

SPOT CANCER EARLY

**MANUAL
FOR
MEN**

**REDUCE YOUR RISK
OF CANCER**

We use the term man / men in this booklet, but we understand that not everyone who is born male identifies as a man. Whoever you are, wherever you come from, we are here for you. For confidential advice, information and support, contact our Support Line nurses on

Freephone 1800 200 700.

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WARNING

This book is not about DIY

This book is for men

This book could seriously improve your health



Use this book to

Find out the things that increase your risk of cancer

Learn what you can do to reduce your risk of cancer

Understand the common cancers that affect men

Be your own maintenance man



Adjust your lifestyle

4 in 10 cancers can be prevented by getting healthier and avoiding risk factors



Tell your doctor

Get checked out if you notice anything unusual



Spot cancer early

Know the signs, check for changes in your body and get screening tests



Cancer facts

1 IN 2

Lots of men get cancer

Around 1 in every 2 men in Ireland will get cancer.

Most cancers are more common in older people

The average age men are diagnosed with cancer is 69, but men are often diagnosed much younger.

69

AVERAGE AGE

- ✓ WALK DOG
- ✓ EAT WELL
- ✓ SUNCREAM

You can help to reduce your cancer risk

You can cut your risk by making healthy lifestyle choices every day.

Lots of people get cured or live a long time with cancer

More than 9 in every 10 men survive prostate and testicular cancers when they are found early.



DO:

Get your cancer information from trusted sources.



DON'T:

Listen to myths, conspiracies or scare stories.



Any questions? Ask one of our cancer nurses.

Call Freephone 1800 200 700 or email supportline@irishcancer.ie



Cancer myths



Myth! Cancer is a death sentence

Reality: Treatments for cancer have never been better – spot most cancers early, and there's a good chance you will be cured or treatment will control the cancer for a long time.

Myth! Most cancers are inherited – there's nothing I can do

Reality: Very few cancers are inherited. Fewer than 10 in every 100 cancers are linked to an inherited gene fault.

Myth! Red wine protects against cancer

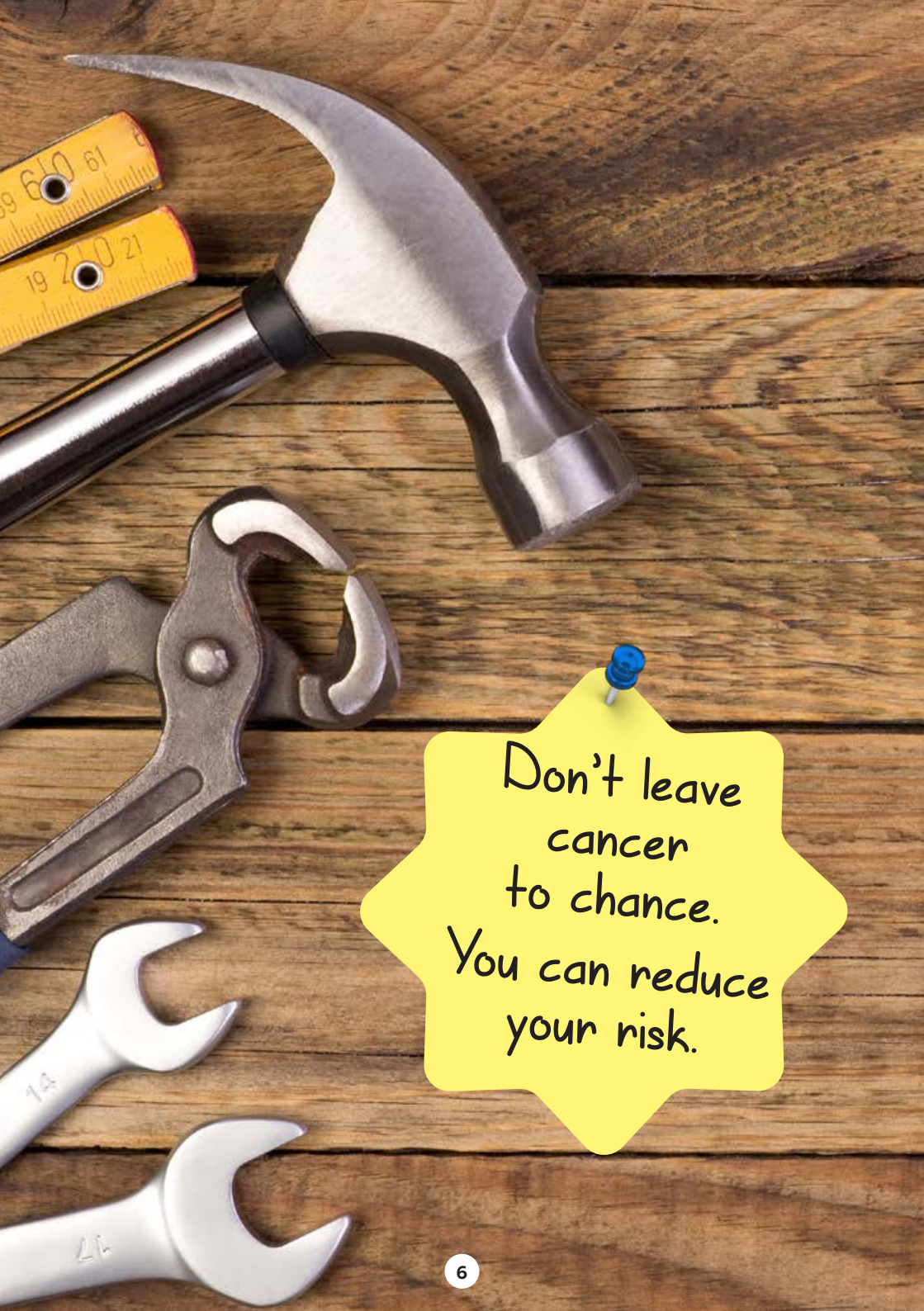
Reality: A substance in red wine called resveratrol is being studied, but there is no evidence that it is effective in preventing or treating cancer in humans. And unfortunately, the alcohol in wine increases your risk of cancer.

