

Estonia

Prostate Cancer Screening Facts



Life expectancy



75.6
years

Incidence



1,518
annually

Prostate Cancer*



30%

*Share of new cancer diagnoses that are prostate cancer

Health Care System

Estonia has a solidarity-based national health insurance system, financed mainly through social tax contributions and state budget transfers. The Ministry of Social Affairs is responsible for health policy and overall system governance. The Estonian Health Insurance Fund (Tervisekassa) pools most public health care funding and purchases health services from providers.

Reimbursement PSA



Yes

Main Testing Location



GP

National Cancer Plan



Yes

What’s happening in practice?

In Estonia, there are three national screening programmes for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer. Although participation in cancer screening has improved, uptake remains below the recommended 70% target¹. PSA testing has traditionally been opportunistic and mainly initiated in primary care. In 2024-2025, Estonia conducted a pilot study of risk-based organised screening for prostate cancer following the PRAISE-U pathway². The current goal is to move from opportunistic PSA testing towards an organised, risk-adapted early detection, using risk assessment and MRI to select men who require further diagnostic evaluation and biopsy.

National Clinical Guidelines

Government	Urologist	GP
No national programme for early detection of prostate cancer.	Estonian urologists generally follow the EAU Guidelines and use risk-adapted algorithms for prostate cancer early detection and diagnosis.	GPs play a key role in early detection and refer men to urologists via e-consultation for further risk assessment and diagnostic evaluation. In 2023, a guideline for family practitioners was published, encouraging the use of age-related median PSA values to determine testing frequency ³ . Widespread opportunistic testing has led to high prostate cancer incidence in Estonia ⁴ .

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





References
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[3] The guideline for health monitoring and disease prevention in adults aged 40–65. The Estonian Health Insurance Fund. 2023. <https://www.ravijuhend.ee/tervishoiuvarav/juhendid-gp/25/40-65-aastase-taiskasvanu-tervise-jalgimise-ja-haiguste-ennetamise-juhend>
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