[Insert date]

Dear [Insert name of patient]

**Re: Changes to your hormone injections for prostate cancer**

We are writing to you because you are receiving a medicine called Choose an item., which is used for locally advanced or metastatic prostate cancer at Choose an item.

In order to provide care closer to home and improve our patients’ experience, we are changing the way in which we give hormone injections to patients with prostate cancer. This change affects patients at Barnet and Chase Farm, Royal Free, Whittington, North Middlesex and University College London Hospitals and will mean that all patients living within the North Central London area (Camden, Islington, Barnet, Enfield and Haringey) will receive the same quality of service, no matter where they live.

**What are the changes?**

It has been agreed by GPs, consultants and pharmacists across North Central London (which includes the hospitals listed above) that it is best practice to use one preferred hormone injection called triptorelin (Decapeptyl SR®). One of the benefits of this injection is that it can be given to patients every 6 months or every 3 months.

Also, as explained to you by your consultant or specialist nurse, your future hormone injections will be given to you by your GP or practice nurse. This means you will no longer need to travel to the hospital just to have the injection. This already happens in many GP practices in the North Central London (NCL) area and GPs and practice nurses support this change.

**What will this mean for you?**

After you have trialled the new hormone injection and your hospital consultant is happy that you are tolerating it well, you will no longer need to visit the hospital to have the injection and your hormone injections will then be given to you by your GP practice.

You will remain fully under the care of your hospital consultant or specialist nurse who will monitor your condition just as they do now. You will also continue to be offered telephone or face-to-face appointments with your hospital team as often as you need them. The only change is where you receive your hormone injections, which we hope you will find easier and more convenient. Patient representatives have been fully involved in this decision and agree that it will provide a better experience for patients.

**What happens next?**

An appointment for your next injection which is due on [date] will be booked for you by your GP. It is important that you make sure you are given an appointment at that time, so **if you have not heard from your GP practice 3 weeks before your next injection date,** **please contact them** to arrange one.

**If you are unable to book an appointment, or are told that your GP will not give you your injection, please call your hospital team as soon as possible and they will speak to your GP.**

Important, please note: some GP surgeries will issue a prescription in advance for each injection and you may need to pick this up from your local pharmacy and **bring it with you** to your appointment.  Please check with your surgery whether you will need to do this.

**Is the drug as effective?**

Triptorelin (Decapeptyl SR®) injections are just as safe and effective as your current hormone injection whether you are receiving a 3-monthly injection or a 6-monthly one. The possible side effects are also the same as your current hormone injection. For more details, here are the links:

* 3 monthly injections (11.25mg) <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/780/pil>
* 6 monthly injections (22.5mg) <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/5906/pil>

**Further information**

We hope you find this information helpful but if you have any concerns about any of these changes, please speak to your hospital consultant or specialist nurse.

If you have any other questions regarding the above change, please call the NCL Medicines Information helpline on 020 3447 2863 (9am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday). If you prefer, you can email your queries to: ncl.hormonetherapy@nhs.net

Yours sincerely

**North Central London Cancer Clinical Leads**

North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust

Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust

University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Whittington Health NHS Trust