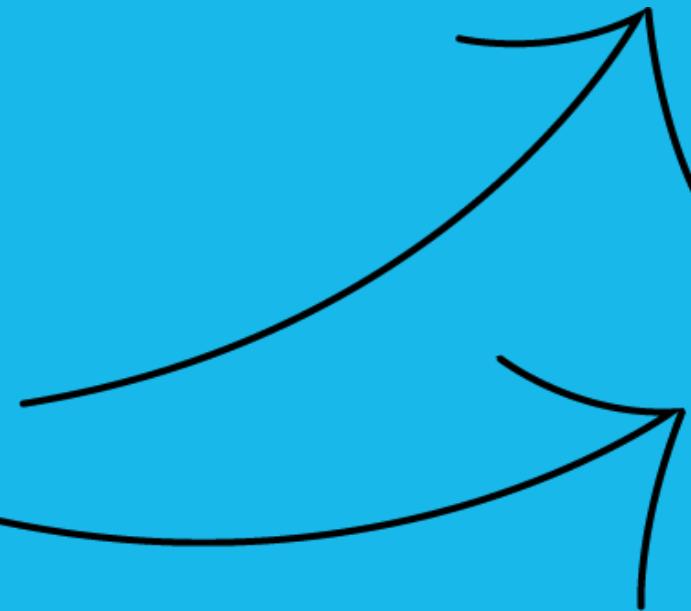


Hot Topics February 2026

Recent policy updates, clinical trials, biomarker innovations, and evolving guidelines shaping personalised care and improved outcomes



Executive Summary: Major UK Prostate Cancer Updates



Prostate Cancer Prevalence and Policy Updates

Prostate cancer is now the most common cancer among UK men.

NICE approved abiraterone for high-risk localised prostate cancer, enabling NHS England rollout.

The UK National Screening Committee opened consultation for targeted genetic screening.



Guidelines and Treatment Advances

Important guideline revisions from NCCN, ESMO, and EAU emerged.

Advances in biomarker research and immunotherapy offer personalised medicine insights.

National audits validate treatment safety and real-world effectiveness.