Myth! Mobiles and laptops cause cancer

Reality: There's no reliable scientific evidence to prove that mobile phones, laptops or wifi cause cancer.

Myth! Eating organic food reduces your risk

Reality: The amount of pesticides on our food is very small. There's no evidence that pesticide-free organic food reduces your risk of cancer or that non-organic food increases cancer risk.



Don't leave
cancer
to chance.
You can reduce
your risk.

! CAUTION:

The things that put you at risk

- Smoking
- Having obesity (being very overweight)
- Physical inactivity
- Poor diet
- Alcohol
- Not protecting your skin from the sun



Workplace risk factors like

- Asbestos
- Silica dust
- Formaldehyde
- Diesel engine exhaust
- Working outdoors in the sun

Always follow health and safety instructions.

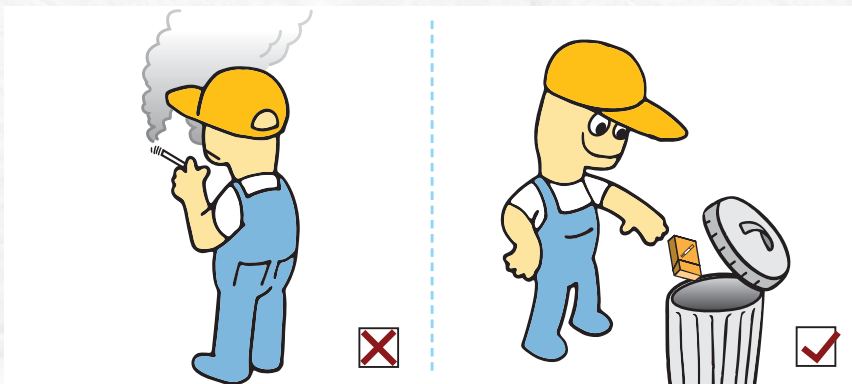
Know about radon gas

Find out if radon levels are high in your area and what to do about them if they are. See www.epa.ie/environment-and-you/radon/



Smoking: Quick guide

Smoking is a big risk for cancer, but it's a risk you can do something about.



At least **7 in every 10 lung cancers** are caused by smoking.

Smoking causes at least **13 other types of cancer** that affect men.

All types of smoking increase the risk – including roll-ups, pipes and cigars.

Nicotine-based **vapes / e-cigarettes** are likely to cause cancers of the lung and oral cavity.

Even if you don't smoke, breathing in **other people's smoke** still increases your risk of lung and other cancers.

It's **never too late** to quit smoking, but the earlier you stop, the more you reduce your risk of cancer.

Pouch tobacco, snus and nicotine pouches may increase your risk of mouth, tongue, cheek, gum, and throat cancers.

I used the excuse that it was too late – the damage was done, I thought I was too old to quit. I soon realised I wasn't – after a couple of tough weeks I began to feel so much better."



How to... Quit smoking

1 Get ready to quit

Think about the reasons why you want to stop and what might make it hard. Pick a date when you're ready.

2 Get support

- Ask your family or friends to support you and not to smoke around you.
- Talk to your doctor for advice.
- Call the HSE Quit Team on Freephone 1800 201 203, visit www.quit.ie, or Freetext QUIT to 50100 personalised, free support by phone, email, text and live chat.

3 Prepare for cravings

Withdrawal symptoms will disappear within a few weeks. Change your routine to avoid times and places when you will have a strong urge to smoke.

4 Take one day at a time

Every day without a cigarette is good news for your health, your family and your pocket.

5 Live well without smoking

Take more exercise and eat well to feel even better. And enjoy the extra money in your pocket.



Cigarette smoke contains at least 69 chemicals that cause cancer.

Deal with cravings

Remember the 4 Ds:



Delay at least 3 minutes and the urge will pass.



Drink a glass of water or fruit juice. Sip it slowly.



Distract yourself – move away from the situation.

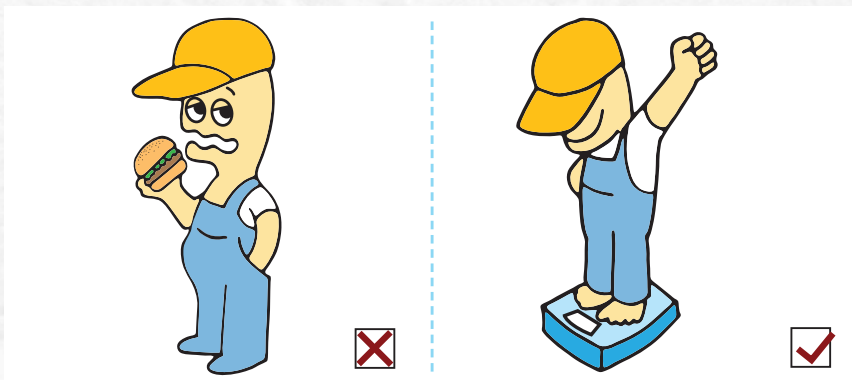


Deep breathing: breathe slowly and deeply to help you to relax.



Body weight: Quick guide

Getting to a healthy weight if you're overweight or living with obesity could reduce your risk of 14 different cancers!



Are you a healthy weight?

