



# PROSTATE CANCER CHARTER FOR ACTION

**EMBARGOED: 00.01 11 March 2008**

## **Experts urge action to tackle postcode lottery in prostate cancer deaths**

New figures uncovered by the Prostate Cancer Charter for Action show huge variations in the death rate from prostate cancer, with people in Lewisham over twice as likely to die from the condition as people in nearby Southwark.

The figures also show that 16 of England's Parliamentary constituencies have a death rate from prostate cancer at least 25% worse than the England average.

The figures are revealed as the Prostate Cancer Charter for Action launches its new calls for action – the *Countdown to Equality* – which highlights the inequalities in prostate cancer treatment and what the Government and NHS needs to do to tackle them. Among the top priorities for government in the *Countdown to Equality* are:

- Encouraging earlier presentation, with fewer men being diagnosed with prostate cancer which has spread
- Making accurate information available to all patients
- Increasing the provision of clinical nurse specialists
- Fully implementing the NICE Improving Outcomes Guidance on prostate cancer

Commenting on the figures, Consultant Urologist Dr Frank Chinegwundoh, said:

“More than any other cancer, the story of prostate cancer in the UK remains a story of inequalities. Prostate cancer sufferers report worse care, lower awareness and poorer outcomes than other patients.

“Now these figures show that even amongst prostate cancer patients, a man's chances of dying depends on where he lives. There can be no excuse for these inequalities in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century NHS.

“If the Government's Cancer Reform Strategy is to be a success, then these unacceptable postcode lotteries must be eliminated.”

Notes.

### **Postcode lottery in deaths from prostate cancer**

1. New figures from the Office for National Statistics show stark variations in the death rate from prostate cancer between different areas of the country. The figures show that:

- Deaths from prostate cancer in the Lewisham West Parliamentary constituency stand at 38 per 100,000 people (43% above the England average)
- Deaths from prostate cancer in the North Southwark and Bermondsey constituency – virtually next door to Lewisham West – stand at 15 per 100,000 people: less than half the figure in Lewisham West (44% below the England average)
- The England average death rate from prostate cancer is 26.6 per 100,000 people.



# PROSTATE CANCER CHARTER FOR ACTION

The figures are shown in the table below. Because some areas of the country will have relatively older populations than other areas, age-standardised mortality rates are used in order to provide a direct comparison. The right-hand column illustrates the percentage difference between any specific area and the England average.

<b>Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Deaths per 100,000 population</b>	<b>Percentage above (-below) England average</b>
North Southwark and Bermondsey	15	-44%
Kensington and Chelsea	16	-40%
Manchester, Gorton	17	-36%
Derby South	17	-36%
Newcastle upon Tyne Central	18	-32%
Blackburn	18	-32%
Burnley	18	-32%
Stevenage	18	-32%
Camberwell and Peckham	18	-32%
Cities of London and Westminster	18	-32%
Hendon	18	-32%
Preston	19	-29%
Rochdale	19	-29%
Holborn and St. Pancras	19	-29%
West Ham	19	-29%
Runnymede and Weybridge	19	-29%
Middlesbrough	20	-25%
Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend	20	-25%
Tyne Bridge	20	-25%
Knowsley South	20	-25%
Batley and Spen	20	-25%
Charnwood	20	-25%
Don Valley	21	-21%
Bassetlaw	21	-21%
Stoke-on-Trent North	21	-21%
Hemel Hempstead	21	-21%
Brentford and Isleworth	21	-21%
Enfield, Southgate	21	-21%
Finchley and Golders Green	21	-21%
Hayes and Harlington	21	-21%
Richmond Park	21	-21%
Crawley	21	-21%
North West Hampshire	21	-21%
Portsmouth North	21	-21%
Spelthorne	21	-21%
North Swindon	21	-21%



