

## **BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF UROLOGICAL NURSES AND PROSTATE CANCER UK ANNOUNCE SUPPORT FOR NEW PROSTATE CANCER BIOPSY TRAINING COURSE**

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As part of a consultant-led initiative to move away from historical, transrectal ultrasound guided (TRUS) biopsy techniques for prostate cancer, the British Association of Urological Nurses (BAUN) and Prostate Cancer UK today announce their backing for a national training programme aimed at increasing the number of nurses skilled in a new advanced prostate biopsy technique: the free hand local anaesthetic transperineal targeted and systematic biopsy (LA TP).

Developed by BXTAccelyon and Rick Popert, Consultant Urologist, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, and supported by over 35 of the UK's leading prostate cancer specialists, the programme is designed for nurses currently trained in TRUS guided biopsies who are keen to convert their service to LA TP biopsies.

Mr. Rick Popert comments: "It is increasingly recognised that the traditional TRUS biopsy has risks compared to the alternative transperineal biopsy – both in terms of inaccurate identification of potential cancer cells as well as increased likelihood of infection associated with the biopsy. With the advancement PrecisionPoint brings to the transperineal method, it can now be carried out under local, rather than general anaesthetic. Over the last year this procedure has transformed our practice at Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital; transformation that we are committed to supporting our peers across the NHS achieve."

The programme has been accredited by BAUN, which means that any delegates who attend will receive continued professional development (CPD) credits. Moreover, Prostate Cancer UK is providing support via its education bursary scheme for individuals.

Jane Brocksom, President, BAUN, comments: "As an organisation, we genuinely believe that the LA TP biopsy is the way forward for the prostate cancer pathway. We want our nurses to be at the forefront of clinical practice and believe that this presents a tangible opportunity for clinical nurse specialists to add significant value within the timed prostate cancer pathway, as pressure on it continues to increase."

Karen Stalbow, Head of Policy, Knowledge & Impact, Prostate Cancer UK, adds: "This training offers an opportunity to transform the way men with suspected prostate cancer are biopsied, making it less likely that they will experience complications like infections. We are therefore really excited to be involved in this important work, which we believe will support both improvements in patient experience and outcomes."

The first LA TP nurses training programme took place at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and complements a series of training workshops for consultant urologists.

Mr. Popert concludes: "Once we have established experience of trained nurses, it is our aim to develop a regionally based training programme in centres of clinical excellence across the UK with the ultimate goal of phasing out TRUS biopsy altogether."