Waist measurement

Measure your waist just above your hipbone. If it's more than 94cm (37 inches), you may have excess body fat around your middle. This fat produces hormones that can increase your risk of cancer.

Body mass index (BMI)

BMI is a simple screening tool used to see if your body weight is in a healthy range for your height. BMI is best used along with other tools such as waist measurement and lifestyle assessment.



Ask your GP to check your BMI for you, or search BMI on the Safefood website at www.safefood.net





How to... Be a healthy weight



GOOD TO KNOW

Don't mistake thirst for hunger. If you feel like a snack, drink something first.

Eat breakfast

Get your metabolism going by eating breakfast. Then eat meals at regular times during the day to keep up your energy levels.

Don't overeat

Watch your portion sizes and try not to have second helpings.

Avoid liquid calories

Sugary fizzy drinks, fruit squashes and alcohol are high in sugar and calories.

Drink lots of water - aim for 8 glasses a day

Keep a bottle of water with you and sip throughout the day.

Never shop when you're hungry

Make a list so that you're not tempted by unhealthy treats.

Eat slowly

Enjoy the taste of your food and eat at a table if possible.

Take exercise

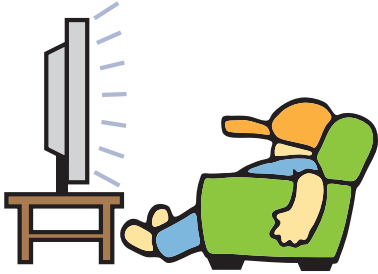
Regular exercise, along with healthy eating, can speed up weight loss and make you feel great. Aim for at least 30 minutes of exercise a day.

Avoid foods high in fat and sugar

Try to avoid processed foods. They can have hidden sugar and fat, so check the labels.



Physical activity: Quick guide



Getting active can:

- Reduce your cancer risk
- Make you feel fitter and more energetic
- Boost your mood
- Improve your overall health, like heart health
- Help with other cancer risk factors, like being overweight.

Activity doesn't just mean exercise

Anything that makes you a bit warmer and slightly out of breath is good. Aim for at least 30 minutes a day, 5 or more days a week.

Do NOT touch!



How to... Keep active



USEFUL TIP

Keep moving! Move your body as often as you can.
All activity counts.

Stay safe

See your doctor for advice if you are very overweight or have medical problems.

Stand more, sit less

Avoid too much time sitting or lying down, for example, watching TV.

Start with what you can manage

If you're out of shape or new to exercise, start by walking or doing another gentle exercise.

Be active in your everyday life

You don't have to join a gym:

- Walk or cycle instead of driving.
- Take the stairs whenever you can.
- Play active games with your kids or grandkids.
- Take your dog for walks.

Get fit with friends or family

Having company can make exercise more fun. Plus you can encourage each other if you're feeling lazy.

Increase activity as you get fitter

Set new goals to keep building your level of activity as you get fitter.



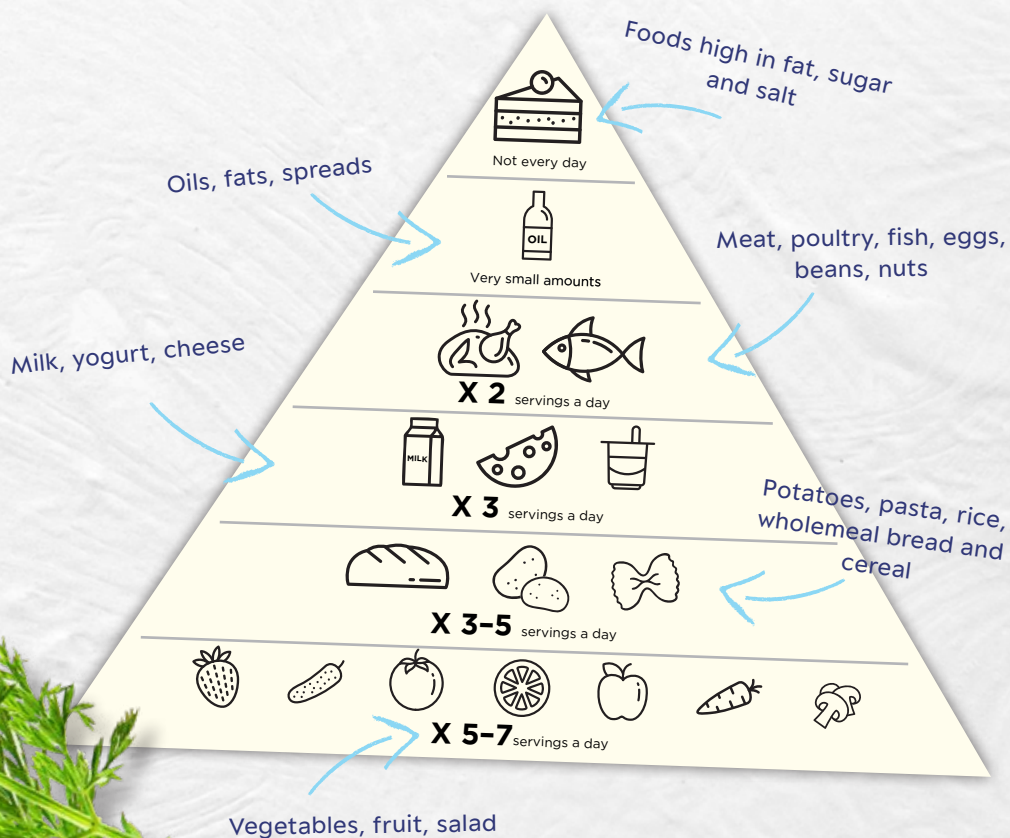
The more active you are, the better

If you can, try some more vigorous activity – the kind that leaves you out of breath. Try to do activities that will strengthen your muscles at least 2 days a week, such as lifting weights or cycling.



