

Information Prescriptions Project

Current position – baseline

Patients and carers are currently offered and given information at all stages of their care pathway. However, most of our patients are diagnosed at their referring hospital, in the local cancer network. Basic information regarding their disease, further tests and possible treatment options will have been discussed with the patient and supported with written information (according to a minimum information framework for prostate cancer) in the outreach clinic.

Two outpatient clinics held weekly have been selected to trial IPs. Initially it was envisaged that only new patients to the Royal Marsden would be offered an IP which could generate up to 10 IPs. However, some of these patients come for a second opinion and then go back to their referring hospital for further treatment as appropriate. An IP for these patients is generally not appropriate. As active surveillance is an option for patients with localised prostate cancer, some patients will be having regular follow-up appointments at the Marsden before needing to discuss other treatment options. When the CNS attends a clinic, she provides the patient with supporting written information (or other resources) as appropriate. In her absence, the clinician or clinic nurse will provide information that they have easy access to. Many patients are asked to take part in a clinical trial and are consequently given separate relevant information by a member of the clinical research team (clinician/research nurse).

Patients and carers are directed to the Royal Marsden Help Centre where they can access additional information and support.

We have decided to offer IPs to all patients attending the two clinics who have treatment options discussed with them. This is still likely to be about 10 patients a week initially. If IPs are extended to other areas, for example, the radiotherapy department, we can expect numbers to increase.

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