

Summary of Collaborative Working Project outputs between Astellas Pharma Ltd and Mount Vernon Cancer Centre, East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust, Rickmansworth Road, Northwood, HA6 2RN

Prostate Cancer Patient Reported Outcome Measures through Non-Medical Prescriber patient-initiated follow-up

July 2026

Objective:

Publishing outputs from the “Prostate Cancer (PC) Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROM's) through Non-Medical Prescriber (NMP) patient-initiated follow-up (PIFU)” collaborative working project. The project has been fully funded by Astellas & developed in partnership with Mount Vernon Cancer Centre, East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust, Astellas Pharma Ltd and Evergreen Health Solutions Ltd through collaborative working

Summary:

New Prostate Cancer cases account for 28% of all new cancer cases in males with 57,898 patients diagnosed every year in the UK^[1]. This creates a burden on capacity for the NHS within Prostate Cancer clinics in times of restricted NHS budgets.

The objective of PC PROM's project was to develop an ePROM's (electronic PROM's) NMP-led clinic “toolkit” to enable appropriate, stable patients with PC on treatment with oral systemic anti-cancer therapy (SACT) to complete questionnaires to enable appropriate risk stratification and personalised follow-up care. The final developed toolkit was embedded into the PC Oral SACT pathway to manage appropriate follow-up patients. The value of the project was £25,000.

Project overview:

Principal Stages of project.	• Co-design of patient questionnaire on a secure digital platform aligned with data governance requirements • Patient recruitment for ePROM's pilot phase; including patient education of ePROM's • Pilot system validation with 17 patients with comprehensive evaluation, patient and staff feedback and staff training/support • Questionnaire sent by email or text a few days prior to booked appointment, post bloods • Parallel telephone follow-up appointments validated questionnaire responses against clinical assessment in pilot phase • Full implementation with further patient enrolment for final phase of project • Final evaluation with anonymised patient and staff feed-back
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Outputs of the project	• 55 patients successfully enrolled from an NMP patient list of 121 (June 2026) • Patient receives questionnaire a few days before booked appointment, via text or email and is required to complete within 24 hours from receipt. • Questionnaire has 41 total questions within 15 categories, each question contains 1-5 severity markers; if no change within a category, the patient can move onto next category without need to answer its questions • High patient and staff satisfaction with toolkit, following anonymised questionnaires • Original 20-minute NMP follow-up appointments, now reduced to 10 minutes for enrolled patients • Carbon footprint saving as patients no longer required to travel. On average 4.2Kg CO₂ was saved per patient per appointment per year ^{[2]*} • New Oral SACT pathway that includes ePROM's toolkit questionnaire
Benefits of the project	• Transitioning from paper-based processes to digital ways of working • Potential to improve clinic capacity • Improved patient and staff satisfaction • Initial 20-minute appointment slots down to an average of 10 minutes/slot • Patients no longer required to travel into hospital when using ePROM's • NMP experience: more focused clinic conversations, less time taken to go through unnecessary questions, more time to dictate, write prescriptions, print blood forms and record patient outcome • Potential Carbon footprint reduction for NHS Trust

References:

[1] Cancer Research UK, Prostate Cancer statistics, 2019, 2021-2022: last accessed July 2026

[2]* based upon anonymised patient travel data for face-to-face appointments. Calculation used the following references:

- RAC Foundation. FAQs about road transport and the environment. Available at: <https://www.racfoundation.org/motoring-faqs/environment>. Last accessed: July 2026
- GOV.UK. The Social Costs of Carbon (SCC) Review. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7ba114ed915d41476219e4/aeat-scc-report.pdf>. Last accessed: July 2026;
- GOV.UK. PPN002 Guide to using the social value model. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ppn-002-taking-account-of-social-value-in-the-award-of-contracts/ppn-002-guide-to-using-the-social-value-model-html>. Last accessed: July 2026