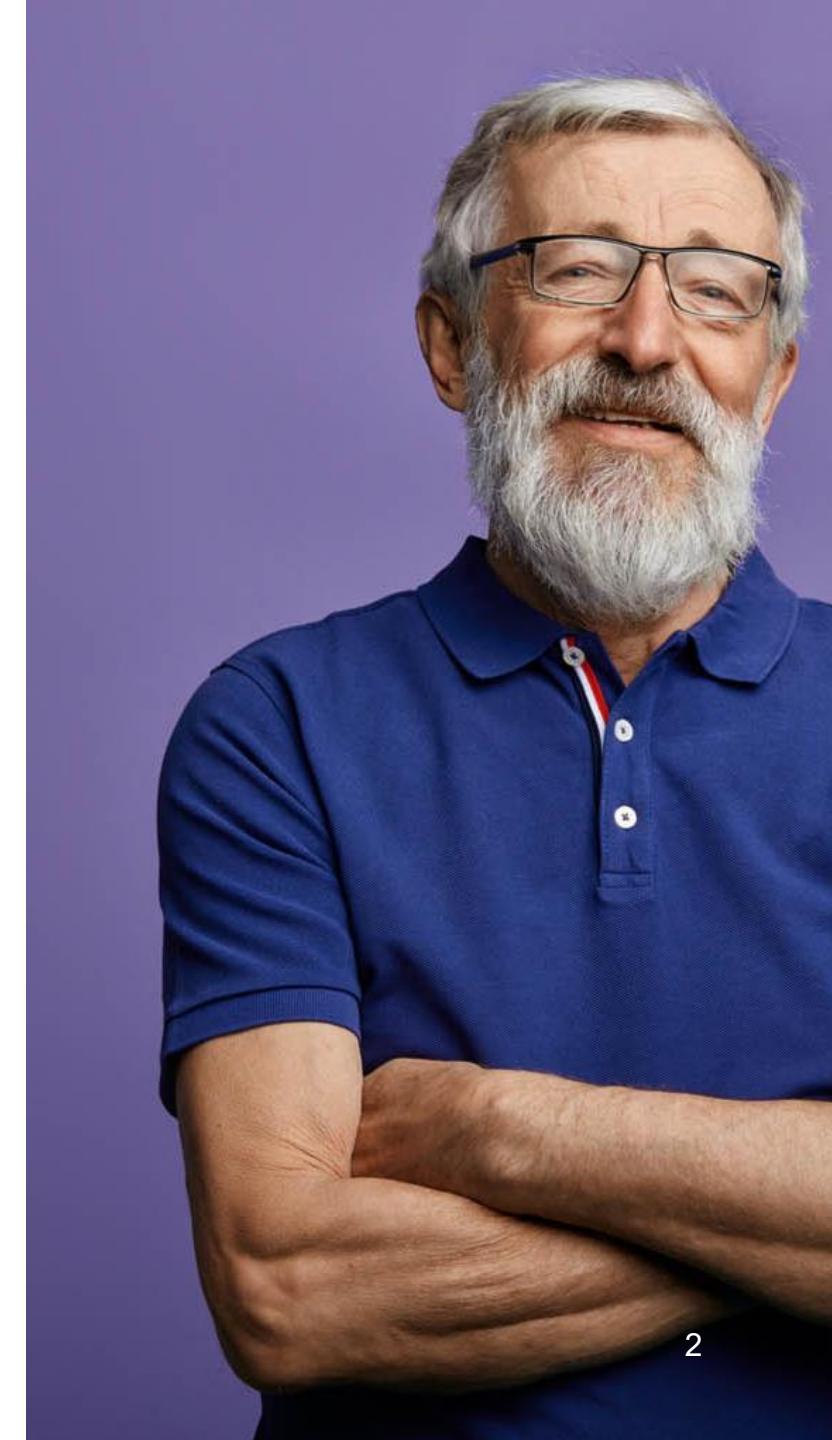
Research and Clinical Trials

The TRANSFORM trial, a £42 million screening study, commenced enrolment.

The ENHANCE trial planned to optimise hormone therapy dosing in metastatic prostate cancer.

Clinical trial results refine treatment pathways, especially in advanced disease.

University of Bedford and Cambridge University Trust have found that friendly bacteria in the gut can slow prostate cancer progression. More in due course.



UK Prostate Cancer: Most Common Male Cancer with Rising Incidence



Rising Incidence of Prostate Cancer in the UK

64,425 prostate cancer cases diagnosed in the UK in 2022, a 24% increase from 52,000 in 2021. Over the past decade (2012–2022), incidence has risen 42% from 45,000 cases.



Impact and Mortality of Prostate Cancer

Approximately 12,000 men die annually, with a lifetime risk of 1 in 8 men. Prostate cancer now surpasses breast cancer as the UK's most common cancer.



Challenges and Inequities in Detection and Screening

Regional disparities persist in early detection due to postcode lottery effects. Despite highest incidence among male cancers, no national screening programme is established. Highlights urgent policy challenges and needs for targeted screening actions to address inequities.

NHS England Abiraterone Approval for High-Risk Localised Disease



NICE Technology Appraisal Approval

NICE Technology Appraisal TA1110 (19 November 2025) approves abiraterone for men with newly diagnosed high-risk localised or locally advanced prostate cancer.



Disease Progression Reduction

STAMPEDE trial shows nearly 50% reduction in disease progression risk (82% progression-free vs 69%).



Estimated Eligible Population

Estimated 7,000–9,000 men annually eligible for treatment in England.



Treatment Regimen

Treatment comprises 2 years of abiraterone plus androgen deprivation therapy.



STAMPEDE Trial Survival Evidence

Clinical evidence from STAMPEDE trial (6-year follow-up):

86% survival on abiraterone versus 77% with standard treatment.



NHS England Implementation and Impact

NHS England to implement treatment availability within weeks, aligning with Scotland and Wales who approved in 2023.

Represents a major shift improving survival outcomes and reducing metastatic progression.