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Wansbeck	22	-17%
Makerfield	22	-17%
Barnsley East and Mexborough	22	-17%
Bradford West	22	-17%
Halifax	22	-17%
Kingston upon Hull North	22	-17%
Scarborough and Whitby	22	-17%
Rutland and Melton	22	-17%
Walsall North	22	-17%
Wolverhampton North East	22	-17%
North West Cambridgeshire	22	-17%
Sutton and Cheam	22	-17%
Walthamstow	22	-17%
Wimbledon	22	-17%
Brighton, Pavilion	22	-17%
Hastings and Rye	22	-17%
Henley	22	-17%
Mole Valley	22	-17%
Portsmouth South	22	-17%
South Thanet	22	-17%
Southampton, Itchen	22	-17%
South Shields	23	-14%
Sunderland South	23	-14%
Birkenhead	23	-14%
Blackpool North and Fleetwood	23	-14%
Manchester Central	23	-14%
Ribble Valley	23	-14%
Stretford and Urmston	23	-14%
Barnsley Central	23	-14%
Bradford South	23	-14%
Pontefract and Castleford	23	-14%
Selby	23	-14%
Sheffield, Attercliffe	23	-14%
Sheffield, Brightside	23	-14%
Derby North	23	-14%
Harborough	23	-14%
Nottingham East	23	-14%
Sleaford and North Hykeham	23	-14%
Birmingham, Erdington	23	-14%
Birmingham, Ladywood	23	-14%
Birmingham, Northfield	23	-14%
Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath	23	-14%
North Warwickshire	23	-14%
Warwick and Leamington	23	-14%



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Brentwood and Ongar	23	-14%
Broxbourne	23	-14%
Huntingdon	23	-14%
North East Hertfordshire	23	-14%
Welwyn Hatfield	23	-14%
Barking	23	-14%
Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush	23	-14%
Hornchurch	23	-14%
Ilford South	23	-14%
Putney	23	-14%
Fareham	23	-14%
Reading West	23	-14%
Southampton, Test	23	-14%
Bournemouth West	23	-14%
Cheltenham	23	-14%
Salisbury	23	-14%
Berwick-upon-Tweed	24	-10%
Blyth Valley	24	-10%
Bolton South East	24	-10%
Bolton West	24	-10%
Cheadle	24	-10%
Crewe and Nantwich	24	-10%
Hazel Grove	24	-10%
Macclesfield	24	-10%
Wallasey	24	-10%
Warrington North	24	-10%
West Lancashire	24	-10%
Colne Valley	24	-10%
Keighley	24	-10%
Leeds West	24	-10%
Morley and Rothwell	24	-10%
Rotherham	24	-10%
Wakefield	24	-10%
Boston and Skegness	24	-10%
Corby	24	-10%
Leicester East	24	-10%
North West Leicestershire	24	-10%
Nottingham South	24	-10%
Birmingham, Hodge Hill	24	-10%
Halesowen and Rowley Regis	24	-10%
Meriden	24	-10%
Stoke-on-Trent Central	24	-10%
Stone	24	-10%
Wolverhampton South East	24	-10%
Billericay	24	-10%



# PROSTATE CANCER CHARTER FOR ACTION

Cambridge	24	-10%
Luton South	24	-10%
Maldon and East Chelmsford	24	-10%
Norwich South	24	-10%
Bethnal Green and Bow	24	-10%
Croydon North	24	-10%
Hammersmith and Fulham	24	-10%
Harrow East	24	-10%
Islington South and Finsbury	24	-10%
Aldershot	24	-10%
Folkestone and Hythe	24	-10%
Bath	24	-10%
Bournemouth East	24	-10%
Christchurch	24	-10%
Mid Dorset and North Poole	24	-10%
Plymouth, Sutton	24	-10%
Torbay	24	-10%
Weston-super-Mare	24	-10%
Bishop Auckland	25	-6%
Hexham	25	-6%
North West Durham	25	-6%
Stockton South	25	-6%
Chorley	25	-6%
Ellesmere Port and Neston	25	-6%
Hyndburn	25	-6%
Liverpool, Riverside	25	-6%
Liverpool, Walton	25	-6%
Manchester, Blackley	25	-6%
Warrington South	25	-6%
Weaver Vale	25	-6%
Wigan	25	-6%
Wythenshawe and Sale East	25	-6%
Beverley and Holderness	25	-6%
Bradford North	25	-6%
City of York	25	-6%
Doncaster North	25	-6%
Haltemprice and Howden	25	-6%
Leeds North East	25	-6%
Blaby	25	-6%
Bolsover	25	-6%
Bosworth	25	-6%
Erewash	25	-6%
Gedling	25	-6%
Grantham and Stamford	25	-6%
Leicester South	25	-6%



