

Supporting patients with urological cancer: Urology Awareness Month 2020.



September is Urology Awareness Month, which aims to increase knowledge about the types of cancers and other diseases that affect the bladder, kidneys, penis, testicles and prostate.

Healthcare at Home supports a wide range of patients with urological cancers through home delivery of medication, treatment and care from dedicated nurses.

Dr Prabir Chakrabarti, Consultant Oncologist, has been working with Healthcare at Home since 1999. He says the reason he is so passionate about homecare is its impact on quality of life.

'Homecare means that busy parents and families don't have to go to hospital for blood tests and then back again the next day to await the results and wait for the doctor to see them, or the chemo to be delivered,' he said.

'Homecare allows individuals to carry on working and supports family life. The flexibility of Healthcare at Home as a national company is also a benefit. For example, a patient of mine who lives in Berkshire was recently able to receive medication during the COVID-19 pandemic even though they were self-isolating in the Lake District. This meant there was no interruption in their care and the same would go for other patients on holiday in the UK during their treatment.'

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in the UK with around 48,000 new cases in 2017. Eighty per cent of individuals live for 10 years after diagnosis.

Dr Chakrabarti is currently treating around 35–40 patients for urological cancer, mostly men. He said: 'If patients come into hospital they are more likely to be at risk of cross infections, which is crucial to avoid as we move forward with COVID-19 and the required social distancing – homecare is much safer. Also, the Healthcare at Home nurses have all the right experience – if a patient has a reaction during treatment, the care and safety levels will be just the same as if the patient was in hospital.'

'Healthcare at Home nurses also add all the pertinent information from their visits in real time into the online iQemo system, which means I am always up to date on my patients' progress and can interact immediately with the team while they are with the patient, if needed.'



I have been working with Healthcare at Home since 1999. I'm passionate about homecare because it has such an impact on people's quality of life – both patients' and their families'.

Dr Prabir Chakrabarti | Consultant Oncologist