UK National Screening Committee Draft Recommendation for Targeted Screening

Public Consultation Timeline	Targeted Screening Proposal	Screening Age and Frequency	Components of Screening	Screening Recommendations and Rationale
<p>Public consultation open from 27 November 2025 for 12 weeks; final decision expected 26 March 2026.</p>	<p>Draft recommendation proposes targeted PSA screening for men with confirmed BRCA1 or BRCA2 pathogenic variants.</p>	<p>Screening age range: 45 to 61 years, frequency every 2 years.</p>	<p>Includes PSA testing plus genetic counselling.</p>	<p>Population-wide PSA screening, screening based on family history, or targeting Black men are not recommended due to insufficient evidence.</p> <p>Committee emphasizes harms of overdiagnosis and overtreatment with general population screening.</p> <p>Reflects careful balance prioritising high-risk genetic groups where risk-benefit ratio favors screening.</p>

TRANSFORM Trial Launch: £42 Million Landmark Screening Study

1

Trial Funding and Launch Date

Trial initiated November 2025, funded £42 million jointly by Prostate Cancer UK (£26m) and NIHR (£16m).

2

Study Design and Scale

Phase IIb/III large-scale screening study targeting up to 300,000 men in multiple stages.

3

Stage 1 Enrolment and Screening Modalities

Stage 1 enrolment underway with 16,000 men, testing innovative screening modalities:

- PSA blood test (conventional baseline)
- Genetic spit test (polygenic risk scores)
- Rapid multiparametric MRI
- Combinations using novel algorithms

4

Leadership and Collaborative Partners

Led by Prof. Hashim Ahmed (Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust) with partners from UCL, Queen Mary University London, Institute of Cancer Research.

5

Primary Objective of the Trial

Objective: Identify optimal and cost-effective screening pathways.

6

Significance of the Trial in UK Screening

Largest prostate cancer screening trial in the UK in over 20 years, potentially transforming future screening policy.

ESMO 2025 Guidelines & Clinical Trial Highlights



EMBARK Trial Outcomes

Combination ADT + enzalutamide reduces death hazard by 41%, with a 9% absolute survival increase at 8 years for biochemical recurrence patients.



TALAPRO-2 Phase III Final Analysis

Talazoparib (PARP inhibitor) + enzalutamide significantly improves overall survival in metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer.



PSMAAddition Trial Results

Adding PSMA-targeted radioligand therapy (¹⁷⁷Lu-PSMA-617) to ADT + ARPI reduces radiographic progression risk by 28% in hormone-sensitive metastatic prostate cancer.



Impact on Disease Management

These trial results influence management of biochemical recurrence and metastatic hormone-sensitive disease.



Updated Clinical Guidance

Clinical guidance updated to integrate PARP inhibition and radioligand therapies into treatment paradigms.

EAU 2026 Guidelines: Darolutamide and MDT Approach



Endorsement of Darolutamide in Hormone-Sensitive Metastatic Prostate Cancer

New recommendations endorse darolutamide use in hormone-sensitive metastatic prostate cancer (Section 6.6.8).



Mandated Multidisciplinary Team Discussion for Hormone-Sensitive Patients

Multidisciplinary team (MDT) discussion mandated for all hormone-sensitive metastatic patients to standardise treatment planning.



Ongoing ARASTEP Trial Investigating Darolutamide Combination

ARASTEP trial ongoing, investigating darolutamide + ADT vs placebo + ADT in high-risk biochemical recurrence.



Composition of the Multidisciplinary Team

MDT includes medical oncology, urology, radiation oncology (if applicable), imaging experts, and nursing/supportive care.



