

Lithuania

Prostate Cancer Screening Facts



Life expectancy



75.1
years

Incidence



3,208
annually

Prostate Cancer*



37.40%

*Share of new cancer diagnoses that are prostate cancer

Health Care System

The Lithuanian health system is organised around the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), which purchases services on behalf of the insured population and aims to cover all residents. The Ministry of Health is responsible for health policies, monitoring population health and governing the NHIF as well as health providers.

State Enterprise Centre of Registers, using early diagnostics and prevention information system automatically collects algorithm-based data concerning screening services.

Reimbursement PSA



Yes

Main Testing Location



GP

National Cancer Plan



Yes

What's happening in practice?

Lithuania has operated the national Early Prostate Cancer Detection Programme (EPCDP) since 2006 and is one of the few countries in the world with such a programme. It is a nationwide PSA test-based screening performed by GP. If the PSA is elevated, person is referred to a urologist, who then performs a MRI if it is needed, which in line with the PRAISE-U risk assessment. 70% of men aged 50 to 74 have participated in the prostate cancer programme at least once in the first 10 years of the screening.²³⁴

There is a national prostate cancer screening programme for men aged 50-69 (45 years with a family history). With the national screening programme since 2006, 2800 new prostate cancer cases are detected every year. In 2026 the Ministry of Health has officially approved an update to the national Prostate Cancer Early Diagnosis Financing Programme, incorporating the screening algorithm used during the PRAISE-U study.

Government

Men aged 50-69 (45 years with a family history) should be included in the national screening programme. All programmes should be evaluated for effectiveness concerning costs and mortality, states the Nacionalinis Vėžio Institutas (NVI) in 2023.

Urologist

National guidelines for screening are followed.

GP

National guidelines for screening are followed.

More information
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References
[1] European Observatory;
[2] Gondos A et al. Cancer surveillance using registry data: Results and recommendations for the Lithuanian national prostate cancer early detection programme. Eur J Cancer. 2015. PMID: 26044924;
[3] Patasius A et al.. Changing Incidence and Stage Distribution of Prostate Cancer in a Lithuanian Population-Evidence from National PSA-Based Screening Program. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2019 PMID: 31816821;
[4] Patasius A et al. Prostate Cancer Screening with PSA: Ten Years' Experience of Population Based Early Prostate Cancer Detection Programme in Lithuania. J Clin Med. 2020 PMID: 33255919;
[5] <https://www.nvi.lt/news/848/72/Vezio-patikros-programu-naujie-nos-diagnostikos-ir-gydymo-aktualijos-diskusija-su-seimos-gydytojais-V-prof-Laimos-Liudvikos-Griciutes-konferen-cijoje/> <https://ligoniukasa.lrv.lt/en/sector-activities/services-for-residents/prevention-programmes/>, <http://www.-prostatosvezys.lt/gydytojo-patarimai/gydytojo-patarimai-2/>;
[6] <https://ligoniukasa.lrv.lt/lt/veiklos-sritys/informaci-ja-gyventojams/ligu-prevencijos-programos/prostatos-vezio-prevencija/>

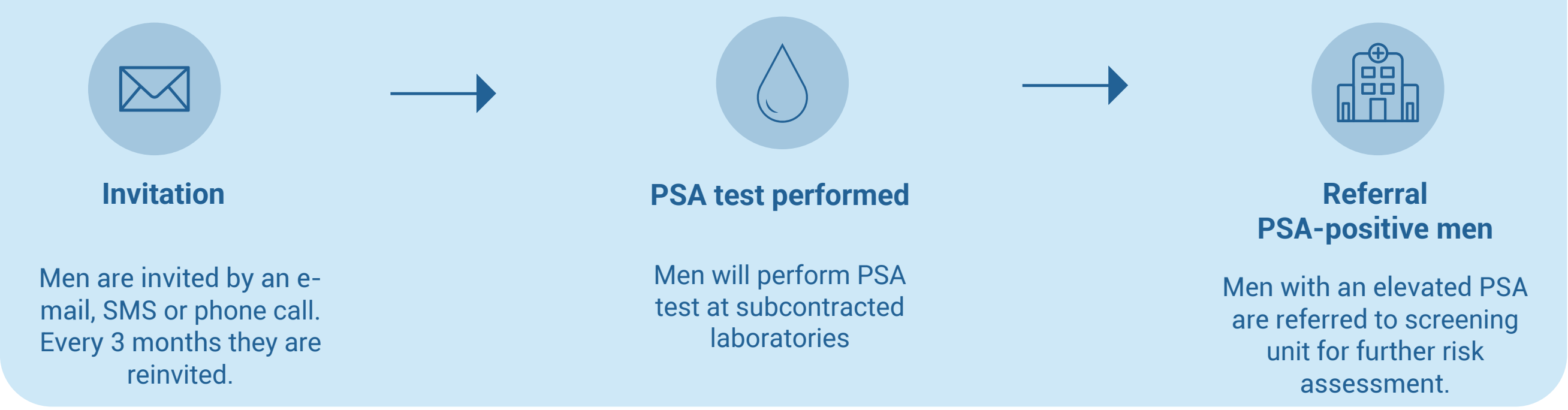
The PRAISE-U project is piloting risk-based prostate cancer screening programmes across different pilot sites in Europe. The pilots are designed to test how organised screening could work in different healthcare systems and populations.

