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FURY AS DEMENTIA DRUG DENIED TO PATIENTS ON NHS

**Breakthrough therapy licensed for use — only for NICE
to say benefits are 'too small' to justify £30,000-a-year cost**

By **Kate Pickles**
Health Editor

THE first drug proven to slow down Alzheimer's disease is being denied to dementia patients — unless they pay to go private.

Regulators yesterday made two landmark decisions — granting a licence for lecanemab in the UK but then refusing to give it to NHS patients on cost grounds.

It means those eligible in England can only access the drug, found to slow cognitive decline by up to six months, if they can afford tens of thousands of pounds a year for private treatment.

Last night, charities warned that the conflicting rulings will cause 'uncertainty and confusion' for up to a million dementia patients and their families, desperate to access treatments.

David Thomas, of Alzheimer's Research UK, said the decisions meant the 'game-changing' drug would probably be out of

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Sofa stars: Jermaine Jenas with co-presenter Alex Jones on The One Show

**BBC sacks
Jermaine
Jenas over
'inappropriate
texts' to a
colleague**

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