

Perci Health

Skin Cancer Awareness Month

May



Education, engagement and inclusion for employees.

Skin Cancer Awareness Month, May 2026, is a dedicated awareness campaign aimed at educating people about skin cancer, its signs and symptoms, and the importance of contacting a GP with any concerns. There are around 18,300 new cases of melanoma skin cancer and almost 156,000 cases of non-melanoma skin cancer in the UK every year. This month helps remind employees to stay safe in the sun and check their skin regularly.



Why promote Skin Cancer Awareness Month in your workplace?

- Melanoma – the most serious type of skin cancer – is the 5th most common cancer in the UK
- Since the early 1990s, melanoma skin cancer incidence rates have increased by 154% in the UK
- There is no NHS screening programme for skin cancer so it's important that people understand how to avoid it and how to check their skin for changes
- Offering risk awareness education can make a real difference to employees, as well as to the significant costs associated with cancer

65%

Of surveyed employees agreed that cancer prevention and early detection education is important in the workplace.

55%

Agreed that employers have an actual responsibility to support cancer prevention and early detection education.

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Given the significant number of people of working age who are affected by cancer, and the devastating impact the illness can have on them and their loved ones, it is vital for employers to appropriately support their staff.

Ian Talbot, CEO, Healix Health Services

Five easy ways to promote the campaign



01

Share the employee brochure provided in the Perci Health cancer awareness campaign hub.

02

Display the provided posters in areas of high footfall around the workplace, such as breakout areas, kitchens and bathrooms.

03

Share the ready-to-go social media posts on your chosen channels, offering reliable stats about bowel cancer.

04

Post a short awareness message on Slack, Teams or the company intranet, explaining the importance of the campaign.

05

Encourage employees to return screening tests if they have been sent one.

How to have sensitive conversations during a cancer awareness campaign

Feeling uncomfortable about having conversations about cancer and screening is a significant barrier to running an engaging cancer awareness campaign. Here's how managers can approach them.

- ✓ **DO** Use inclusive language. For example, at Perci, we use 'Eligible people' when we talk about screening.
- ✓ **DO** Signpost employees to reputable information (like the Perci campaign awareness assets) and sources of advice (like Macmillan, NHS, their GP or Perci cancer nurse specialists).
- ✓ **DO** Plan how to respond if an employee raises concerns, before you actually need to.

- ✗ **DON'T** Ask employees whether they are up to date on screening. Instead, direct employees to the NHS app to check the date of their last results.
- ✗ **DON'T** Offer medical advice yourself or share personal stories about screening experiences or cancer.

Why should employers support skin cancer awareness?

People face significant barriers to the knowledge and support that could potentially save their lives.

- **Routine NHS screening is not available**
There isn't a national screening programme for melanoma or non-melanoma skin cancer in the UK.
- **Detecting skin cancer relies on self-checking**
The primary barrier to detecting melanoma is lack of awareness and education regarding the signs of skin cancer
- **Many people engage in behaviours that increase skin cancer risk**
Over a quarter of adults in the UK say they use sunbeds, rising to 43% of 18–25 year olds

Currently, it's an individual's own responsibility to understand skin cancer signs and symptoms, investigate their personal risk, and to contact a GP if they're concerned. It's therefore vital that employers engage with campaigns of this kind and provide free, reliable advice, as well as offering time off to attend GP and testing appointments.

Trusted skin cancer resources:

[NHS.uk](https://www.nhs.uk) | [macmillan.org.uk](https://www.macmillan.org.uk) | [cancerresearch.uk](https://www.cancerresearch.uk)

It's also a good idea to research screening support local to your workplace.