Healthy eating: Quick guide

Healthy eating can help you to keep a healthy body weight and reduce your cancer risk





How to... Eat well

Fruit and vegetables

Eat at least 5–7 portions of fruit, vegetables and salad every day. Have some fruit at breakfast, add salad to your sandwiches and have more vegetables with your dinner.

Fill up on fibre

Go for high-fibre foods like wholegrain bread, fruit and vegetables, beans and lentils, brown rice, oats.

Limit red meat

Swap red meat for chicken, fish, beans or vegetarian/vegan proteins a few times a week.

Avoid processed meats

Limit or cut out processed meats like ham, rashers and salami.

Watch your fats

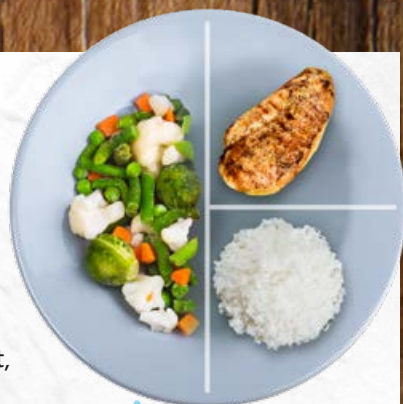
- Use small amounts of butter and oil.
- Avoid fatty meat and fried foods.
- Go for small amounts of healthy fats found in nuts, seeds and oily fish.
- Cook healthier by steaming, baking and grilling.

Avoid high-calorie foods

Cut down on fizzy drinks, fast food, sweets and cake.

Eat less salt

- Try to avoid pre-packed and processed meals. Go for fresh ingredients that you cook yourself.
- Check the labels for salt (sodium) content – even foods like cornflakes can have salt added.
- Avoid adding salt when cooking or when eating your food.



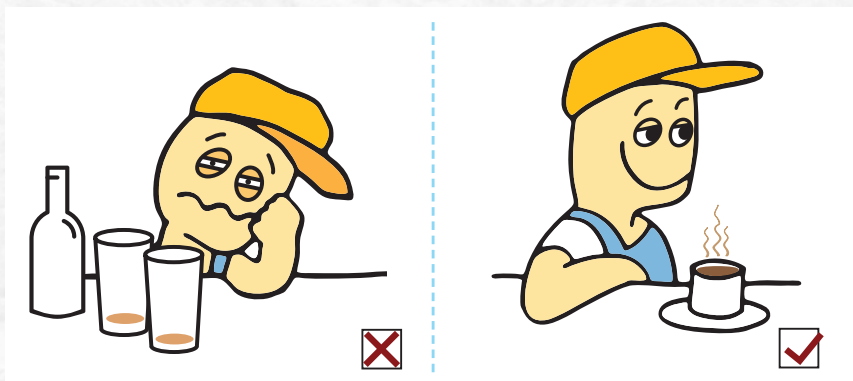
*Pile your plate
with veg*





Alcohol: Quick guide

Alcohol is a carcinogen – that means it can cause cancer.



Alcohol is a risk factor for:

- Mouth cancer
- Upper throat (pharynx) cancer
- Voice box (larynx) cancer
- Oesophageal (food pipe) cancer
- Bowel cancer
- Liver cancer

A standard drink is...



Half a pint
of stout,
lager, cider



A single pub
measure of
spirits



A small glass
of wine



How to... Reduce alcohol risk



GOOD TO KNOW

Cutting back on alcohol can also improve your sleep, your mood and your energy levels.

Drink less

There is no safe amount of alcohol, but the less you drink, the lower your risk. Even 1 drink a day can increase your risk of some cancers.

Drink no more than **2 standard drinks** a day if you are a man, with 2 or 3 alcohol-free days.

Know how much you're drinking

Most people drink more than they think. Count your standard drinks for a week to find out. Remember, it's **how much** you drink that matters. All types of alcohol increase the risk of cancer.

Measure your drinks at home

It's easy to pour a double or a treble measure of spirits without realising, and a big wine glass can hold 2 or 3 standard drinks.

Drink some non-alcoholic drinks

Try switching to non-alcoholic drinks as the evening goes on. Or have a few glasses of water in between.

Dilute your alcohol

Use more mixer in your drink or go for low-alcohol beer or wines.

Try to quit smoking

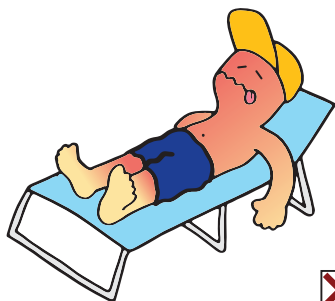
If you drink and smoke, your risk of cancer is even higher. See page 8 for tips on quitting smoking.



Sun and UV rays: Quick guide

UV radiation from the sun's rays or sunbeds causes:

- Non-melanoma skin cancer (the most common kind)
- Melanoma skin cancer, which is more serious but not as common.



Even on cloudy Irish days up to 90% of the sun's UV rays can reach your skin. Be extra careful if you spend a lot of time outdoors at work, playing sports or in your free time. Your skin may be exposed more than you realise.

Skin cancer is the most common cancer in Ireland in men, but you can do a lot to prevent it.

SUNCREAM

SPF
30+

UVA

Look for
the UVA logo



Around six full teaspoons of sunscreen are needed to cover the body of an average adult.



How to... Keep safe in the sun

Skin cancer isn't just linked to sunburn – UV rays can still do damage, even on cool or cloudy days. Be SunSmart every day from April to September, whatever the weather.



