

Croatia

Prostate Cancer Screening Facts



Life expectancy



76.0
years²

Incidence



2,872
annually¹

Prostate Cancer*



19.80%³

*Share of new cancer diagnoses that are prostate cancer

Health Care System

The Ministry of Health is responsible for the stewardship and regulation of the Croatian healthcare system. The Croatian Health Insurance Fund (CHIF) is the sole provider of mandatory health insurance and the main purchaser of healthcare services. It also plays a key role in contracting healthcare providers. Complementary health insurance, which primarily covers co-payments, is voluntary and can be purchased from the CHIF or private insurers. More than 60% of the population has complementary health insurance.¹

Reimbursement PSA



Yes

Main Testing Location



GP/
Urologist

National Cancer Plan



Yes

What’s happening in practice?

PSA testing was widely introduced in Croatia in the late 1990s, and opportunistic screening has remained common since then. In 2024, the Ministry of Health launched a prostate cancer screening pilot programme in the City of Zagreb. Nearly 10,000 men have been tested through the programme, and mpMRI is available to all eligible participants.⁴ Based on the results and experience gained from the pilot programme, the design and approval of a nationwide screening programme are currently under development.

National Clinical Guidelines

Government

The 2024 pilot programme sets out risk-adapted PSA screening for eligible men aged 55–69, with follow-up based on PSA level and mpMRI and urological assessment for persistently elevated PSA.⁴

Urologist

The national prostate cancer guidelines, published in 2019, recommend PSA testing for men over 50, with repeat testing intervals determined by the initial PSA level.⁵ Urologists are also actively involved in implementing the current pilot programme and shaping a future nationwide screening programme.⁴

GP

The 2024 pilot programme clearly defines the role of GPs, the eligibility criteria, and the referral pathway for PSA testing.⁴

More information
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