

Italy

Prostate Cancer Screening Facts

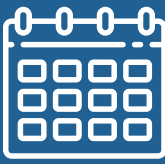


Life expectancy



82.4 years

Incidence



38,180 annually

Prostate Cancer*



16.40%

*Share of new cancer diagnoses that are prostate cancer

Health Care System

Italy’s National Health Service (NHS) is decentralised. The state collects tax revenues for publicly financed health care and has overall stewardship. Each region is responsible for the organisation and delivery of health services through local health units.

Reimbursement PSA



Yes

Main Testing Location



GP/ Urologist

National Cancer Plan



Yes

What’s happening in practice?

No official screening programme for prostate cancer is currently in practice. The practice of prostate-specific antigen (PSA) screening has been increasing in Italy despite uncertain scientific evidence and contrary recommendations from most scientific societies.²

In clinical practice, screening by annual serum PSA assay is a procedure updated by the Territorial Structures (Hospitals, ASL laboratories, Private Diagnostics Centres in agreement with the SSR). The target population are asymptomatic men ≥ 50 years with a life expectancy >10 years and men aged 40-50, with risk factors such as family history, BRCA-2 mutations or ethnicity.

In various Italian regions different pilots on prostate cancer screening are being carried out. In 2026 4 Italian partners joined PRAISE-U+.

National Clinical Guidelines

Government

No official position against or pro prostate cancer screening.

Urologist

Italian Urological Society has adopted the EAU Guidelines, but they are not implemented at national level.³

GP

Based on current knowledge, PSA screening is not recommended, but there is widespread opportunistic PSA screening in asymptomatic men.

* PSA screening should be discussed on a case-by-case basis, explaining potential risks and benefits.

* However, men <40 or >75 and men with a life expectancy <10 years should not be screened for PSA1.

More information
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