# PROSTATE CANCER CHARTER FOR ACTION

Loughborough	25	-6%
Birmingham, Edgbaston	25	-6%
Birmingham, Hall Green	25	-6%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	25	-6%
Redditch	25	-6%
Solihull	25	-6%
Epping Forest	25	-6%
Harlow	25	-6%
Saffron Walden	25	-6%
Waveney	25	-6%
Carshalton and Wallington	25	-6%
Chingford and Woodford Green	25	-6%
Dulwich and West Norwood	25	-6%
East Ham	25	-6%
Edmonton	25	-6%
Ruislip-Northwood	25	-6%
Uxbridge	25	-6%
Vauxhall	25	-6%
Bracknell	25	-6%
Dover	25	-6%
East Hampshire	25	-6%
Guildford	25	-6%
Maidstone and The Weald	25	-6%
Reading East	25	-6%
Sittingbourne and Sheppey	25	-6%
Slough	25	-6%
Wycombe	25	-6%
Bristol West	25	-6%
North Devon	25	-6%
North Dorset	25	-6%
Northavon	25	-6%
Blaydon	26	-2%
Darlington	26	-2%
Gateshead East and Washington West	26	-2%
North Durham	26	-2%
Tynemouth	26	-2%
Altrincham and Sale West	26	-2%
Barrow and Furness	26	-2%
Copeland	26	-2%
Fylde	26	-2%
Lancaster and Wyre	26	-2%
Leigh	26	-2%
Liverpool, Garston	26	-2%
Manchester, Withington	26	-2%



# PROSTATE CANCER CHARTER FOR ACTION

Oldham West and Royton	26	-2%
Barnsley West and Penistone	26	-2%
Doncaster Central	26	-2%
East Yorkshire	26	-2%
Harrogate and Knaresborough	26	-2%
Kingston upon Hull East	26	-2%
Leeds Central	26	-2%
Scunthorpe	26	-2%
Shipley	26	-2%
Skipton and Ripon	26	-2%
Northampton North	26	-2%
Mid Worcestershire	26	-2%
Shrewsbury and Atcham	26	-2%
Stoke-on-Trent South	26	-2%
Stratford-on-Avon	26	-2%
Tamworth	26	-2%
Warley	26	-2%
Basildon	26	-2%
Bedford	26	-2%
Bury St. Edmunds	26	-2%
Mid Bedfordshire	26	-2%
North East Cambridgeshire	26	-2%
Rayleigh	26	-2%
Rochford and Southend East	26	-2%
West Chelmsford	26	-2%
Beckenham	26	-2%
Brent East	26	-2%
Hampstead and Highgate	26	-2%
Lewisham East	26	-2%
Upminster	26	-2%
Ashford	26	-2%
Aylesbury	26	-2%
Basingstoke	26	-2%
Canterbury	26	-2%
Epsom and Ewell	26	-2%
Hove	26	-2%
Maidenhead	26	-2%
Mid Sussex	26	-2%
North Thanet	26	-2%
Oxford East	26	-2%
Tunbridge Wells	26	-2%
Wantage	26	-2%
Woking	26	-2%
Wokingham	26	-2%
Bridgwater	26	-2%



# PROSTATE CANCER CHARTER FOR ACTION

Bristol East	26	-2%
Plymouth, Devonport	26	-2%
South Dorset	26	-2%
South Swindon	26	-2%
Tewkesbury	26	-2%
Yeovil	26	-2%
Easington	27	1%
Newcastle upon Tyne North	27	1%
North Tyneside	27	1%
Sedgefield	27	1%
Bootle	27	1%
Bury North	27	1%
Crosby	27	1%
Liverpool, Wavertree	27	1%
Morecambe and Lunesdale	27	1%
Pendle	27	1%
Rossendale and Darwen	27	1%
Stockport	27	1%
Westmorland and Lonsdale	27	1%
Wirral South	27	1%
Dewsbury	27	1%
Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle	27	1%
Leeds North West	27	1%
Normanton	27	1%
Sheffield, Heeley	27	1%
Chesterfield	27	1%
High Peak	27	1%
Lincoln	27	1%
Rushcliffe	27	1%
Wellingborough	27	1%
Aldridge-Brownhills	27	1%
Birmingham, Yardley	27	1%
Coventry North East	27	1%
Nuneaton	27	1%
Castle Point	27	1%
Colchester	27	1%
Luton North	27	1%
Mid Norfolk	27	1%
Norwich North	27	1%
South Norfolk	27	1%
South West Bedfordshire	27	1%
Brent North	27	1%
Chipping Barnet	27	1%
Croydon Central	27	1%



