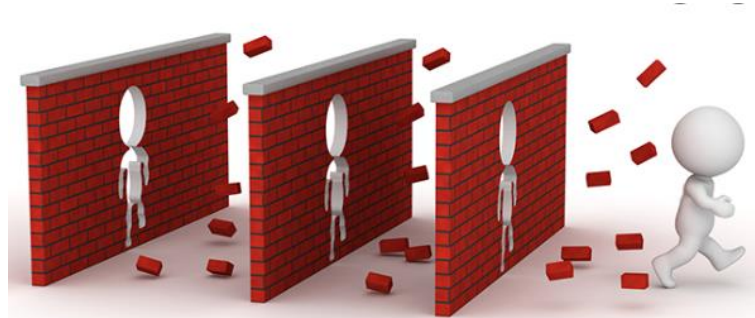
# Expected Outcomes



# What happens if Food & Drug Administration approves Aducanumab?

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- Open questions
  - Who will be eligible?
    - Mild Cognitive Impairment *due to underlying Alzheimer's disease*
  - How will drug be delivered?
    - Monthly IV infusions
  - How prepared are we?
    - Specific diagnosis
    - Impact of delayed diagnosis
    - Support for patients and caregivers



- **Challenges ahead**
  - Early recognition
  - Specific diagnosis
  - Access to treatment
  - Support for families

# SFY21 Program Administration: Volume Targets

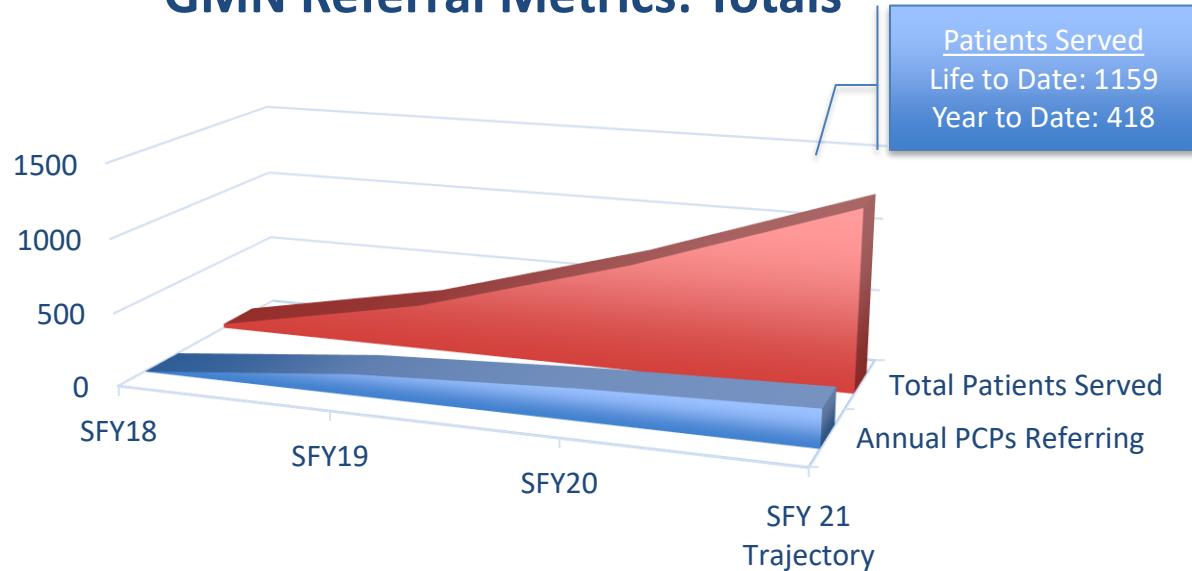
## New Patients to MACs

- SFY19-SFY21 year over year new patient increase ~150% even with pandemic
- SFY20: 26 patients off goal (COVID)
- SFY21: COVID surge-related patterns per month
- **SFY21 Est. 502 of 600 target**

## Number of Referring PCPs

- Opened referrals to broad markets at start of 2020
- SFY21/22: Major marketing campaigns for growth

## GMN Referral Metrics: Totals



# Expanding Reach: GMN Telehealth Implementation

**Goal:** To implement telehealth processes across Georgia Memory Net that reduce pandemic exposure, expand access and eliminate barriers

## Memory Assessment Clinics

- Partner with MACs to realize telehealth strategy
- Provide platforms and telehealth guidance
- Leverage Emory best practices

