



Western Health



An Australian Government Initiative

PROSTATE CANCER SURVIVORSHIP SHARED CARE



Commencing July 2017

Western Health will soon be implementing a new 'shared care' model for prostate cancer patients.

Increasing numbers of men who have had prostate cancer require regular clinical follow-up. This is due to the rising incidence of prostate cancer and improving survival rates. General practitioners play a vital role in managing these patients.

Shared care between GPs and specialists improves patients outcomes. It also provides a team-based approach, improving links between specialist teams and GPs.

BENEFITS OF SHARED CARE



- Increased patient satisfaction
- Improved adherence to treatment
- Improved patient engagement
- Better quality care

How does shared care work?

The shared care model is for patients with low to moderate risk prostate cancer only.

- Shared care commences after the patients have undergone active treatment (either surgery or radiotherapy).
- Some of the routine post treatment follow up visits are carried out by the patient's GP rather than the specialist.
- The GP and patient follow a specialist-designed schedule, completing regular PSA testing and reviewing a Survivorship Care Plan to ensure that all patient needs are addressed.
- The GP will be supported by, and can regularly communicate with, the hospital regarding ongoing follow-up care.
- The GP will have rapid access to the specialist if follow-up raises a clinical issue requiring urgent specialist consultation or advice.

For more information contact:

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- Find out more about prostate cancer pathways at melbourne.healthpathways.org.au