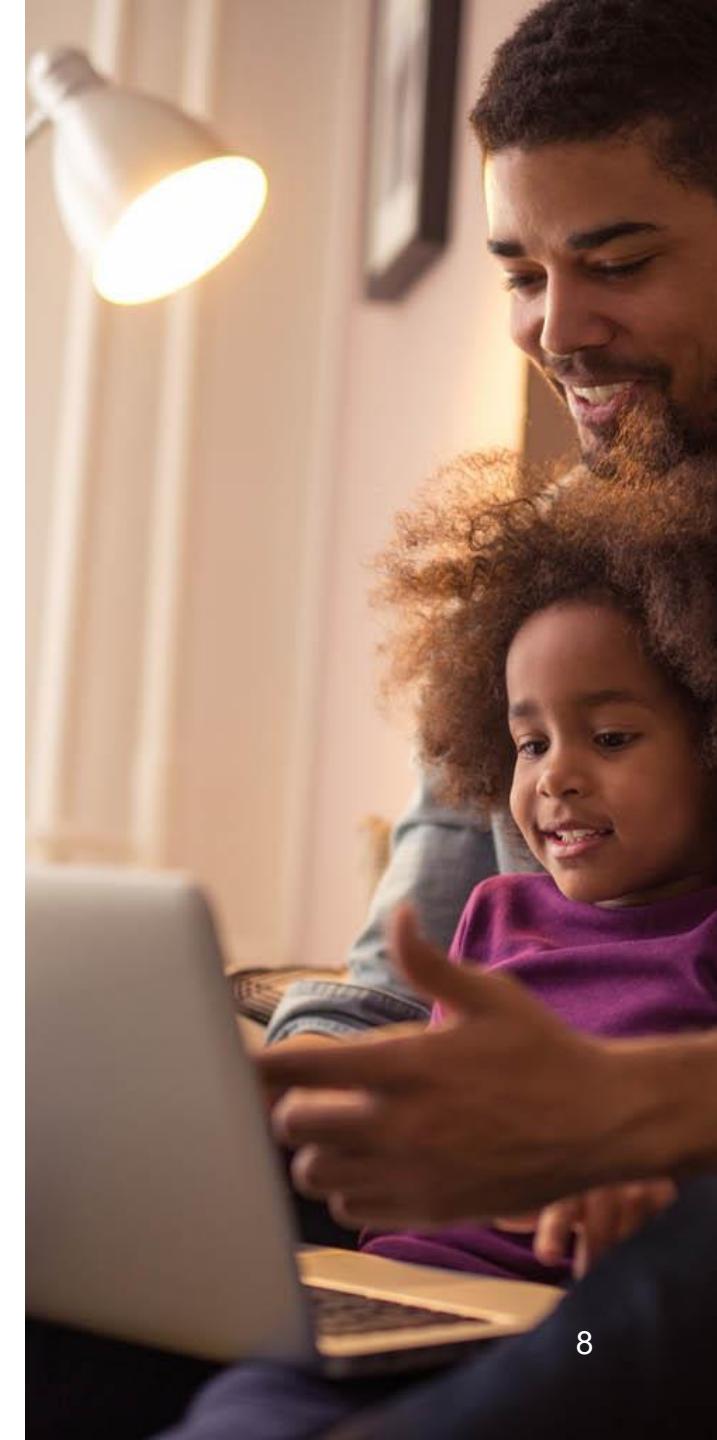
Goal of the MDT Approach

Approach aims to improve patient outcomes through collaborative, evidence-based decision-making.



Anticipated Impact on Clinical Practice

Expected guideline-driven shifts in clinical practice in 2026.



Clinical Trial Highlights: TALAPRO-2, CYCLONE 2, and Lu-PSMA-617 Results



TALAPRO-2 Trial Outcomes

PARP inhibitor talazoparib plus enzalutamide demonstrated significant overall survival benefit in mCRPC patients, independent of HRR mutation status.



CYCLONE 2 Trial Findings

Adding CDK4/6 inhibitor abemaciclib to abiraterone failed to improve radiographic progression-free survival; no change in clinical recommendations.



177Lu-PSMA-617 Versus Docetaxel

Canadian trial comparing 177Lu-PSMA-617 to docetaxel in mCRPC favored docetaxel, showing superior overall survival and progression-free survival.



Therapeutic Landscape Insights

Data underscore evolving therapeutic landscape and reinforce docetaxel's role in metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer.



Optimising Treatment Sequencing

Emerging evidence guides optimization of metastatic prostate cancer treatment sequencing.

Biomarker Research Advances: Proteome, Stockholm3 Test, and Spatial Profiling



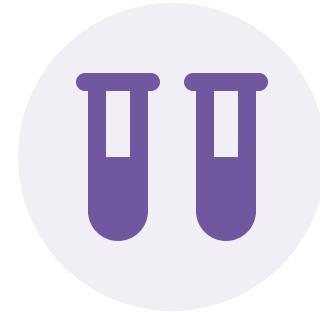
Proteome-Wide Association Study Highlights

Identified prostate cancer risk protein signatures across diverse populations.
Revealed ethnic-specific and cross-population markers.



Stockholm3 Biomarker Test Advantages

Improves diagnostic accuracy with 95% relative sensitivity.
Achieves nearly threefold specificity compared to PSA alone.