## Primary Care Partners

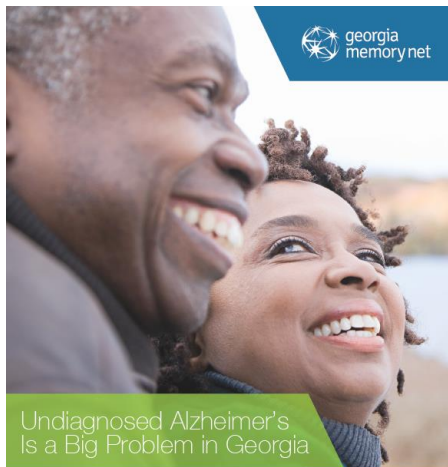
- Leverage PCP feedback to determine specific needs
- Educate PCPs on GMN flow and telehealth Annual Wellness Visits & Cognitive/Memory screening

## Patient Population

- Partner with DPH on iPad rollout & supporting resources
- Partner with AAA network on iPad rollout & resources
- Develop decision trees and patient experience journey
- Identify patients most likely to benefit
- Market telehealth Annual Wellness Visits (AWV)



# GMN Outreach: Focused Media for Community Outreach



## That's Why Georgia Is Doing Something About It

Georgia Memory Net is a partnership between the state of Georgia and some of our most trusted health institutions. Georgia Memory Net provides the latest methods for diagnosing Alzheimer's and related dementias to Georgians across the state, and supports Georgians throughout their dementia journey. To learn more about getting a referral, visit [GaMemoryNet.org/Referral](https://GaMemoryNet.org/Referral).



Scan this code for your referral.

Sponsored by the Georgia Department of Human Services  
Managed by the Augusta Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at Emory University

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



[GaMemoryNet.org/Referral](https://GaMemoryNet.org/Referral)



## Georgia Memory Net Accelerates Alzheimer's Diagnosis

Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are a big challenge in the Columbus area, and all of Georgia. Almost 400,000 Georgians report that they're experiencing some type of cognitive impairment, but only 20 percent of them have been evaluated or treated for Alzheimer's disease or a related form of dementia. The cost of care in Georgia for undiagnosed Alzheimer's is estimated at \$1.6 billion annually, and a large portion of those costs could be prevented or delayed with proper diagnosis and support. In fact, there's an average six-year delay in getting a diagnosis related to memory loss or other cognitive function loss in Georgia.

That's why the state of Georgia, in partnership with some of our state's most experienced healthcare institutions, created Georgia Memory Net (GMN). Georgia Memory Net helps Georgians showing signs of memory loss or cognitive decline get accelerated and accurate diagnoses for Alzheimer's disease or other related dementias, as well as a personalized care plan. Georgia Memory Net also connects diagnosed patients with support services in their local area, including many in the Columbus area.

Georgia Memory Net has created five Memory Assessment Clinics throughout the state, and one of them right here in Columbus. The Columbus Memory Assessment Clinic is part of Piedmont Columbus Regional and is located at the Piedmont Family Medicine Center at 1800 10th Avenue. GMN is not affiliated with the Columbus Memory Center.

For patients who are unable to access a clinic in person, GMN also provides diagnoses through telemedicine using a smartphone or computer.

If you, or someone you know, are experiencing memory loss or cognitive decline but have not yet received a diagnosis, a referral to Georgia Memory Net might be a good option. A referral is necessary to receive a diagnosis through GMN, so interested patients should talk to their Primary Care Physicians and ask if a referral to Georgia Memory Net is right for them.



Georgia Memory Net - GAmemoryNet.org

which could include having a hard time with language, not



georgia  
memory net

Your Patient Is Interested In an Alzheimer's  
or Related Dementias Diagnosis

GEORGIA MEMORY NET MAY BE ABLE TO HELP

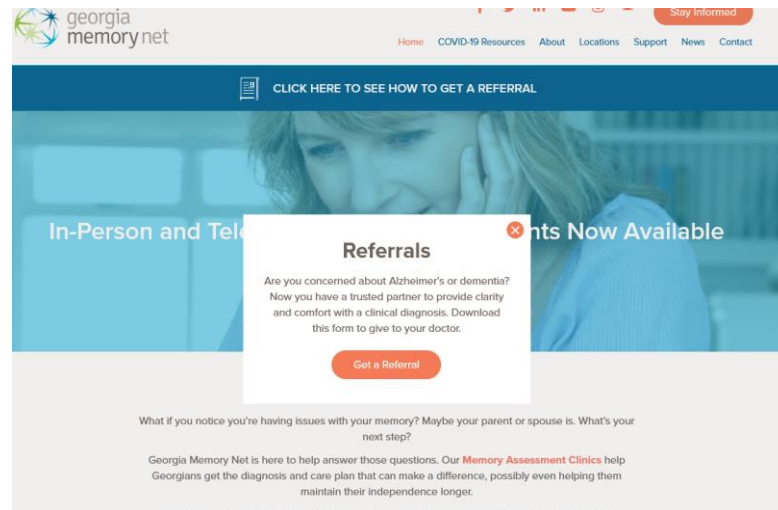
### WHAT IS GMN?

