**PSA Testing Sessions in Hampshire**

Further to our Wessex Cancer Alliance newsletter in March we wanted to give you more information about the work of the charity ‘**Prostate Cancer Support Organisation’ (PCaSO).** They are running PSA testing sessions in Hampshire and we thought that you should know in case a man contacts the practice asking for an appointment because they have a raised PSA.

The next sessions in Hampshire are :

* Sat 29th Oct 2022, **Eastleigh**
* Sat 26th Nov 2022, **Waterlooville**

PCaSO is a charity run by volunteers, with nearly 1000 members, across Dorset, Hampshire and Sussex providing support and awareness of prostate cancer. They undertake free PSA testing events throughout their region, having tested over 20,000 men in the last 8 years, and as a result many men have been diagnosed early with prostate cancer.

Men can book an appointment online and as part of the informed consent policy, before they decide to book an appointment they can read about PSA testing on the PCaSO website, view a video on PSA testing and prostate cancer given by members of PCaSO together with advice given by Consultant Urologist Prof. Chris Eden, before deciding to proceed to the booking website,

At the event all men are given a PSA information leaflet [ <https://pcaso.org/forms-leaflets/The-PSA-Test-Leaflet-03-22.pdf> ] explaining the pros and cons of PSA testing and also have the opportunity to ask questions. The leaflet was developed in collaboration with PCaSO clinical advisors; Prof Chris Eden, Prof. Chris Parker, and Dr Angus Robinson. It is made very clear to the men that this is not a test to diagnose prostate cancer.

Blood is taken by qualified phlebotomists and tested (for Hampshire events) at Portsmouth University Hospitals NHS Trust, Pathology Dept., results are then sent to their partner charity, Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (GFCT), a prostate cancer charity who also undertake and organise PSA testing throughout the country, where the results are analysed, and graded into:

• **Green** - normal PSA,

• **Amber** - borderline,

• **Red** - raised PSA,

The grading is based on the NICE 2022 guidelines for prostate cancer and any risk factors provided by the men at booking. These results are certified by clinical urologists working with GFCT whose name will appear as the requesting consultant on the Order Communications Software, ICE (Integrated Clinical Environment) pathology results database.

Men are notified by email that their result is available to look up on their password protected personal account at GFCT, or if requested results can be sent by post.

Men with a **red result** are given further information on the result and advised to see their GP. They can also take up the option of a free 15min telephone discussion with the GenesisCare Urology team, a private healthcare provider.

They are also given details of the RAPID trial at Imperial College London Hospital, should they be interested in a referral to Professor Ahmed and his team within 2 weeks following a referral from their GP.

Men with an **amber result** are advised to contact their GP for a repeat test or follow up.

**Green** **results** are given a recommended time interval before their next test.

Men are advised to bring a printed copy of the result letter to their GP appointment.

You can find out more about PCaSO here <https://pcaso.org/>