DON'T USE SUNBEDS!
If you use a sunbed even one time, your risk of skin cancer goes up by as much as 40%.



The 5 Ss of being SunSmart

S SLIP on long sleeves, collared T shirts and trousers to cover your skin.



S SLOP on SPF 30+ sunscreen with UVA protection and water resistance. Reapply regularly.

S SLAP on a wide brimmed hat.

S SEEK shade, especially between 11am and 3pm.



S SLIDE on wraparound sunglasses with UV protection.



How to... Spot cancer early

You're more likely to survive cancer if you spot it early. But do you know what to look out for?

Unexplained changes

A lump or swelling

Check your whole body, not just your testicles.

Bleeding that is not normal for you

If you cough up blood or notice it in your pee or poo, see your doctor.

Weight loss

It is normal to see small weight changes over time. But a big weight loss, not related to dieting, may be a sign of something more serious.

Pain that does not go away

If you feel pain for more than 3 weeks that you cannot explain, talk to your doctor about it.



Changes that won't go away

A cough, changes in your voice or feeling short of breath

Speak to your doctor if you have any of these problems for more than 3 weeks, especially if you are a smoker or ex-smoker.



A sore that does not heal

If a spot, wart or sore does not heal in a 3 weeks, get it checked by your doctor, even if it is painless.



Bloating

If bloating does not go away within 3 weeks talk to your doctor about it.



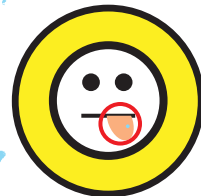
Trouble swallowing, indigestion or heartburn

It is not normal to have indigestion or heartburn that happens a lot or is very painful. Difficulty swallowing is not normal either. Get it checked by your doctor.



Mouth or tongue ulcer

Having a mouth or tongue ulcer for 3 weeks or more is not normal and needs to be checked by your doctor or dentist.



If you notice a change, the chances are it will not be cancer. Getting checked is not wasting anyone's time...

It could save your life!

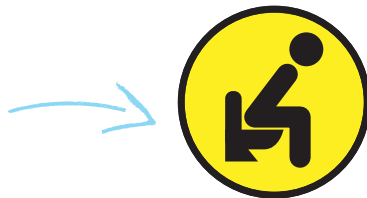


How to... Spot cancer early

Unusual changes

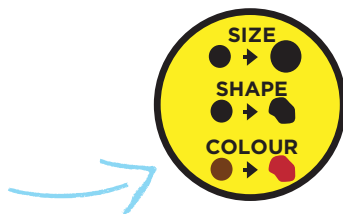
A change in your toilet habits

If you have constipation, diarrhoea or problems passing urine for more than a few weeks, talk to your doctor.



Any skin changes

Check your skin every month for any skin changes, or new moles. Also watch for changes in the colour, shape and size of existing moles – taking photos every few months can help you spot changes.



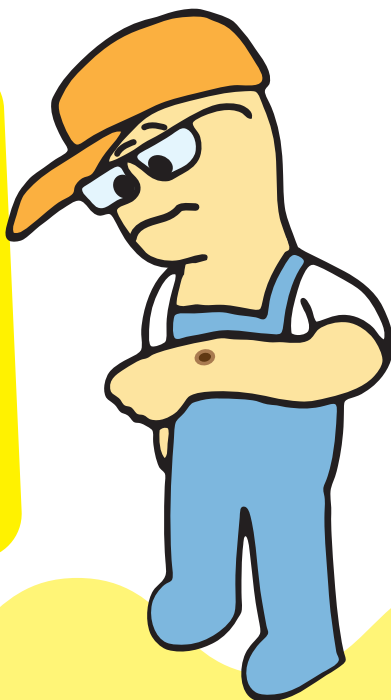
Check yourself

Check yourself regularly so that you're more likely to notice any changes.

Get screened

Screening means testing for cancer when you have no symptoms. Screening is a great way to spot cancer early and give yourself the best chance of getting cured.

Free screening for bowel cancer (BowelScreen) is available from the HSE for men (and women) aged 57–71.



Worried? What can you do?

Don't ignore problems or warning signs

If you have any changes in your body that are unusual for you, or you're worried, **don't ignore it**. Call your doctor and make an appointment, even if you feel OK. Most cancers can be successfully treated if they're caught early enough. Putting off going to the doctor could make cancer more difficult to treat.



Don't worry

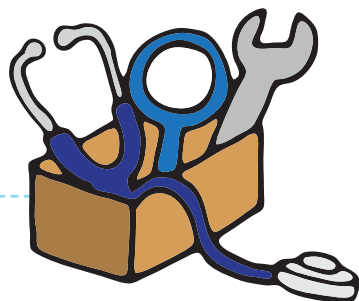
Remember, your doctor has seen it all before, and probably much worse! There's no need to be embarrassed.

Doctors won't do any tests or examinations without asking you first, or without explaining what they are going to do and why.

Blood tests or the prostate exam might be a bit uncomfortable, but a moment's discomfort or embarrassment could save your life.



How to... Get a check-up



Be prepared

Your doctor will probably ask a lot of questions, so think about:

- If you have noticed anything unusual
- Any symptoms you have – when they started and how they feel
- Any medication you're taking
- Your general physical and mental health
- Your lifestyle
- Your medical history
- Your family history

When it comes to your body, you're the expert.

Speak out

- Mention anything that's on your mind, even if the doctor doesn't ask. Be honest and give as much information as you can if the doctor asks you anything.

Ask questions

- Write a list of what you want to ask.
- Listen carefully and ask again if you don't understand.
- You can take someone along to your appointment to help you to remember your questions or what the doctor says.



