

DEPRESSED ELDERLY COULD BE PUT ON A DEMENTIA REGISTER

ELDERLY patients with depression could be put on 'dementia registers' by GPs with no formal tests.

Official guidance says doctors can use their judgment and knowledge of the patient if it is not appropriate to refer them to a hospital or clinic.

It adds that 'depression could also be considered as it is more common in patients with dementia'.

But some GPs fear many people will be misdiagnosed - and could wrongly lose health insurance cover, driving privileges or employment.

GPs' surgeries are being offered around £3,600 to compile dementia registers. The Government says mass screening is needed to plan long-term care, but critics said it will make old people fear going to the GP.

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