Medicare covers FDG-PET scans for the differential diagnosis of fronto-temporal dementia and Alzheimer’s disease under specific requirements.

The patient must meet the diagnostic criteria for both fronto-temporal dementia and Alzheimer’s disease. These are additional conditions that must be met:

- Fronto-temporal dementia is suspected as an alternative cause of the cognitive decline. Symptoms such as social disinhibition, awkwardness, difficulties with language, or loss of executive function are more prominent early in the course of fronto-temporal dementia than the memory loss typical of Alzheimer’s.
- The patient has had a comprehensive clinical evaluation.
- The evaluation has been conducted by a physician experienced in the diagnosis and assessment of dementia.
- The evaluation did not clearly determine a specific neurodegenerative disease, and information from PET is expected to help clarify the diagnosis.
- The PET is performed in an accredited facility such as Anne Arundel Diagnostics Imaging at the Sajak Pavilion located on the AAMC campus at 2002 Medical Parkway, Suite 100, Annapolis.
- If a brain SPECT or PET has previously been obtained for this indication, there has been a change in the scope or severity of cognitive decline.

Documentation of the appropriate evaluation of the patient must be kept in the patient’s medical record, and this must be established by both the referring doctor and the imaging facility. Required documentation to be kept with the patient’s medical record:

- Date of onset of symptoms
- Clinical diagnosis of syndrome such as mild, moderate, or severe dementia
- Mini mental status exam (MMSE) or similar test score
- Presumptive cause such as possible, probable, uncertain Alzheimer’s disease
- Any neuropsychological testing performed
- Results of any structural imaging performed such as MRI or CT
- Relevant lab tests such as B-12, TSH
- Number and name of prescribed medications

To schedule your patient for PET/CT please call 1-888-909-XRAY (9729)

To consult with a nuclear medicine expert regarding dementia PET/CT please call 443-481-5342

www.AADimaging.com