# PROSTATE CANCER CHARTER FOR ACTION

Dagenham	27	1%
Ealing, Southall	27	1%
Enfield North	27	1%
Greenwich and Woolwich	27	1%
Harrow West	27	1%
Hornsey and Wood Green	27	1%
Mitcham and Morden	27	1%
Poplar and Canning Town	27	1%
Esher and Walton	27	1%
Havant	27	1%
New Forest East	27	1%
New Forest West	27	1%
Newbury	27	1%
Witney	27	1%
Bristol South	27	1%
North Wiltshire	27	1%
South East Cornwall	27	1%
Taunton	27	1%
Wansdyke	27	1%
Houghton and Washington East	28	5%
Redcar	28	5%
Blackpool South	28	5%
Bolton North East	28	5%
Denton and Reddish	28	5%
Eccles	28	5%
Eddisbury	28	5%
Halton	28	5%
Knowsley North and Sefton East	28	5%
Liverpool, West Derby	28	5%
Southport	28	5%
St. Helens North	28	5%
Workington	28	5%
Brigg and Goole	28	5%
Calder Valley	28	5%
Elmet	28	5%
Huddersfield	28	5%
Richmond (Yorks)	28	5%
Ryedale	28	5%
Wentworth	28	5%
Louth and Horncastle	28	5%
Mansfield	28	5%
North East Derbyshire	28	5%
Bromsgrove	28	5%
Coventry North West	28	5%
Dudley North	28	5%



# PROSTATE CANCER CHARTER FOR ACTION

Leominster	28	5%
North Shropshire	28	5%
The Wrekin	28	5%
Walsall South	28	5%
West Bromwich East	28	5%
West Worcestershire	28	5%
North Norfolk	28	5%
South Suffolk	28	5%
Southend West	28	5%
West Suffolk	28	5%
Bexleyheath and Crayford	28	5%
Orpington	28	5%
Regent's Park and North Kensington	28	5%
Tooting	28	5%
Beaconsfield	28	5%
Dartford	28	5%
East Surrey	28	5%
Eastleigh	28	5%
Gravesham	28	5%
Horsham	28	5%
Lewes	28	5%
South West Surrey	28	5%
Worthing West	28	5%
Gloucester	28	5%
South West Devon	28	5%
St. Ives	28	5%
Stroud	28	5%
Teignbridge	28	5%
Torridge and West Devon	28	5%
Wells	28	5%
West Dorset	28	5%
Westbury	28	5%
Hartlepool	29	9%
Jarrow	29	9%
Salford	29	9%
South Ribble	29	9%
St. Helens South	29	9%
Stalybridge and Hyde	29	9%
Tatton	29	9%
Leeds East	29	9%
Sheffield, Hallam	29	9%
Sheffield, Hillsborough	29	9%
Leicester West	29	9%
South Derbyshire	29	9%



# PROSTATE CANCER CHARTER FOR ACTION

West Derbyshire	29	9%
Burton	29	9%
Rugby and Kenilworth	29	9%
Stafford	29	9%
Sutton Coldfield	29	9%
Central Suffolk and North Ipswich	29	9%
Harwich	29	9%
Hertford and Stortford	29	9%
North Essex	29	9%
South West Norfolk	29	9%
Bromley and Chislehurst	29	9%
Feltham and Heston	29	9%
Ilford North	29	9%
Kingston and Surbiton	29	9%
Chesham and Amersham	29	9%
Chichester	29	9%
Gillingham	29	9%
Reigate	29	9%
Sevenoaks	29	9%
Bristol North West	29	9%
Kingswood	29	9%
Totnes	29	9%
Truro and St. Austell	29	9%
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	30	13%
Stockton North	30	13%
Bury South	30	13%
Congleton	30	13%
Worsley	30	13%
Great Grimsby	30	13%
Pudsey	30	13%
Vale of York	30	13%
Amber Valley	30	13%
Ashfield	30	13%
Kettering	30	13%
Dudley South	30	13%
Hereford	30	13%
Hitchin and Harpenden	30	13%
North West Norfolk	30	13%
South Cambridgeshire	30	13%
South East Cambridgeshire	30	13%
Croydon South	30	13%
Ealing North	30	13%
Eltham	30	13%
Hackney North and Stoke	30	13%



