

## Home Health ICD-9/ICD-10 Alert

### What is Dementia?

Understand the characteristics behind the diagnosis.

- Dementia is classified as a psychotic organic disorder, says **Judy Adams, RN, BSN, HCS-D, HCS-O**, with **Adams Home Care Consulting** in Asheville, N.C.
- Dementia develops when the parts of the brain involved with learning, memory, decision-making, and language are affected.
- Dementia is characterized by:

Loss of mental function with multiple cognitive deficits, including memory loss.  
Persistence. Dementia isn't curable although symptoms may be treatable.