

Unmet Need Call: Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) Monitoring

Health Network North (a partnership between the Academic Health Science Network for the North East and North Cumbria (AHSN NENC) and the Innovation Super Network) are working with South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, to launch a new unmet need challenge, connecting innovators and exploring collaborations that improve health outcomes.

The search is on to find a partner to help with the development of a device, allowing patients to self-test for their serum/blood Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) concentrations, within a home or community setting. We are looking for innovative technologies capable for use by prostate cancer patients, or their carers.

There are many potential benefits for patients and the NHS, including a reduced burden of hospital outpatient appointments and patient footfall into hospitals and GP surgeries, which has even greater significance due to the pandemic.

The project is supported by the Northern Cancer Alliance, as a result of its work on Prostate Cancer follow up. Applications are welcomed from companies of all sizes, individuals, NHS teams and charities interested in forming collaborations to develop the device to address this unmet need.

The deadline for the PSA call is **12 noon on Friday 22nd April 2022** and expressions of interest can be submitted here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/PA78JG/>



HEALTH NETWORK NORTH



Background:

We are looking for the development of a device to enable patients to safely and accurately self-test their own PSA levels within a home or community setting. This will meet an important unmet clinical need, which will benefit both patients and the NHS.

How will it address the challenges?

- A device to meet this need will align with the NHS Long Term Plan, setting out how the NHS will move towards a new service model giving patients more options, better support and properly joined-up care at the right time, and in optimal care settings.
- Over the next five years, the NHS Long Term Plan proposes that healthcare technologies, together with redesigned hospital support, will reduce up to a third of outpatient appointments, saving patients 30 million trips to hospital and the NHS over £1 billion each year.
- A wide-ranging and funded programme to upgrade technology and digitally enabled care across the NHS, will allow patients and carers to better manage their own health and reduce pressures on GP practices and hospital outpatient departments.
- Innovators are encouraged to submit ideas for a device which will enable patients to self-test their PSA levels within the home or a community setting, aligning with the LTP as currently patients are often required to attend six monthly Secondary Healthcare Oncology Services for routine monitoring. A majority are well and do not otherwise need to see a healthcare professional.
- PSA testing is clinically justified and required, but it is not always necessary to attend clinics for these tests. Unnecessary clinic visits or hospital stays could be avoided if patients could use services within their community, in a similar fashion to patients with diabetes self-testing their own blood glucose levels from finger-prick capillary blood samples; or potentially using the device within a community or primary care setting where it might be accessed by multiple patients as a hub for the PSA tests.
- The device will help to promote “patient self-care”, which is associated with significant positive implications for patients, and also promoted by NHS England, to improve outcomes, save money and help people stay well and manage their own conditions better.