Spotting cancer
early could save
your life.

John's cancer story



Aged 49, John Tiernan began to feel a "different kind of tired."

Formerly of the Defence Forces, John was fit and healthy. "I knew something wasn't right. You know your own body; this felt wrong."

In early June 2025, John booked himself in for a blood test. 'My PSA was flagged, and my GP referred me for an MRI. I had my biopsy at the end of July, and a month later, my prostate cancer diagnosis was confirmed.'

"I went through all the benefits and possible side effects with my consultant, and I chose to have my prostate removed.

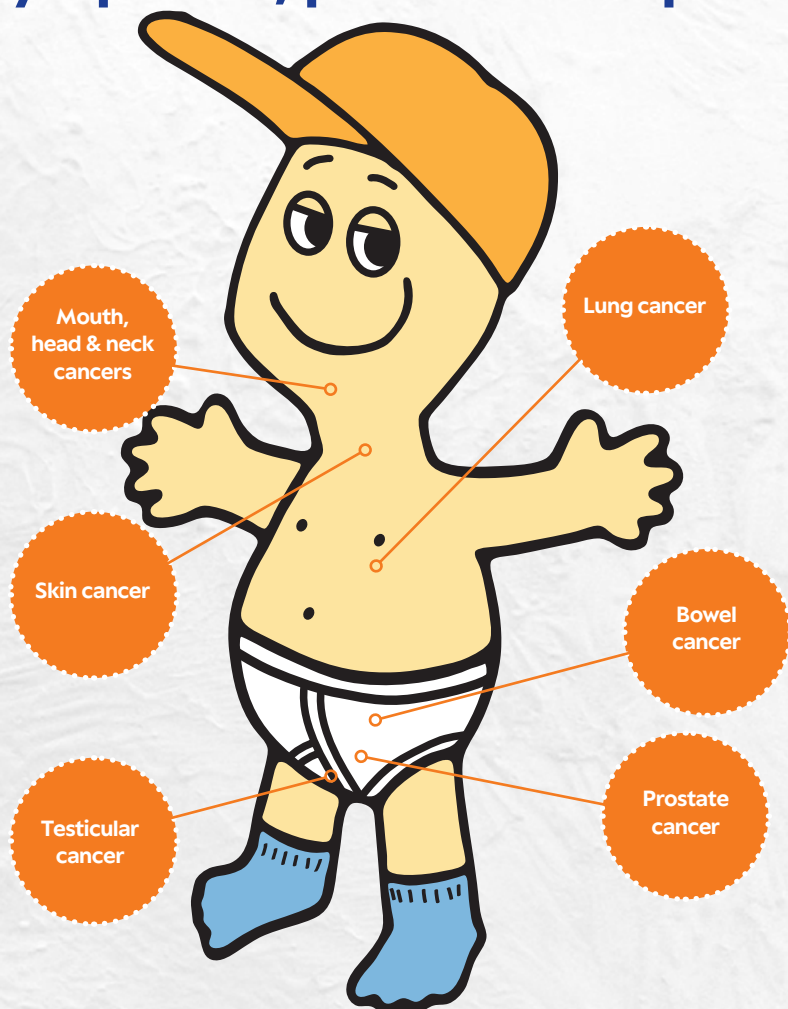
"Waiting around for the surgery was the worst part. Thankfully it went well; while it was a large tumour they removed, there's no sign of anything outside of the prostate. I'm awaiting PSA tests and if that is raised, I might be put on radiotherapy."

"Before getting prostate cancer, I associated it with older men. Now I want men in their 30s, 40s and 50s to be aware of the signs and symptoms, and to just keep a regular eye on their health. Don't ignore issues."



User guide

Cancer types, signs and symptoms, prevention tips





Your guide to: Prostate cancer

Prostate cancer is Ireland's second most common cancer in men, after skin cancer. 1 in 6 Irish men will get prostate cancer in their lifetime.



What are the symptoms of prostate cancer?

- Difficulty passing urine
- Passing urine more often than usual, especially at night
- Needing to rush to the toilet
- Stopping and starting while passing urine, or a weak flow
- Feeling like you are not emptying your bladder fully
- Blood in your urine
- Pain when passing urine

If you have bleeding at any time or other symptoms that last more than 3 weeks, go to your GP.



GOOD TO KNOW

If prostate cancer is spotted early, it can usually be treated successfully.





Get the tools to reduce your prostate cancer risk



Your risk of prostate cancer increases as you get older. Most men with the disease are over 50. If your brother or father has had prostate cancer, your risk is also higher.



Be active in everyday life

Aim for at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity a day. For more see page 12.



Be a healthy weight

As the amount of fat in the body increases, so does your chance of cancer. For more see page 10.



Have a healthy diet

Eat fruit, vegetables, wholegrains and pulses. Limit foods high in sugar, salt and fat. Avoid processed meat and limit red meat. For more see page 14.



Get checked out

If you are aged 50 or over, talk to your GP about prostate cancer checks. If you have a family history of prostate cancer and/or you are Black, you should have regular check-ups from the age of 45. A check-up should include:

- **Digital rectal examination.** Your doctor will put a gloved finger into your rectum (back passage) to feel if the prostate gland, which sits in front of the rectum, is enlarged or abnormal.
- **PSA blood test.** This test measures the level of a substance called PSA (prostate-specific antigen) in the blood. Men with prostate cancer can have a raised level of PSA.





Your guide to... Testicular cancer

Testicular cancer mainly affects younger men (15–34 years). Around 170 men are diagnosed every year in Ireland. Testicular cancer is very treatable and usually curable.



