**Prostate Specific Antigen Blood Test (PSA)**

**Information for patients**

Most early stages of prostate cancer do not have any symptoms and therefore one way to increase early detection is through a PSA blood test. It is important that our patients understand a PSA result may not confirm or exclude prostate cancer as there are other factors to consider and therefore we are providing this important information for you.

**Who should consider having a PSA test?**

* Men over the age of 50
* Men with a family history of prostate cancer who are older than 45
* Black men over the age of 45

**What symptoms should I be looking out for and what should I do?**

* Symptoms that could indicate cancer include, peeing more than usual, having a sudden urge to pee or getting up often in the night to pee.
* Blood in your urine.
* Problems getting or keeping an erection.

It is important you book an appointment with a GP to discuss these. A normal PSA does not exclude serious problems.

**I do not have any symptoms. Should I have the test?**

* A positive test result could lead to earlier cancer detection and earlier treatment which can result in a better outcome.
* The ‘false negative’ rate is around 15%.
* Around 75% of patients with a raised result will not have any detectable prostate cancer

**About the result**

* The practice team will be in touch if your result is high. A high result does not necessarily mean you have cancer. There are other reasons for a raised result
* A normal level does give some reassurance however we always recommend that patients do also book a GP appointment following a PSA for a prostate examination (a rectal examination).

**Further Information**

* The British Association of Urological Surgeons have produced an information leaflet on PSA testing (baus.org.uk)
* Prostatecanceruk.org