Dementia and Intellectual Disabilities

There have been significant advances in research on Alzheimer’s disease, including the development of blood tests and more sensitive brain scans that can help diagnose Alzheimer’s dementia.

People who are supporting a person with dementia also need support. The NTF also has a Family Support Committee.

Special needs require SpecialCare. When you’re ready, we’re here to help. MassMutual’s SpecialCare program provides access to information, specialists, and financial products and services to help families facing the financial responsibilities of raising a child with a disability or other special needs. To learn more about how a financial professional can help your family, visit MassMutual.com/SpecialCare.

Current trials are promising for the availability of effective treatment options in the near future. As with any new treatment, caution is warranted before starting medications, so it should always weigh the risk and benefits of treatment, and include frank discussions with the clinician, the person for whom treatment is being considered, and the person’s support network, to help ensure that the best decision is made for each person.

Who are the authors?

Dr. Craig Sagafi is a board-certified fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Psychiatry. She has over 20 years of clinical experience providing medical care for people with IDD and complex medical and mental health conditions. She is a faculty member of the BID in Healthcare and the Development of the Curricula in IDD Healthcare, an ongoing course used to teach clinicians on the fundamentals of healthcare for people with IDD. She is also a member of the IDD Health Matters, a task force of the IOG that works on IDD health issues.