What are the symptoms of testicular cancer?

- A painless lump or swelling in your testicle
- Pain, discomfort or heaviness in your testicle or scrotum
- Pain or a dull ache in your groin or tummy
- A change in the way your testicle feels

Play with your balls -
doctor's orders!



GOOD TO KNOW

These DON'T cause cancer:

- Vasectomies
- Groin injuries
- Tight pants



Get the tools to reduce your testicular cancer risk

Checking yourself at least once a month is the best way to avoid problems. Here's how:

1



Hold your scrotum in your hands.

2



Use the fingers and thumbs of both hands to examine your testicles.

3



Gently feel each testicle, one at a time, for any lumps or any change in size or weight.

It's common for one testicle to be slightly larger or hang lower than the other. The testicle itself should be smooth, with no lumps or swellings. It's normal to feel a soft tube at the top and back of the testicle. This is the sperm-collecting tube (epididymis).



Testicular cancer is more common in men who were born with a testicle that did not come down into the scrotum (undescended testicle).

8



Your guide to... Bowel cancer

Bowel cancer is also known as colorectal cancer or cancer of the colon and rectum. Around 1,650 men in Ireland are diagnosed with bowel cancer each year.



What are the symptoms of bowel cancer?

- A lasting change in your bowel habits – going more often, diarrhoea or constipation
- Blood in your poo or bleeding from your back passage (bottom)
- Pain or discomfort in your tummy area or back passage
- Trapped wind or fullness in your tummy
- A lump in your tummy area or rectum (back passage)
- Feeling you have not emptied your bowel fully after using the toilet
- Unexplained weight loss
- Feeling tired or breathless

If you have bleeding at any time, or if you have other symptoms that last more than 3 weeks, go to your GP.



GOOD TO KNOW

Bowel cancer can usually be treated successfully if it is found early.



Get the tools to reduce your bowel cancer risk



Have a healthy diet

Avoid processed meat and limit red meat. Eat fruit, vegetables, wholegrains and pulses. Limit foods high in sugar, salt and fat. For more see page 14.



Be active in everyday life

Aim for at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity a day. For more see page 12.



Be a healthy weight

As the amount of fat in the body increases, so does your chance of cancer. For more see page 10.



Avoid alcohol

Cutting back or avoiding alcohol will reduce your cancer risk. For more see page 16.



Don't smoke

Cut out the cigarettes and cut your cancer risk. For more see page 8.

Get screened

Testing for bowel cancer when you have no symptoms is called screening. The national bowel screening programme from the HSE, BowelScreen, sends a free test kit to people aged 57–71 every 2 years. You send back a tiny sample of your poo. The sample is tested for traces of blood. If there is blood in your poo it doesn't mean that you have cancer, but you may be advised to have more tests. For more information contact

www.bowelscreen.ie

or call Freephone: 1800 45 45 55



Bowel cancer mainly affects people over the age of 50. If someone in your immediate family has had bowel cancer, your risk is also higher.



Your guide to... Lung cancer

Around 1,500 men are diagnosed with lung cancer every year. Smoking causes at least 7 out of 10 lung cancers.



What are the symptoms of lung cancer?

- Wheezing, or difficulty breathing
- A cough that doesn't go away or a change in a long-term cough
- Repeated chest infections that won't go away, even after antibiotics
- Feeling more tired than usual
- A hoarse voice
- Coughing up blood-stained phlegm
- Pain in your chest, especially when you cough or breathe in
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Swelling around your face and neck
- Difficulty swallowing

If you notice a change, the chances are it will not be cancer, but always get it checked.



Get the tools to reduce your lung cancer risk



Don't smoke

Cut out cigarettes and cut your cancer risk. For tips on quitting, see page 9.



Avoid second-hand smoke

Keep your home and workplace smoke-free. Second-hand smoke increases the risk of lung cancer in non-smokers.



Protect yourself from chemicals and pollutants

Certain chemicals such as asbestos, metal dust, paints and diesel exhaust can increase your risk. Always follow health and safety instructions.



Check radon levels

Find out if you are exposed to radiation from naturally high radon levels in your home. Visit www.epa.ie and search for 'radon'.



GOOD TO KNOW

The sooner you stop smoking,
the more you reduce your lung
cancer risk.





Your guide to...

Mouth, head and neck cancers

Almost 700 men are diagnosed with mouth, head and neck cancers in Ireland every year. These cancers are more common in men than in women.



What are the symptoms of mouth, head and neck cancers?

- A sore or ulcer that does not heal within three weeks
- Difficulty or pain when chewing or swallowing
- A sore throat that won't go away
- Difficulty speaking, or having a hoarse voice
- An unexplained loose tooth
- A swelling or lump in the mouth or neck
- Pain in the face or jaw
- Earache, ringing in the ear or hearing problems
- Numbness of the tongue or face
- Blocked or bleeding nose
- Swelling around your face and neck
- Difficulty swallowing

The earlier these cancers are diagnosed, the greater the chance that you will survive.



Get the tools to reduce your risk



Don't smoke

By far the most important thing you can do to reduce your risk of mouth, head and neck cancers is to stop smoking. Your risk is increased by all types of tobacco, like:

- Cigarettes
- Pipes
- Cigars
- 'Roll-ups'
- Low-tar cigarettes
- Pouch tobacco or snus

You should also:

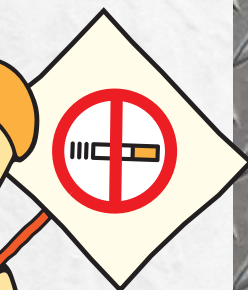
- Stay within low-risk alcohol guidelines (see page 17).
- Check your mouth and visit your dentist regularly.
- Don't use vapes or nicotine pouches.