PILOT OVERVIEW

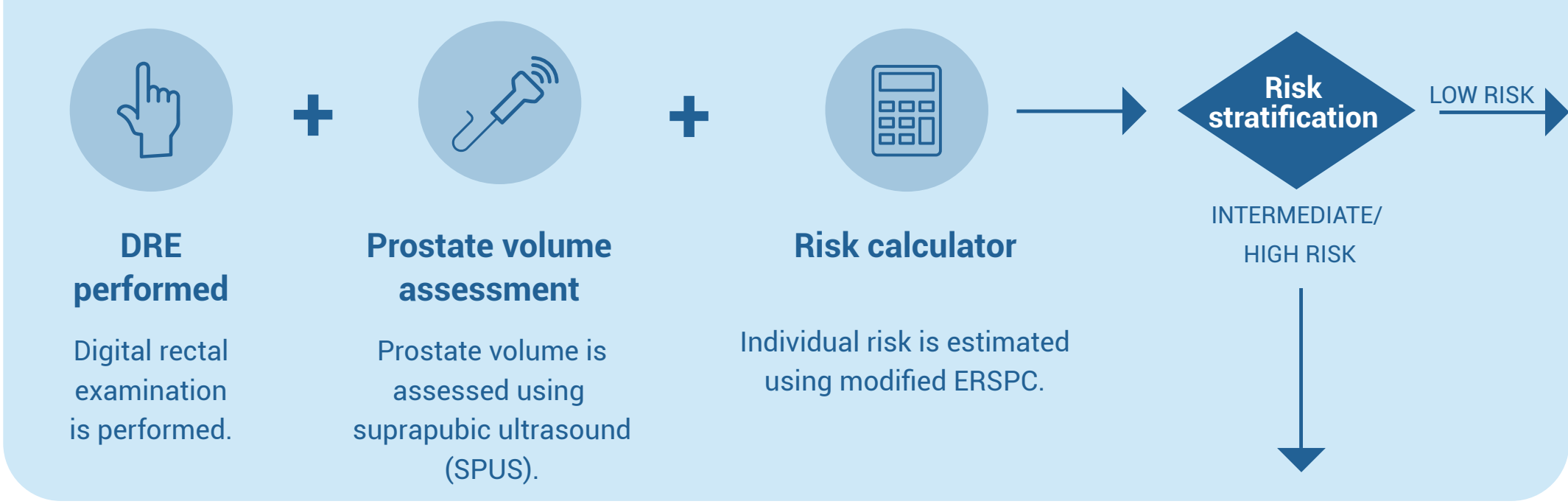
 Lithuania	 Age 50 - 69	 2,359 men participated	 National Cancer Institute (NCI)
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HOW THE LITHUANIAN PILOT PATHWAY WORKS

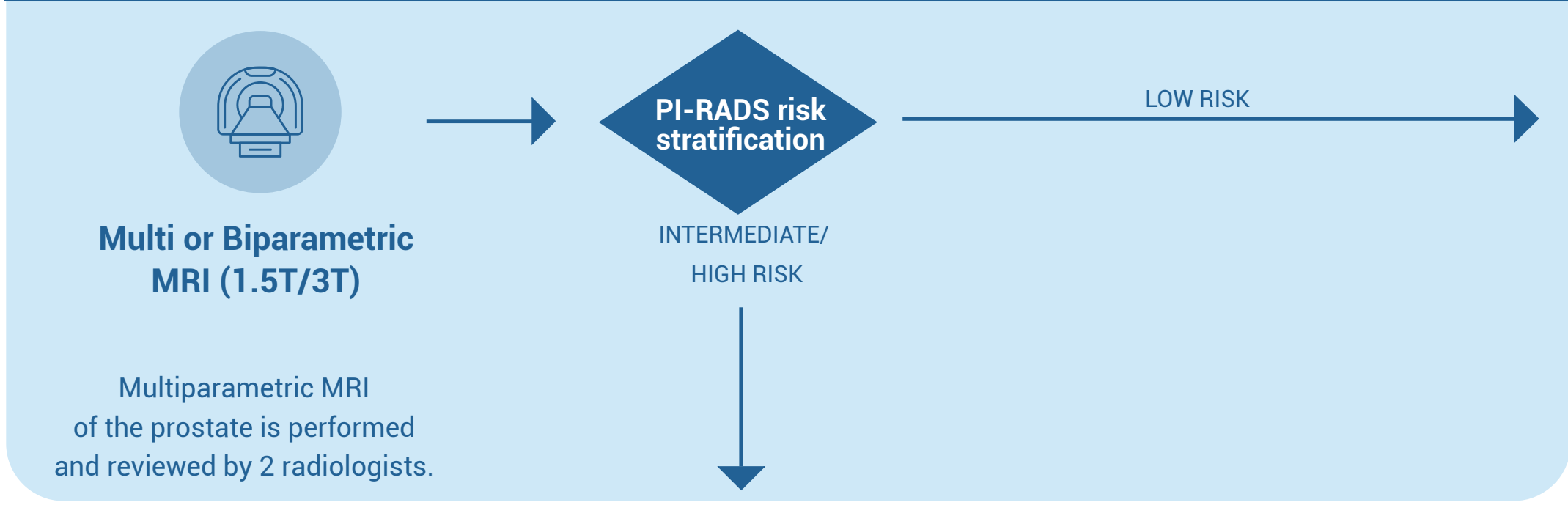
1 INVITATION & PSA TESTING



2 RISK ASSESSMENT



3 MRI AND SECOND RISK STRATIFICATION



4 BIOPSY AND DIAGNOSIS

