

## Male cancer awareness week - September 16 – 21

### Background

Male cancer awareness week is an annual campaign dedicated to raising awareness about male-specific cancers, including prostate, testicular, and penile cancers.

Organized by the charity Orchid, this week focuses on educating men and the wider public about the importance of early detection, the signs and symptoms of these cancers, and the need for regular check-ups.

The campaign also aims to break down the stigma surrounding male cancers and encourages men to take an active role in their health and seek medical advice if they notice any unusual changes.

### **Case study**

[Shaun's film](#) - a short film including Shaun, a urology specialist nurse and a learning disability nurse.

Shaun is a 52-year-old man with a learning disability and multiple health issues including diabetes, asthma, eczema, long COVID and prostate cancer. Shaun and the nurses describe how using a hospital passport means Shaun gets the reasonable adjustments he needs, staff know what medication he takes and he knows when future hospital appointments are, so he doesn't miss anything.

Shaun tells his story because he wants people to know that they shouldn't be scared. "Go to the doctors and take someone with you if it will help."

### **Social media**

- In this new [film](#) Shaun describes how using a hospital passport helps him get the care he needs for his prostate cancer. It tells health staff about his reasonable adjustments and what support works best for him. Shaun wants people to know that if they are worried about anything to do with their health they shouldn't be embarrassed to go to the doctors.
- This Male Cancer Awareness Week, we're sharing [Shaun's story](#). He has prostate cancer and wants men to know it's OK to ask for help. Take a friend or family member with you to the doctor if it makes you feel better.
- [Shaun's message](#) is simple: don't be afraid to see a doctor if something doesn't feel right. Male Cancer Awareness Week reminds us that early check-ups can save lives. Whether it's prostate, testicular or other cancers - getting checked is important.
- This week it is Male Cancer Awareness Week. This important week helps us learn about prostate, testicular and penile cancers. If you notice any unusual changes in your body, see your doctor. [\(Link to easy read information\)](#).

- Male Cancer Awareness Week reminds us that men need to look after their health too. Prostate, testicular and penile cancers affect thousands of men each year. Regular check-ups and knowing the signs can make all the difference. ([Link to easy read information](#)).

### Bulletin copy

#### **Shaun's story: Male Cancer Awareness Week**

This week is Male Cancer Awareness Week and we're launching [Shaun's story](#). Shaun is a 52-year-old man with a learning disability who was diagnosed with prostate cancer alongside other health conditions including diabetes and asthma.

Shaun describes how a hospital passport can help people with a learning disability get the reasonable adjustments they need at appointments and during treatment. In the film he urges men to go to the doctors if they are worried about anything.

[Male Cancer Awareness Week](#) raises awareness about prostate, testicular and penile cancers, encouraging early detection and breaking down stigma surrounding male health issues.

### Relevant hashtags and tags

#OrchidMaleCancerAwarenessWeek  
#MaleCancerAwareness  
#ProstateCancer  
#TesticularCancer  
#MensHealth

@ProstateUK  
@RotherhamNHS\_FT

### Resources to share

Here are some resources aimed at people with a learning disability and autistic people.

#### Prostate

Easy read

- [Symptoms-of-prostate-cancer \(suffolkordinarylives.co.uk\)](#)
- [Find-out-about-your-prostate](#)
- [Symptoms of prostate cancer \(macmillan.org.uk\)](#)
- [Treatments for prostate cancer \(macmillan.co.uk\)](#)

#### Testicular

Easy read

- [How to check your balls \(testicles\)](#)
- [A Guide to checking your balls \(testes\) \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#)
- [Testicular Cancer Resources | Thera Trust](#)

### General cancer resources

#### Easy read

- [Cancer information and support from Macmillan](#)
- [Information About Cancer and Cancer Screening from Mencap](#)
- [Resources about cancer for people with learning disabilities from Cancer Research UK](#)
- [Easy read booklets from Marie Curie UK](#)
- Books beyond words - [Cancer series](#)

#### Films

- Be Cancer Aware - <https://youtu.be/laL-RcyQ9Vs>
- Northern Cancer Alliance – Be cancer aware - <https://youtu.be/9YR8E01CXas>
- Northern Cancer Alliance – Signs to look out for - <https://youtu.be/laL-RcyQ9Vs>