

Germany

Prostate Cancer Screening Facts



Life expectancy



81.1 years

Incidence



79,610 annually

Prostate Cancer



28.8%

*Share of new cancer diagnoses that are prostate cancer

Health Care System

Germany has the oldest social health insurance (SHI) system in the world. Health insurance is compulsory.¹²

Reimbursement PSA



No

Main Testing Location



Urologist/ GP

National Cancer Plan



Yes

What’s happening in practice?

PSA testing is not currently part of an organised population-based screening programme for prostate cancer and is not reimbursed by health insurance. PSA tests are thus paid by the patient.

Research suggests that about 30% of men >65 underwent a preventive medical check-up through DRE.

National Clinical Guidelines

Government

In 2020, the Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG) concluded that PSA testing for prostate cancer in men at average risk does more harm than good, stating that the risks and negative effects of screening outweigh its potential benefits. As of 2026, this assessment is being re-evaluated by the Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) and IQWiG. The ongoing review is assessing PSA testing in combination with multiparametric MRI (mpMRI) for men with elevated PSA levels, and the results are still pending.

Urologist

Men who wish to undergo early detection after being informed should be offered PSA testing as a screening method. For men aged 45–70 years with a life expectancy of at least 10 years, the interval for follow-up PSA testing should be determined according to the individual's PSA level, unless there is an indication for biopsy.

GP

In light of the current evidence, the German Society for General Practice and Family Medicine (DEGAM) continues to see no positive benefit-harm for the introduction of a population based PSA screening programme. Men should not be proactively approached about prostate cancer screening. Men who request screening should receive balanced information about its potential benefits and harms. If they still wish to proceed after counseling, a PSA test could be offered.

More information
praise-u@uroweb.org
uroweb.org/praise-u



Co-funded by
the European Union

References

[1] AWMF. (2021). S3-Leitlinie Prostatakarzinom. https://register.awmf.org/assets/guidelines/043-0220L1_S3_Prostatakarzinom_2021-10.pdf;

[2] IQWiG. (n.d.). Abschlussbericht zum Auftrag S19-01: Früherkennung von Prostatakrebs durch PSA-Tests. https://www.iqwig.de/download/s19-01_psa-screening_abschlussbericht_v1-1.pdf;

[3] ARIIBA. (n.d.). PSA-Screening. <https://ariba-hausarzt.de/module/psa-screening>;

[4] Krebsinformationsdienst. (n.d.). PSA-Test zur Früherkennung von Prostatakrebs. <https://www.krebsinformationsdienst.de/tumorerkrankungen/prostatakrebs/psa-test-frueherkennung.php>;

[5] Appen, S., Jürgens, V., Freitag, M. H., & Winter, A. (2019). Early detection of prostate cancer using prostate-specific antigen testing: An empirical evaluation among general practitioners and urologists. Cancer Management and Research, 11, 87–97. <https://doi.org/10.2147/CMAR.S193225>;

[6] Simbrich, A., Serjono, A., Donner-Banzhoff, N., & Hense, H. W. (2018). Practice of early detection of prostate cancer: Descriptive survey in preparation for the PSAInForm study. Der Urologe. Ausg. A, 57(9), 1084–1088. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00120-018-0644-0>;

[7] Starker, A., Buttman-Schweiger, N., Krause, L., Barnes, B., Kraywinkel, K., & Holmberg, C. (2018). Krebsfrüherkennungsuntersuchungen in Deutschland: Angebot und Inanspruchnahme [Cancer screening in Germany: Availability and participation]. Bundesgesundheitsblatt - Gesundheitsforschung - Gesundheitsschutz, 61(12), 1491–1499. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00103-018-2842-8>;

[8] Al-Monajjed, R., Arsov, C., & Albers, P. (2018). Prostatakrebscreening: Kontroversen und mögliche Lösungen [Prostate cancer screening: Controversies and suggested solutions]. Bundesgesundheitsblatt - Gesundheitsforschung - Gesundheitsschutz, 61(12), 1544–1550. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00103-018-2840-x>;

[9] Beck, S., Bonitta, B., Walter, U., & Dreier, M. (2019). Systematic evaluation of written health information on PSA-based screening in Germany. PLoS ONE, 14(8), e0220745. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0220745>;

[10] Froehner, M., Koch, R., Hübler, M., & Wirth, M. P. (2016). Validation of an age-adjusted prostate cancer-specific comorbidity index. European Urology, 69(5), 764–766. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.euro.2015.10.045>;

[11] <https://www.krebsdaten.de/Krebs/DE/Content/Krebsarten/Prostatakrebs/prostatakrebs.html>; [12] European Observatory