



Case for Support

for the

Swift Urological Response and Evaluation (SURE) Unit

UCAN – working to make life better for everyone affected by
Urological CANcer in the North of Scotland

Recognised Scottish Charity SCO36638

Executive Summary

UCAN's goal is to fund a Swift Urological Response and Evaluation (SURE) Unit (formerly known as Rapid Diagnostic Centre (RDC) at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. The Swift Urological Response and Evaluation Unit aims to enable more patients with a suspected urological cancer to be seen quicker, and to have all of their scans and/or diagnostic procedures during a single visit to hospital. The Swift Urological Response and Evaluation Unit aims to significantly reduce the time to diagnosis, which will improve cancer treatment outcomes and reduce anxiety for patients and their families across the North of Scotland.

What is UCAN?

UCAN is a Urological CANcer Charity which was launched in 2005 by two consultant urological surgeons based at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary: Professor James N'Dow and Professor Sam McClinton. UCAN's purpose is to partner with the Urology Services in making Aberdeen an international Centre of Excellence for Urological Cancer treatment, care and research. UCAN triggered a catalytic shift in cancer services provision to be more patient-centred, more patient family-centred as well as encouraging a more North of Scotland citizen-centred approach to co-creation of the urological cancer services and its delivery.

UCAN's ultimate goal is to improve the quality of life for people and families affected by urological cancers in the North of Scotland as well as to raise awareness of the need for early diagnosis. UCAN facilitates drop-in access to specialist support and care when it is needed. This model of care has positively impacted over 60,000 people in the North of Scotland over the past 18 years through direct impact of the UCAN Specialist Cancer Nurses, as well as the tens of thousands impacted by UCAN presentations to North of Scotland citizens raising urological cancer awareness. UCAN also leverages real world data and evidence to provide better information and support for patients and their families, delivering the benefits of this work to the North of Scotland.

UCAN supports delivery of the best available treatment techniques for patients with Urological Cancers, such as funding the first robotic surgical system in Scotland. By providing continued support to deliver the best available treatment techniques, UCAN also enables the best Urological talent to be attracted to the North of Scotland, such as facilitating the successful application for Certification by the European Association of Urology's Scholarship Programme from December 2022 for NHS Grampian to be an internationally recognised training centre for the best young urological surgeons from across the globe.

Personnel

UCAN is run by a board of six directors: three medical professionals and three other experienced non-executives from the local business community.

- Justine Royle (Urologist) – Chair
- James N'Dow (Urologist) – Managing Director
- Bob Hutcheson – Finance Director
- David Dent – Board Member
- James Donaldson (Urologist) – Board Member
- Kenny Anderson – Board Member

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Gayle Stephen – Office Manager.

What UCAN has already achieved



2008 – Opening of the UCAN Care Centre

A drop-in service staffed by highly experienced urological cancer specialist nurses, providing information and support in plain language for patients and their families. This includes a helpline, which is accessible via telephone and email.



2011 – Ward refurbishment

Refurbishment of the Urology Ward and Day-Room at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.



2015 – Bringing Robotic Surgery to NHS Grampian

UCAN successfully implemented the first robotic surgical system in Scotland in 2015, transforming the care urological cancer patients are receiving in the North of Scotland. The robotic surgical system funded by UCAN and the staff trained by UCAN funding are continuing to provide the highest quality urological care for patients, providing reduced recovery time and complications.



2022 – MRI Fusion Scanner

UCAN funded a new Ultrasound scanning machine which enables a new technique for prostate biopsy which has less side-effects. The machine has also enabled ultra-sound guided surgery for renal cancer to be offered to patients in the North of Scotland.



2023 – Expansion of Urological Cancer Specialist Nurses

UCAN funded extra nurse specialists to provide support to more patients and their families in the North of Scotland.

Awards & Accolades

The UCAN model of urological cancer care has been awarded nationally and internationally:



2019 – ‘World beating holistic care’ - Christchurch Medal, 2019
Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand



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Why is UCAN doing this?

2016 & 2019 – Quality Environment
Macmillan Cancer Support

The problem

2019 – ‘This care model should be rolled out world wide’
European Association of Urology

- 1 in 5 men in North Scotland will be diagnosed with a Urological Cancer
- 1 in 3 men with prostate cancers in Scotland are diagnosed too late with advanced cancer that can no longer be cured
- Approximately 1500 people in North of Scotland are diagnosed with a Urological Cancer every year and 500 die every year
- 3 times more likely to be cured if cancer is diagnosed early
- The waiting times for a urological cancer diagnosis are unacceptably long (up to 4 – 6 months delay) for some, made worse since the covid pandemic
- Current cancer diagnostic service provision structure is outdated and inefficient and current space used for investigations does not have enough of the diagnostic equipment necessary
- Patients and their families suffer significant stress, anxiety and depression whilst waiting for tests, results and treatment plans

What needs to be done

- Establish a best-practice international standard one-stop urological cancer Swift Urological Response and Evaluation Unit co-located with the acute urology services
- Get additional staff to ensure the Sure Unit has all of the expertise needed for a high quality service including additional radiographers, more time from consultant uro-radiologists and more time from the pathology services (all currently bottlenecks)
- Redesign how the Consultant Urologists, Cancer Specialist Nurses and critical support staff work to maximise the use and service delivered by the Sure Unit.

