

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

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AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÄNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

HSS(MD)43/2009

To:

All General Practitioners – to share with Practice Nurses
Consultant Urologists
Consultant Histopathologists

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Your Ref:
Our Ref: HSS(MD)43/2009
Date: 6 October 2009

Dear Colleague

PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING: REVISED PROSTATE CANCER RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (PCRMP) INFORMATION MATERIALS NOW AVAILABLE

You may be aware that two new research papers on prostate cancer screening were published in the New England Journal of Medicine^{1,2} in March of this year. One of the papers showed that the risk of dying from prostate cancer was reduced amongst those screened by 20%, but around 48 men had to be treated to save one life.

As a result of this new research, the PCRMP information materials for primary care have been revised. They have also been revised based on a literature review and formal evaluation of the original materials by the Cancer Research UK Primary Care Education Research Group at the University of Oxford. The revised materials have been signed off by the PCRMP Scientific Reference Group and the UK National Screening Committee, and the approach of the PCRMP is in line with the position statement of the European Association of Urology (16 April 2009).

The PCRMP aims to ensure that men without any symptoms of prostate cancer considering having a PSA test are given information concerning the benefits, limitations and risks associated with having the test. The information materials consist of:

- A reference booklet for GPs discussing all the available evidence
- A summary sheet for GPs to help in consultations with men
- A patient information sheet
- Cancer Research UK statistics on prostate cancer

¹. Schröder et al, N Engl J Med 2009; 360:1320-8

². Andriole et al, N Eng J Med 2009; 360:1310-9