Reduction of Unnecessary Biopsies

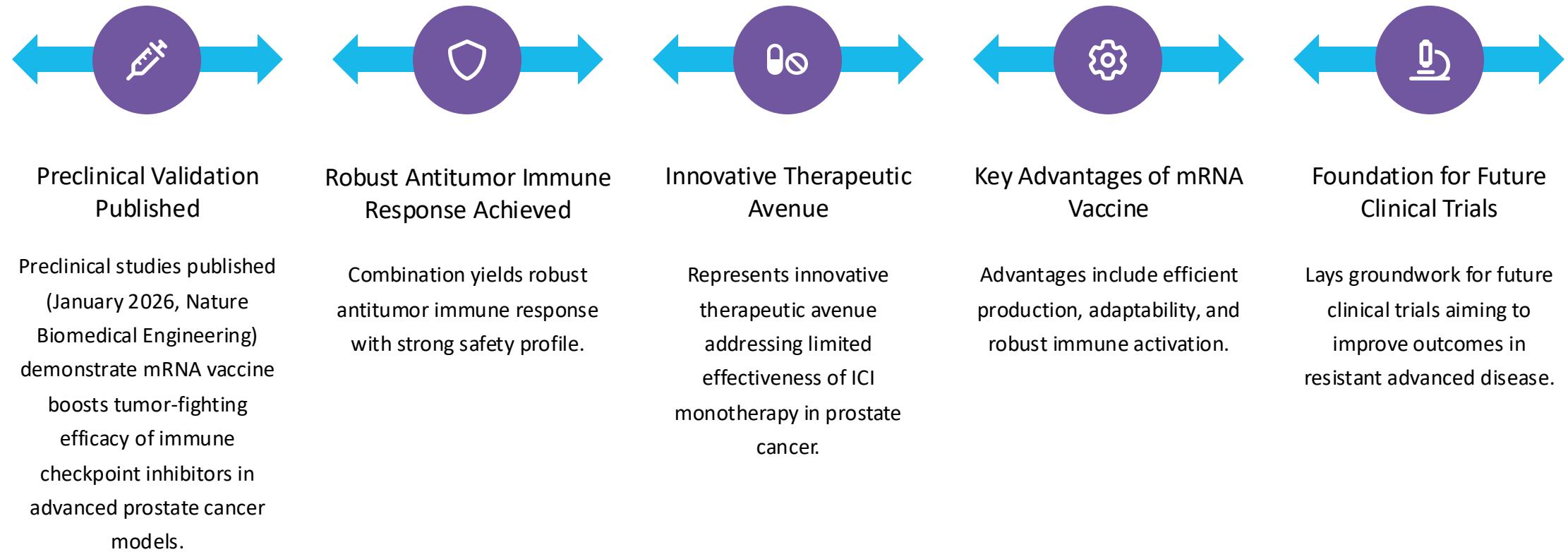
Stockholm3 test reduces unnecessary biopsies by 45%.
Maintains consistent performance across ethnic groups.



Digital Spatial Profiling Insights

High-risk tumour spatial protein expression in tumour periphery significantly predicts progression-free survival.
Findings enable refined risk stratification and personalised screening strategies to address disparities.

Immunotherapy Breakthrough: mRNA Vaccine Enhances Checkpoint Inhibitors



ENHANCE Study: Hormone Therapy Dose Optimisation in Metastatic Prostate Cancer

Study Overview

Ongoing UK randomised controlled trial comparing full-dose versus half-dose androgen receptor inhibitors (enzalutamide, apalutamide) combined with standard hormone therapy.

Scientific Rationale

Addresses lack of dose-response relationship indicated in prior trials, potentially lowering drug-related toxicities and NHS costs.

Primary Aim

Maintain equivalent overall and progression-free survival while reducing side effects and improving quality of life.

Trial Uniqueness

Unique trial in the UK focused on optimal dosing strategy for metastatic prostate cancer patients.

Participant Recruitment

Approximately 1,400 men to be recruited across multiple centres.



In the News

BBC News — Led coverage on abiraterone extension. The BBC was credited by Prostate Cancer UK for keeping "a spotlight on this issue."

The Times — Reported on prostate cancer becoming the UK's most common cancer, with headline noting there is still no screening programme.

The Telegraph — Continuing its campaign for targeted screening launched in July 2025, with front-page endorsement of calls for national programme.

