

What is the Rapid Diagnostic Clinic?

The Rapid Diagnostic Clinic (RDC), is part of the Center for Alzheimer Research and Treatment and is affiliated with the Center for Brain/Mind Medicine (CBMM) at Brigham and Women's Hospital. It is designed to improve access to earlier diagnosis of cognitive disorders such as Alzheimer's disease, for patients interested in research participation at the Center for Alzheimer Research and Treatment (CART).

What happens after I am referred to the RDC?

- This is a one-time appointment scheduled by you, or your doctor, to facilitate a medical/neurological evaluation to determine if you are eligible for a research study at our Center.
- A recruitment specialist will contact you and get a signed release of medical records.
- Once your medical records are received, they will be reviewed by a physician assistant. The physician assistant works with the Cognitive Neurology team.
- The physician assistant will determine when you will be scheduled based on your medical record review.
- You will be contacted to book an appointment by a scheduling team member and sent information on next steps in the appointment process.
- There are limited spots available. We recommend you take available slots, to avoid a much longer scheduling delay.
- Should you cancel, we will notify your referring doctor.

My appointment is scheduled, now what?

Prior to the visit, you will be asked to register with BWH, if you're not already in the system. The RDC visit is covered by your medical insurance. You will be asked to fill out some paperwork and given directions on where to report for your clinic appointment.

What happens the day of my visit?

You will have a one-hour appointment with a physician assistant and receive cognitive testing, as well as medical and neurological evaluations. At the end of this visit, the findings will be reviewed with you. You will also be told if there are research studies for which you are eligible.

What should my follow up plan be?

A report will be sent to your doctor within two weeks with the results of your tests, scans, or other work-ups. Once your doctor receives this information, they can speak directly with the physician assistant who evaluated you. The RDC is a medical consult to support you and your referring clinician. We will not be following up with you outside of the RDC clinic appointment.

If you need additional information, you can follow up with your doctor. If you want to be seen by the physician assistant or cognitive neurologist for follow up, you will need to schedule an appointment at the Center for Brain Mind/Medicine.

Should you be eligible for a research study, you will be connected with the research team for more information.