Georgia Memory Net helps PCPs get timely & accurate diagnoses for their patients who exhibit signs of memory loss or cognitive impairment. Then we provide planning and connection to community services to support Primary Care Providers in the ongoing care of their patients. Georgia Memory Net is made possible by a mandate from Georgia State Legislature.

### YOUR ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL BEGINS THE PROCESS

# Enhanced Online and Web-App Support

- ✓ Website Enhancement:  
Provider and patient-facing  
referral information / referral  
forms at forefront
- ✓ App Engagement:  
Go Annual joint venture with  
GARD ... Go Annual App is LIVE!
- ✓ Caregiving During Crisis:  
Full online course accepting  
'students'



# GA DPH & GMN: Federal Funding for Community Outreach

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## CDC BOLD funding with DPH Georgia B-SEEN:

- ✓ Leverage existing GMN networks & ongoing activities as in-kind support
- ✓ Savvy Caregiver & Telesavvy Train the Trainer
- ✓ Risk assessment & outreach to targeted rural and minority communities
- ✓ Evaluation services & support



# GMN<sup>y</sup>where

A GEORGIA MEMORY NET SERIES

June 9<sup>th</sup> – July 14<sup>th</sup>

- ❖ Guest speakers from Mayo Clinic, Rosalyn Carter Institute, GA Dept of Public Health, GA Gear Program
- ❖ Legislator Panel featuring Rep Terry England
- ❖ Columbus Team Highlight: Dr. Greg Foster
- ❖ Happy Hour!

*Several Sessions Open for Partners & Expanded Audiences  
Anticipating CME Accreditation*






# ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

GAmemorynet.org

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By 2025, it is anticipated that the number of Georgians living with Alzheimer's will increase by nearly 30%.

Supporting Patients, Care Givers and Healthcare Professionals

L. David Moore, MD

**CLARITY. CARE. COMMUNITY.**  
Georgia Memory Net is a statewide program dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. We're here to give Georgians, and their primary care providers, the tools they need for accurate diagnosis, appropriate treatment, and long-term support.






**For Patients**

**Stay Informed**


If you're a Medicare-eligible adult, you're entitled to an Annual Wellness Visit—a health screening with your Primary Care Physician (PCP)—that's just for you. This includes a 10-minute screening for signs of common memory problems and certain medical conditions. Whether you're concerned about memory loss or not, your PCP should be meeting or Annual Wellness Visit appointment with your Primary Care Doctor.



**For Care Partners**

**Stay Informed**


Have you seen signs of memory loss or difficulty performing or decision-making in a loved one? The first step in diagnosis and treatment is a discussion about their memory or thinking concerns with their Primary Care Provider. If certain criteria are met, their doctor can provide a referral to Georgia Memory Net for diagnostic assessments and care planning.



**For Healthcare Professionals**


**Stay Informed**

Georgia Memory Net is dedicated to providing healthcare professionals with the resources they need to help diagnose patients experiencing memory loss or cognitive impairments. The network also provides clinical support and education while serving patients and care partners with community resources that can provide ongoing support. The first step is your screening assessment during patients' Annual Wellness Visit and your referral to a Georgia Memory Net center if appropriate.



**HERE FOR EVERYONE**

Whether you're under 65, not eligible for Medicare, or can't receive your Annual Wellness Visit for any other reason, but you still have concerns about memory problems or thinking difficulties, you can still get to your primary care provider to find out if a referral to one of Georgia Memory Net's Memory Assessment Clinics is right for you.




**STAY CONNECTED**


At each step of diagnosis or early care, diagnostic, treatment, and support services are provided. Georgia Memory Net offers various services to help you stay connected. You can connect with our community resources, get help with transportation, and more. Visit our website at [GAmemorynet.org](http://GAmemorynet.org) for more information.

**SIGN UP TO RECEIVE PROGRAM UPDATES**

**THE FACTS ARE IN THE NUMBERS**  
Nam libero tempore, cum soluta nobis est eligendi optio cumque nihil impedit quo minus id quod maxime placeat facere possimus.

[Download Our One-sheet](#)





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