ITV News, Sky News, GB News — All covered the abiraterone and statistics stories prominently.

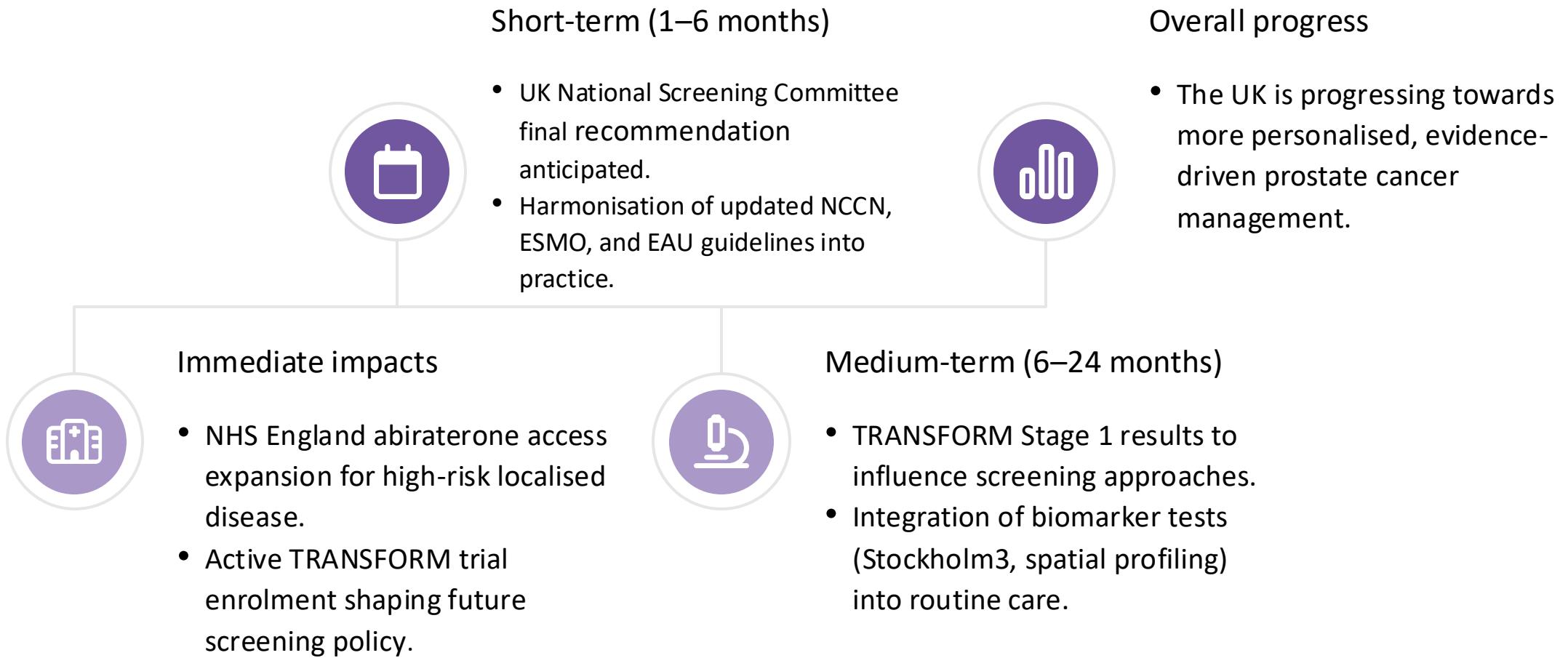
LBC — Featured audio coverage describing the statistics as "shocking."

UK media coverage of prostate cancer has been substantial this month, driven by two major stories: -

- the NHS England abiraterone announcement and
- the UK-wide statistics showing prostate cancer as the most common cancer.

Coverage has been predominantly positive in tone, focusing on treatment advances and the need for screening.

Summary and Clinical Impact Outlook



Online Groups



Virtual Support Group for working aged men

For those diagnosed with Prostate Cancer and are still working. Please email John Newton if you wish to attend.

Next Meeting is
Wednesday 11th February



A new On-Line (Zoom) Peer Support Group for working aged men recently diagnosed with Prostate Cancer.

2nd Wednesday in the Month 7pm – 8:30pm

If interested - please send details through to John Newton
thedodgywalnut@gmail.com

National PC Partner Support Group,

on Zoom. (Partners only, not patients.)