# PROSTATE CANCER CHARTER FOR ACTION

Newington		
Hackney South and Shoreditch	30	13%
Streatham	30	13%
Twickenham	30	13%
Banbury	30	13%
Bexhill and Battle	30	13%
Brighton, Kempdown	30	13%
Chatham and Aylesford	30	13%
East Worthing and Shoreham	30	13%
Isle of Wight	30	13%
North East Hampshire	30	13%
Oxford West and Abingdon	30	13%
Romsey	30	13%
Tonbridge and Malling	30	13%
Wealden	30	13%
Winchester	30	13%
Devizes	30	13%
Exeter	30	13%
Falmouth and Camborne	30	13%
Forest of Dean	30	13%
Sunderland North	31	17%
Ashton under Lyne	31	17%
City of Chester	31	17%
Penrith and The Border	31	17%
Wirral West	31	17%
Cleethorpes	31	17%
Rother Valley	31	17%
Daventry	31	17%
Newark	31	17%
Nottingham North	31	17%
Birmingham, Selly Oak	31	17%
South Staffordshire	31	17%
Telford	31	17%
West Bromwich West	31	17%
Wolverhampton South West	31	17%
Worcester	31	17%
Wyre Forest	31	17%
Hertsmere	31	17%
Ipswich	31	17%
Peterborough	31	17%
South West Hertfordshire	31	17%
St. Albans	31	17%
Thurrock	31	17%
Battersea	31	17%
Erith and Thamesmead	31	17%



# PROSTATE CANCER CHARTER FOR ACTION

Buckingham	31	17%
Faversham and Mid Kent	31	17%
East Devon	31	17%
North Cornwall	31	17%
Woodspring	31	17%
City of Durham	32	20%
Heywood and Middleton	32	20%
Hemsworth	32	20%
Sheffield Central	32	20%
Broxtowe	32	20%
Gainsborough	32	20%
Northampton South	32	20%
Birmingham, Perry Barr	32	20%
Great Yarmouth	32	20%
North East Bedfordshire	32	20%
Islington North	32	20%
Leyton and Wanstead	32	20%
Old Bexley and Sidcup	32	20%
Tottenham	32	20%
Arundel and South Downs	32	20%
Bognor Regis and Littlehampton	32	20%
Eastbourne	32	20%
Windsor	32	20%
Poole	32	20%
Coventry South	33	24%
Staffordshire Moorlands	33	24%
Braintree	33	24%
Suffolk Coastal	33	24%
Watford	33	24%
Romford	33	24%
Medway	33	24%
Cotswold	33	24%
Somerton and Frome	33	24%
Oldham East and Saddleworth	34	28%
Sherwood	34	28%
South Holland and The Deepings	34	28%
Cannock Chase	34	28%
Lichfield	34	28%
Ludlow	34	28%
Stourbridge	34	28%
Gosport	34	28%
Carlisle	35	32%
North East Milton Keynes	35	32%
Surrey Heath	35	32%
Tiverton and Honiton	35	32%



# PROSTATE CANCER CHARTER FOR ACTION

Lewisham, Deptford	36	35%
Milton Keynes South West	37	39%
Brent South	38	43%
Lewisham West	38	43%

The figures are for the period 2001-05 (the latest period for which figures are available). The original documents are available from the Prostate Cancer Charter for Action, or from the House of Commons Library (where they were placed on 4 March 2008).

## The growing burden of prostate cancer

2. Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men, and is responsible for 25% of newly diagnosed cancer cases (NHS Direct, Cancer of the prostate, 26 February 2008; available here: <http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/articles/article.aspx?articleId=82#>). It is a major, and growing, disease:

- Each year, almost 30,000 men in England are diagnosed with prostate cancer (28,886 new registrations in 2005), and this number is set to increase by 7,817 (27%) by 2021 (*Hansard*, 26 February 2008, Col. 1473W; available here: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080226/text/80226w0027.htm#0802273001867>)
- The hospital costs of treating prostate cancer are set to rise from £60.7 million in 2006 to £82.7 million in 2021 in real terms – an increase of £21.9 million (36%) (Department of Health, *Analysis of the Department of Health's cancer reform strategy on projected cancer in-patient costs, broken down by gender and type of cancer*, 14 January 2008; available here: <http://www.parliament.uk/deposits/depositedpapers/2008/DEP2008-0095.xls>).
- In 2006, 8,506 men died from prostate cancer – an increase of 524 (7%) over 1997 levels (*Hansard*, 5 February 2008, Col. 1052WA; available here: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080205/text/80205w0023.htm#08020563008047>).

## Inequalities in prostate cancer care

3. The Prostate Cancer Charter for Action's *Countdown to Equality* is being launched at a reception for parliamentarians in the House of Commons on 11 March 2008, at the height of Prostate Cancer Awareness Week (10-16 March 2008).