What difference UCAN will make and why now

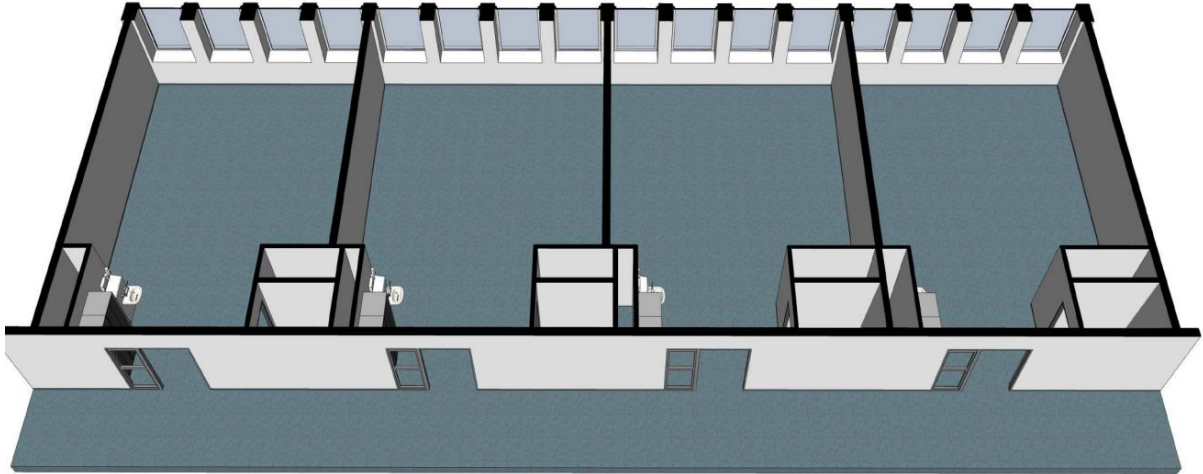
- Urological Cancer Diagnostic service capacity will be doubled
- Significantly shorten time to a cancer diagnosis (and therefore treatment), or being given the “all clear”
- Diagnose many more patients in early stages of cancer when they will benefit from curative treatment
- Be an example to other NHS cancer services of what can be achieved when a service partners with patients, their families, business community and ordinary citizens to make a positive change

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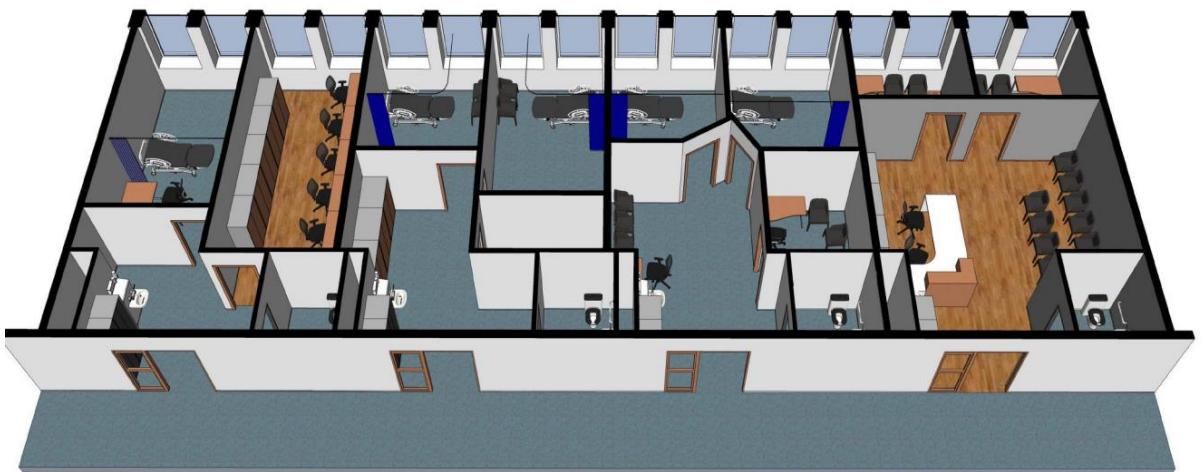
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Swift Urological Response and Evaluation Unit (Sure Unit) proposal

Existing room layout



Proposed layout of the SURE



An initial impression of Room 49's reception area



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