Supporting partners of those diagnosed with Prostate Cancer. Partners should email Janet Daykin and Caroline if they wish to attend.

janetldaykin@gmail.com carolineopcsq@gmail.com

All meetings on Zoom 6.30-8pm



Monday 2 March

Tuesday 28 April

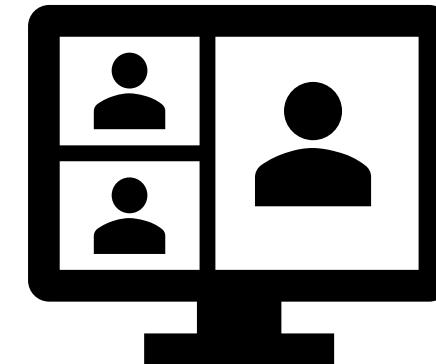
Monday 15 June

Monday 27 July

Tuesday 15 September

Monday 26 October

Tuesday 15 December



6.30pm start with room
opening at 6.10pm

Living Well with Advanced Prostate Cancer Virtual Support Group

For those diagnosed with
Advanced Prostate Cancer..



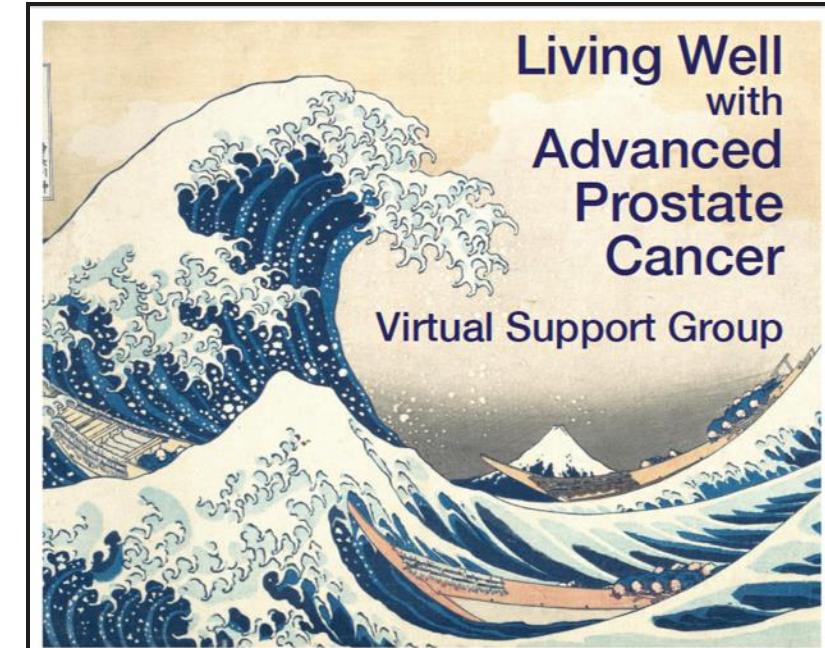
Next meeting is

Monday 23rd February

Please contact Aidan for Zoom Link

aidan.adkins@tackleprostate.org

6.00pm start



Monthly Zoom Meeting

Last Monday of every month
6-7.30pm

Contact for more details:
aidan.adkins@tackleprostate.org
www.tackleprostate.org

#TogetherWeTackle

Prostate Brachytherapy Support Group on Zoom

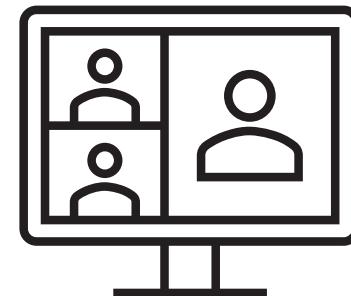
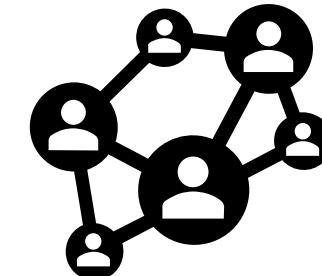
Support group for those who have had, or who are considering Prostate Brachytherapy.

If you are interested in joining this group, please email

support@prostate-brachytherapy.uk



Thursday 12th March 2026



<https://tacklegroups.org.uk/site-28/>

18:45 for 19:00