

Evaluation of Prostate Cancer UK's Health Professionals' Education Programme

Executive Summary

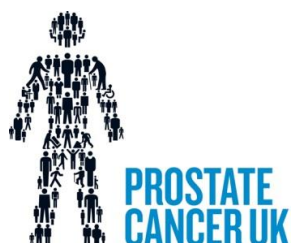
April 2012 – March 2015



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*Prostate Cancer UK **ResearchAbility

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Helping more men survive prostate cancer and enjoy a better quality of life

In the last 3 years

OVER

54,

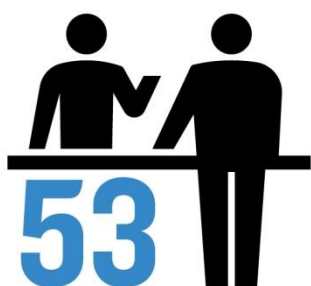


learning hours



12,136

registered for
online learning



53

We presented best practice at 53 conferences and events reaching

4,155 people



31

patients as educators
volunteers spoke at



99

events by
March 2015



health professionals took part
in 63 face to face training days

PROSTATE CANCER UK

100%

of respondents would recommend the training to other health professionals

98%

of delegates thought they had a greater understanding of their patients' needs at the end of the course

94%

of professionals said that their knowledge of prostate cancer was 'good' or 'excellent' after the course

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Supporting Health Professionals?

Supporting Health Professionals is funded by the Movember Foundation. It is made of two linked strands of activity:

- the Education programme, which aims to improve the skills and knowledge of health professionals so they can provide better care to men with prostate cancer.
- the Engagement programme, which aims to position the charity as the first port of call for health professionals in the field of prostate disease who will see the organisation as a one-stop shop for information, advice, resources and support. Through this we aim to empower health professionals to be able to provide the best care and support for men at risk of or living with prostate cancer.

This document is primarily concerned with the evaluation of the Education programme from 2012-2015 and replaces the Education programme interim report produced and disseminated in August 2014.

What is the Education Programme?

Our education programme includes face to face teaching, online learning and educational bursaries. We involve trained volunteers to share personal experiences with health professionals, so they are aware of men's needs. We work together with experts and leading medical organisations, so that we can offer a comprehensive programme that supports health professionals of all disciplines to develop their expertise.

How was it evaluated?

We used evidence from the evaluation forms that are completed for our events or activities; in-depth follow-up interviews with health professionals who had used our services, an online consultation about the impact of the programme and telephone interviews with our organisational partners. We also included existing evaluation reports such as our work on evaluating our Patients as Educators programme.

What are professionals' experiences of the programme?

To date, 2,313 health professionals have attended face to face training, while 12,136 have taken part in online learning.

The programmes are highly thought of, and satisfaction with our services is high, with 100% of respondents stating they would recommend the training to others in a similar position.

What impact has the programme had for men?

There are strong signs of impact on men, via health professionals acting on their learning in practice, in relation to:

- **Improving practitioners' clinical knowledge and awareness.** There was a 65% increase in practitioners rating their knowledge of prostate cancer as good or excellent at the end of training events.
- **Improving practitioner confidence and communication with men with prostate cancer.** In the online consultation and in-depth interviews this was the most recurrent and emphasised impact. Practitioners felt this impact had made a significant difference to the men they worked with. This perceived difference was an improvement in men feeling listened to, treated as an individual, able to make decisions and address side effects of treatment. This was seen as an impact that would be difficult to measure and quantify.
- **Improving the information given to men and their partners.** In the online consultation and in-depth interviews practitioners reported improvements in the content of the information they provided as well as how well they communicated it. Practitioners used Prostate Cancer UK's information sources after attending a training event and felt the quality, accessibility and content was strong.
- **Sharing knowledge with colleagues.** This happened either at face to face training events, through papers delivered at conferences funded by Prostate Cancer UK's bursary scheme, through the Sheffield Hallam University MSc students' virtual networks and through sharing the learning gleaned from Prostate Cancer UK's training with other colleagues in the practitioners' setting or network.
- **Increasing referrals to aligned services and groups.** Practitioners in the in-depth interviews and online consultation reported an increase in the referrals they made for men, in order to meet their holistic needs. This included referral to services to support men around sexual function and erectile dysfunction as well as to talking therapies and healthy living services.
- **Influencing the shape of services offered to men.** There were examples in the online consultation and in-depth interviews of training directly influencing the services provided. This impact was diverse and ranged from the introduction of a pelvic floor physiotherapy-led group to the types of hormone injections first used in treating men with prostate cancer.

For further information please email hpeducation@prostatecanceruk.org.