



PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER: THE MEN'S WELLNESS BLUEPRINT

A Practical Framework for Integrating
Hormones, Nutrition, Mental Health, Movement,
and Preventive Care for Lifelong Vitality



INDEPENDENT[™]
MEDICAL ALLIANCE

Putting It All Together: The Men's Wellness Blueprint

You've made it through a deep dive into men's health, from hormones and gut health to muscle, metabolism, and mental resilience. Now it's time to connect the dots. Think of this chapter as your wellness dashboard — a high-level overview of the most impactful levers to pull, the labs to monitor, and the rhythms to anchor your life around. This isn't about perfection. It's about patterns, progress, and personalization.



The 6 Pillars of Men's Health

Here's your blueprint — structured around what we've learned:

1. Hormone Optimization

- Testosterone, DHEA, estradiol, SHBG, LH — track these annually
- Consider BHRT or natural supports if levels are suboptimal
- Support the endocrine system through blood sugar balance, stress reduction, resistance training, and sleep

2. Gut & Nutrient Health

- Rule out silent issues like SIBO, dysbiosis, or low stomach acid
- Test periodically: GI-MAP, OAT, or stool testing
- Prioritize digestive function, micronutrients (iron, zinc, D, B12, folate), and protein
- Support with probiotics, enzymes, prebiotic fiber, and low-tox living

3. Mental & Emotional Resilience

- Burnout and chronic stress suppress hormones, libido, and immune function
- Anchor nervous system balance: parasympathetic input is medicine
- Breathwork, therapy, connection, purpose-driven work, time in nature
- Use movement as a tool for mood and metabolic health

4. Movement, Muscle & Metabolism

- Strength train 2–4x/week
- Zone 2 cardio and walking for metabolic flexibility
- Track VO₂ max, HRV, fasting insulin, waist circumference
- Fuel with protein, hydrate well, and cycle carbs around training

5. Prevention & Proactivity

- Get annual bloodwork: CBC, CMP, thyroid, lipids, hormones, hsCRP, insulin, homocysteine
- Colonoscopies, prostate screening, cardiac markers, skin checks as age/lifestyle requires
- Monitor inflammatory markers, not just cholesterol or weight

6. Lifestyle Rhythms & Recovery

- Sleep 7–8 hours with good quality and consistent rhythm
- Time meals around movement, anchor breakfast with protein
- Support detox and lymph through saunas, movement, hydration, dry brushing, castor oil packs
- Social connection, purpose, and play — critical for longevity and mood

Your Personal Health Dashboard

The 10 most impactful labs and metrics to track:

| Catagory | Marker |
|-----------------|--|
| Hormones | Free & Total Testosterone, SHBG, DHEA-S, Estradiol |
| Metabolic | Fasting Insulin, HOMA-IR, A1c, Waist Circumference |
| Inflammation | hsCRP, Homocysteine, Ferritin |
| Gut & Nutrients | B12, Folate, Vitamin D, Iron Panel, GI Testing |
| Recovery | HRV, Resting Heart Rate, Sleep Quality |
| Fitness | VO ₂ Max, Grip Strength, Step Count |
| Thyroid | TSH, Free T3, Free T4, Reverse T3 |
| Cardiovascular | ApoB, Lipoprotein(a), Triglycerides/HDL Ratio |
| Liver | ALT, AST, GGT (especially with metabolic concerns) |
| Prostate | PSA (in context, especially with family history) |



High-Impact Habits for Busy Men

Small, Consistent Actions That Change the Game

When life gets busy, the temptation is to put your health on the back burner — but these foundational habits deliver outsized returns. They're simple, sustainable, and science-backed. Here's how to stack the deck in your favor:

Start the Day with Protein Power

A protein-rich breakfast balances blood sugar, supports testosterone, and curbs cravings all day. It's your hormonal foundation for energy and focus.

- Aim for 30–40g of protein (e.g. 3 eggs, avocado, greens + protein shake, or smoked salmon)
- Bonus: Add fiber and healthy fats to support satiety and gut health

Walk More Than You Sit

Walking isn't just cardio — it's metabolic therapy, nervous system regulation, and joint protection.

- Goal: 8,000–10,000 steps/day
- Make it easy: Walk after meals, take calls on the go, park further away

Build Muscle to Build Health

Muscle is your metabolic currency. Resistance training boosts testosterone, improves insulin sensitivity, and helps prevent age-related decline.

- Strength train 3–4x/week
- Focus on compound lifts (squat, deadlift, push/pull) or bodyweight exercises
- Don't forget recovery: sleep, protein, magnesium



Zone 2 Cardio or Sauna (2–3x/week)

This type of low-intensity cardio trains your mitochondria and helps you burn fat efficiently, without spiking cortisol like high-intensity workouts can.

- Examples: Brisk walk, cycling, rowing, sauna sessions at 120–160°F for 20–30 minutes
- Combine with breathwork or meditation for double the benefit

Breathe Like Your Health Depends on It — Because It Does

A few minutes of breathwork per day can lower cortisol, increase HRV, improve sleep, and enhance mood.

- Try box breathing (4-4-4-4), humming exhale (vagal tone), or nasal breathing during walks
- Even 5–10 minutes a day creates measurable shifts in your nervous system

Hydrate Strategically

Dehydration stresses the adrenal glands, reduces focus, and impairs workout recovery.

- Start your day with water and a pinch of sea salt or trace minerals
- Sip throughout the day, especially before/during workouts or sauna sessions

Track, Don't Guess

You can't optimize what you don't measure. Annual labs are your roadmap.

- Check testosterone, fasting insulin, CRP, liver enzymes, B12, vitamin D, homocysteine, thyroid
- Use your data to drive decisions — not fear or fads

Respect Your Sleep

Poor sleep tanks testosterone, raises cortisol, and worsens blood sugar. Sleep is where muscle is built, hormones are balanced, and the brain resets.

- Wind down with breathwork or reading
- Avoid screens or bright lights after 9 PM
- Sleep in a cool, dark room and stick to a consistent schedule



Your Health is a System — Not a Silo

Every system in your body is connected:

- Gut health influences inflammation, nutrient absorption, and even testosterone
- Hormones shape your energy, libido, mood, and ability to build/maintain muscle
- Muscle drives metabolic health, strength, and resilience
- Mood and focus are reflections of sleep, blood sugar, and nervous system tone

It's all interlinked, and you don't need to address everything at once. Start with the core. Nourish the system, not just the symptoms.

Men are often taught to “push through,” ignore symptoms, or downplay emotional and physical shifts. But real strength lies in paying attention and responding with strategy, not suppression. Whether you're in your 30s or your 60s, it's never too late to build muscle, optimize your hormones, sharpen your mind, and reclaim your energy and vitality.

Start small. Stay consistent. Track what matters. Stay curious.

You are the CEO of your health.





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