The *Countdown to Equality* sets out the actions the Government needs to take to make the care, management and experience of prostate cancer sufferers equal – both around the country and between different cancers. Examples of the inequalities the measures in *Countdown to Equality* seeks to address are:

- The widespread and unacceptable variations in the death rate from prostate cancer (highlighted in note (1), above)
- Prostate cancer patients have a worse experience of their treatment compared to other cancers. Prostate cancer patients are more likely than other cancer patients to wait longer for their treatment, have their appointments cancelled, and receive less information than they would like about their condition; and are less likely than other cancer patients to



# PROSTATE CANCER CHARTER FOR ACTION

have their treatment discussed, be given information about support groups, and have a named nurse in charge of their care (National Audit Office, *Tackling cancer: improving the patient journey*, 25 February 2005; available here:

[http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao\\_reports/04-05/0405288.pdf](http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/04-05/0405288.pdf)).

- The postcode lottery in treating prostate cancer patients, highlighted by the fact that a recent Government audit showed that seven of England's 30 Cancer Networks were not on course to have implemented the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's *Improving Outcomes Guidance on Urological Cancers* by the December 2007 deadline (*Hansard*, 26 February 2008, Col. 1454W; available here: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080226/text/80226w0023.htm#0802273001787>).
- A recent report by the Prostate Cancer Charter for Action highlighted the results of an audit showing a threefold variation between different Cancer Networks in the provision of specialist nurses for urological cancers (Prostate Cancer Charter for Action, *Because Men Matter: The Case for Clinical Nurse Specialists in Prostate Cancer*, 19 November 2007; available here: <http://www.prostatecharter.org.uk/lib/docs/because%20men%20matter%20-%20the%20case%20for%20clinical%20nurse%20specialists%20in%20prostate%20cancer.pdf>).

4. The inequalities in cancer care were highlighted in the Department of Health's Cancer Reform Strategy, published 3 December 2007, which said that:

*"There are major inequalities in cancer incidence, access to services and outcomes, according to deprivation, race, age, gender disability, religion and sexual orientation. This strategy therefore places a high priority on ensuring that action is taken to reduce these inequalities."*

Source: Department of Health, *Cancer Reform Strategy*, 3 December 2007; available here: [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_081006?IdcService=GET\\_FILE&dID=155603&Rendition=Web](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081006?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=155603&Rendition=Web).

## **The Countdown to Equality**

5. The *Countdown to Equality* is published today, and outlines the actions which the Government and the NHS needs to take in order to:

- Reduce the number of men being diagnosed late with prostate cancer
- Improve the cancer experience of men with prostate cancer to the equal of other cancers
- Level up outcomes across the country so that all patients have an equally good chance of surviving prostate cancer and maintaining their quality of life
- Plan effectively to deliver world-class prostate cancer services in the future

Among the priorities for action are:

- Encouraging earlier presentation, with fewer men being diagnosed with prostate cancer that has spread. The Government must move faster on revising the Prostate Cancer Risk Management Programme and then ensuring that it is used appropriately



# PROSTATE CANCER CHARTER FOR ACTION

- Making accurate information available to all patients. The Government must ensure that patients have access to high quality information on all aspects of prostate cancer, including on the quality of NHS services available to them
- Increasing the provision of clinical nurse specialists. The Government must ensure that services act on the statements in the Cancer Reform Strategy, ending the inequalities in access to clinical nurse specialists
- Fully implementing the Improving Outcomes Guidance. The Government must take steps to ensure that every prostate cancer service is compliant with the core minimum standards set out by NICE

The *Countdown to Equality* is available on the Prostate Cancer Charter for Action's website, here: <http://www.prostatecharter.org.uk>.

## **About the Prostate Cancer Charter for Action**

6. The Prostate Cancer Charter for Action is a campaigning coalition of key voluntary sector and professional organisations committed to the fight against prostate cancer. We believe that we can achieve more by campaigning together for better research, awareness, care and treatment to improve the lives of men with prostate cancer and those who will develop the disease in the future.

7. The launch of the Countdown to Equality has kindly been supported by Oncura, sanofi-aventis and the signatories themselves. The signatories alone retain control of all policy and editorial decisions.

8. For any media enquiries, please contact Mike Birtwistle on 07977 907 555 or Bill Morgan on 07960 154 355.