HPV vaccination

The HPV vaccine is offered to children in first year of secondary school. This vaccine can help prevent boys from getting infected with the HPV that can cause cancers of the mouth/throat, penis and anus, as well as genital warts.



If you drink alcohol and smoke, your risk of mouth, head and neck cancers is even higher.





Your guide to... Skin cancer

Skin cancer is the most common cancer in Ireland. Around 6850 men are diagnosed with non-melanoma skin cancer and 600 men are diagnosed with melanoma skin cancer.

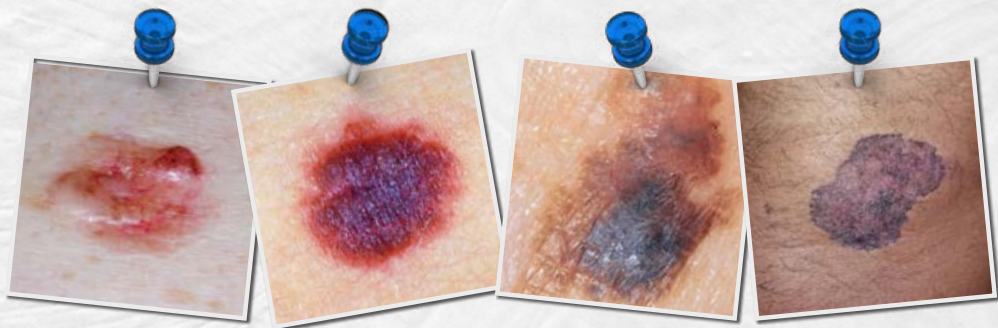


What are the signs of skin cancer?

Watch out for:

- A change in the shape, size or colour of a mole
- A new growth or sore that does not heal in a few weeks
- A spot or sore that continues to itch hurt, crust, scab or bleed
- Constant skin ulcers that are not explained by other causes

Skin cancers don't all look the same. Go to the doctor if you're worried or notice any skin changes.





Get the tools to reduce your skin cancer risk

Use the SunSmart code

Protect your skin from excessive UV rays. See page 19 for the How-to guide.

Check your skin

Look for any skin changes or unusual moles.

Check your whole body once a month, including your feet, between your toes and under your arms. Use a hand mirror to check your scalp and the back of your body.



Your risk of skin cancer is higher if you have:

Pale or freckled skin that burns easily.

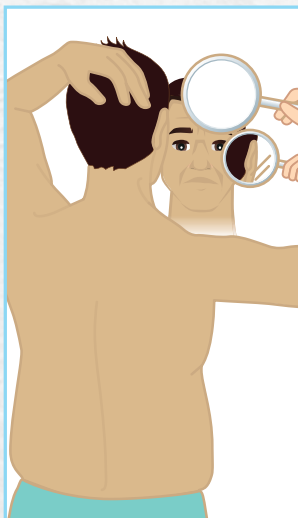
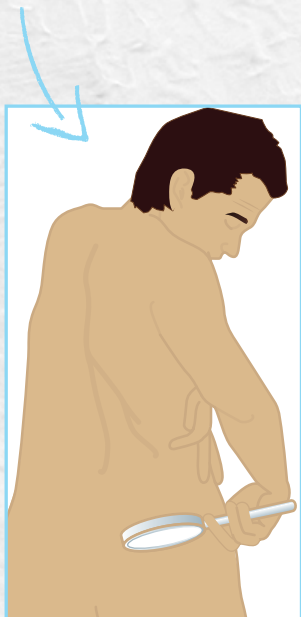
Red or fair hair and blue, green or grey eyes.

A lot of moles or unusual moles.

Regular work or sports outdoors.

A previous history of skin cancer.

Used sunbeds, even once.





What does that word mean?

Gene: Genes are coded messages within your body cells. They tell cells how to behave. They control how our bodies grow and develop.

HPV: Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is a family of very common viruses. Most anal cancers are caused by the HPV virus. It is strongly linked to cancers of the mouth, throat and penis, among others.

Inherited faulty gene: These are faulty genes that are passed on from parent to child.

Obesity: Having too much body fat for your height.

PSA blood test: This test measures the level of a substance called PSA (prostate specific antigen) in the blood. Men with prostate cancer can have a raised level of PSA.

Radon gas: A natural gas that can pass from the soil into the foundations of buildings. Exposure to high levels of radon can increase the risk of getting lung cancer.

Rectum: The lower part of your bowel. Also called your back passage.

Risk factor: Anything that increases your chances of getting a disease.

Screening: Testing for a disease when you have no symptoms.

More about cancer

Call our Support Line on **Freephone 1800 200 700** or email **supportline@irishcancer.ie** for support, information and advice about anything cancer-related. You can also go to a Daffodil Centre or look at our website, **www.cancer.ie**

More about giving up smoking

For help quitting, call the HSE Quit Team on **1800 201 203**, Freetext QUIT to **50100** or go to **www.quit.ie**

More about getting active

Visit **www2.hse.ie/living-well/exercise** for tips on getting more active.

More about healthy eating

Visit **www.safefood.net** for meal plans, recipes and more information on healthy eating and weight loss.

More about alcohol

Freephone the HSE Drugs and Alcohol Helpline on **1800 459 459** or visit **www.askaboutalcohol.ie**

WARNING

THIS BOOK COULD SERIOUSLY IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH.



**Irish Cancer
Society**

Any questions?

Contact our friendly cancer nurses:

Freephone 1800 200 700

supportline@irishcancer.ie

You can also:

Ask for a call in your language

Ask for a video call

Visit a Daffodil Centre

www.cancer.ie

