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Simon Trickett
Chief Executive Officer
NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire
Kirkham House
John Comyn Drive
Perdiswell
Worcester WR3 7NS

18 January 2024
By email

Dear Mr Trickett

Ref: Access to NHS England's 'Informed Choice programme' for PSA testing

As you will be aware, NHS England has put in place the 'Informed Choice Programme' for PSA Testing in the absence of a national prostate cancer screening programme. We are exploring patient experience of accessing the programme as a project in our recently approved Business Plan for 2023-2025.

In partnership with the Kidderminster & Worcestershire Prostate Cancer Support Group we have initially surveyed the experiences of 156 patients who attended events in Wyre Forest and Wychavon District Council areas. The findings from those surveys, which appear to evidence unwarranted variation in patient access to the Programme and hence PSA testing were summarised in the attached report and considered by Healthwatch Worcestershire's Board at its Public Board Meeting on 30 November 2023.

The Directors agreed the recommendations in the report, and I am therefore writing to you at this early stage in the project to draw your attention to this situation as a Quality and potential Patient Safety matter. We will also be writing to the GP Practices that service patients in Worcestershire with a view to both promoting the Informed Choice Programme for PSA Testing and seeking assurance that the Programme is being complied with.



Directors: Jo Ringshall, Simon Adams,
John Taylor, Martin Gallagher, Chris Byrne,
Deborah Lamont & Don Beckett

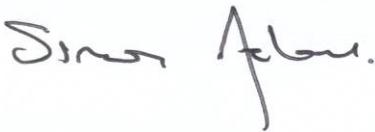
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In due course we will be extending our work to gather the experiences of patients in accessing the Programme who are at higher risk of developing prostate cancer, and those who are over 50 and live with health inequalities. We will also be seeking to understand why unwarranted variation in access might exist; at this early-stage patient feedback suggests that the 'Care Navigator' plays a significant role in accessing the programme.

I would be obliged for any assurance you can provide in relation to the delivery of the Programme by General Practice, and I will keep you informed as the project progresses.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Adams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 's'.

Simon Adams
Managing Director

