

The Netherlands

Prostate Cancer Screening Facts



Life expectancy



80.7
years¹

Incidence



16,095
annually²

Prostate Cancer*



11.90%²

*Share of new cancer diagnoses that are prostate cancer

Health Care System

The Dutch government provides broad universal health coverage. Social health insurance is mandatory for all residents.³

Reimbursement PSA



Yes

Main Testing Location



GP/
Urologist

National Cancer Plan



No

What’s happening in practice?
Screening for prostate cancer is opportunistic. According to the Population Screening Act (WBO), a permit is needed to start a screening trial (or a pilot). So far, applications submitted and evaluated by the Committee on Population Screening for the Health Council (Gezondheidsraad) have been denied because the proposed (pilot) studies do not meet the WBO legal requirements.⁴

The National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) is the national coordinator of screening programmes for breast, colorectal and cervical cancer. Bevolkingsonderzoek Nederland is responsible for carrying out the population-based screening programmes. Screening is organised by the federal government. The federal, regional governments, and SHI are financing it. There is no screening programme for prostate cancer.³

National Clinical Guidelines

Government

No recommendation for screening.

Urologist

The use of the PSA test should not be recommended with asymptomatic men. However, men who are informed about the pros and cons of screening by their GP or urologist are eligible for early detection of prostate cancer, should, on request, have access to a PSA test and possible additional diagnostics.⁵

GP

The Dutch Society for General Practitioners (NHG) states that active unsolicited offering of a PSA determination to men without clinical symptoms of prostate cancer is not recommended.

Only men who ask for early detection on their initiative, or people with unexplained bone pain should be offered a PSA screening after counseling.

DRE is only recommended in counseled men with a life expectancy >10 years, BRCA2-carriers or unexplained bone pain.⁶

References
[1] Centraal Bureau voor statistiek(CBS), 2025
[2] Integraal Kankercentrum Nederland (IKNL) 2025
[3] EAU national society meeting and SR;
[4] Ministerie van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport. (2024, 8 januari). Health Council of the Netherlands - The Health Council of the Netherlands. <https://www.healthcouncil.nl/>;
[5] Prostaatcarcinoom - vroegdetectie - richtlijn - richtlijnendatabase. (z.d.). https://richtlijnendatabase.nl/richtlijn/prostaatcarcinoom/screening_en_vroegdetectie/vroegdetectie.html;
[6] Prostaatkanker. (z.d.). NHG-Richtlijnen. <https://richtlijnen.nhg.org/standaarden/prostaatkanker>