EPEP | Prostate Cancer

Healthcare Provider Resource Guide

Patient Empowerment Network

Inclusive Research Design

Equity begins at the bench, not just the bedside.

- Use biospecimens and cell lines that reflect diverse ancestral backgrounds.
- Advocate for inclusive experimental models and clinical trial enrollment criteria.
- Support pipeline diversity. Researchers from underrepresented communities bring lived experience and drive innovation.
- Recognize how upstream gaps in representation lead to downstream disparities in treatment access and outcomes.

Audit your research tools and trial designs. ***Ask****: "Are we including the populations most affected by prostate cancer?"*

Expand Access to Precision Medicine

Testing is the gateway to targeted therapies.

Source

- Educate patients on the value of genetic testing, even if results won't benefit them directly.
- Address provider knowledge gaps and referral delays with tools like the *Helix app*.
- Collaborate with passionate, multidisciplinary teams to improve uptake in community settings.
- Advocate for insurance coverage and culturally sensitive counseling to overcome structural barriers.

Normalize genetic testing in prostate cancer care. ***Ask****: "Does this patient know how their results could impact their family's future?"*

Build Culturally Resonant Communication

Source

- Ensure educational materials reflect racial, ethnic, and linguistic diversity.
- Support groups like those offered by ZERO Prostate Cancer and materials from patient organizations, particularly the Prostate Cancer Foundation Patient Guide, can also be helpful.
- Use bilingual staff and culturally informed messaging to bridge trust gaps.
- Recognize that many high-risk patients don't know they're high-risk, awareness is step one.
- Engage patients in legacy-driven conversations that connect testing to family impact.

Reframe risk conversations. ***Ask:*** *"Does this patient see themselves in the story we're telling about prostate cancer?"*

Remove Structural Barriers to Treatment

Innovation means nothing without access.

- Partner with social workers and navigators to help patients overcome insurance denials and prior authorizations.
- Use apps and discount programs to reduce medication costs.
- Track disparities through audit and feedback. What gets measured gets improved.
- Build intentional collaborations across institutions to reach underserved populations.

Map your access gaps. ***Ask:*** *"What systems are in place to help this patient start and stay on treatment?"*

Center Shared Decision-Making

Quality of life matters as much as quantity.

- Elicit patient preferences early, some may prioritize comfort over survival.
- Include partners and families in treatment planning conversations.
- Use discussions to explore trade-offs and values.
- Bridge academic-community divides by translating cutting-edge insights into everyday care.

Lead with listening. ***Ask****: "What matters most to this patient—and how can our care reflect that?"*

Produced by Diverse Health Hub