

Providing the best care and
commitment to our workforce
as we do to our patients



Two employee cancer diagnoses spur Biogen to provide cancer screening

Biogen Idec Ltd, part of the worldwide biotechnology company pioneering in neuroscience, has recognised first hand that most people are touched in some way by cancer, either through personal experience or via a friend or family member. Unfortunately two of their own employees have been diagnosed with cancer over the past couple of years.

The desire to educate employees around cancer, identify those at high risk and diagnose cancer early enough for successful treatment, led to Biogen taking a proactive approach and teaming up with Check4Cancer to develop campaigns for breast and prostate cancer screening.

onset cancer warning signs as we could. Due to the impact of the cancer treatment claims on our healthcare premiums, and in an effort to educate employees around self-checking and awareness of their own risk level in order to recognize symptoms early on, we sought advice from our health-care provider who recommended we teamed up with Check4Cancer to develop a Biogen campaign."

Karen Carter, Senior Manager, Facilities UK, Biogen

"Around 1 in 3 people in the UK will develop cancer at some point in their lifetime and by 2024 it is anticipated that this will rise to 1 in 2. As part of our health and wellbeing strategy, we decided to take a proactive approach in order to identify as many early



"Biogen decided to offer free BreastChecks to all female employees aged 18 and over and ProstateChecks to all male employees aged 40 and over."

Cancer Checks

Biogen ran dual cancer screening campaigns for breast cancer (BreastCheck) and prostate cancer (ProstateCheck) for their employees based in the UK and Ireland.

The on-site clinic days at Biogen offices ensured office-based staff were given the opportunity to access Cancer Checks without a major disruption to their working day.

To capture the large number of field based employees, Check4Cancer delivered screening at the Biogen Annual Sales Conference. Checks were also made available in off-site clinics at times and locations convenient for the employees.

"Biogen decided to offer free BreastChecks to all female employees aged 18 and over and ProstateChecks to all male employees aged 40 and over. This campaign quickly demonstrated how seriously Biogen takes the welfare of its employees. We constantly strive to provide the best treatments and care for our patients so why would we not want to show the same dedication and commitment to those who work for us. The campaign has been positively received and highly valued by all the participants and if it detects even 1 early onset cancer, then is worth every penny of the investment." said Karen Carter.

High employee engagement

Employee engagement was excellent, with 57% for BreastCheck and 43% for ProstateCheck. This amounted to 53% overall which is higher than the average employee engagement observed by Check4Cancer at around 40%.


Outcomes

65 women at Biogen had BreastCheck and 52 were categorised as having an average risk (same as the general population), 12 had a moderate risk and two were categorised as high risk.

The categorisation allows for a risk-stratified screening programme, with increased breast screening recommended for those considered at a high or moderate risk. This can be accessed via the NHS or paid for privately. Women in the high-risk category will also be offered MyBreastRisk, which will increase the accuracy of their personal breast cancer risk prediction, and make their risk-stratified screening programme even more specific.



22 men at Biogen had ProstateCheck and 20 showed normal levels of PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) for their age group. Two men had raised levels of PSA for their age group.

Of the two employees with raised PSA, their 4KScores (further testing, analysing four biomarkers specifically for prostate cancer) predicted one at low risk and one at average risk of having a high grade prostate cancer. The further testing using the 4KScore allows careful consideration of whether additional testing such as a biopsy is required or not. All the men that took part in the screening received a risk-stratified, personal screening programme.



In total, 8.5% of employees who attended their Cancer Check returned a symptomatic result and were referred for further investigations.

The percentage of employees with an abnormal BreastCheck result was lower (8.3%) than the Check4Cancer average (12.5%).



The percentage of employees with an abnormal ProstateCheck result was higher (6.6%) than the Check4Cancer average (5%).

All of this information will enable Biogen to make informed decisions about what screening they offer their employees in the future.

Feedback

Overwhelmingly positive feedback came flooding in from Biogen employees regarding both the BreastCheck and ProstateCheck clinics. Here are just a few of the messages of appreciation:

"I was unsure on how to examine my breasts - having had the breast check, I now know exactly what I need to do."

"Very pleased with excellent information and experience. I feel well educated and grateful for this check."

"I wanted to feed back that I thought this was a fantastic opportunity, and the lady who did my check was so professional, not patronising, very informative and helpful. So thank you for having this organised for us, this is a great value add to us all."

"The questionnaire was clear & easy to complete. The assessment was excellent and the nurse answered all my questions. She was very friendly and good at putting people at ease. The whole process was very easy and incredibly helpful. I would definitely recommend it."

"The information provided and in particular the way it was delivered was fantastic."

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