
AAVBC

American Academy
of Value Based Care

Prostate Cancer

Quick Reference Guide

2025

AAVBC Quick Reference Guide - Prostate Cancer

1. CLINICAL SNAPSHOT

Definition: Prostate cancer (PCa) is a malignant neoplasm of the prostate gland (usually an adenocarcinoma), often slow-growing, arising primarily from glandular epithelium.^{1,2}

ICD-10 codes: **C61** – Prostate cancer (primary malignant neoplasm of prostate)³

Use additional codes to capture disease status and complexity: **Z19.1** – Hormone sensitive malignancy status (indicates androgen-dependent disease, typically prior to advanced therapy); **Z19.2** – Castration-resistant malignancy status (indicates progression despite androgen deprivation, i.e. castration-resistant prostate cancer, CRPC); **R97.21** – Elevated PSA following treatment for prostate cancer (biochemical recurrence indicator).

Coding note: If the patient's prostate cancer is in remission after treatment, use **Z85.46** (personal history of malignant neoplasm of prostate) instead of **C61** until recurrence is confirmed. **R97.21** is ICD-10 for rising PSA after treatment and indicates active cancer not in remission

HCC/RAF V28 Mapping: **C61** is ICD-10 code for prostate cancer maps to **HCC 23** with a RAF (**0.186**); **C79.51** is ICD-10 for secondary malignant neoplasm of bone maps to **HCC18** with RAF (**2.341**)^{4,5}

Prevalence:

- Most commonly diagnosed non-cutaneous cancer in men; over 60% of cases are diagnosed after age 65
- Estimated 313,780 new cases of prostate cancer in the United States in 2025 or about ~30% of new cancer cases in men¹
- Second leading cause of male cancer death, over 35,000 deaths in 2025
- Incidence fell nearly 40% from 2007–2014, but has since risen ~3% annually. Reduced PSA screening after the 2012 USPSTF recommendation was followed by an increase in regional and metastatic presentations.
- Large inequities exist in incidence of and mortality from prostate cancer across racial and ethnic groups. The incidence rate in Black individuals is 67% higher than in White individuals and the mortality rate in this population is 2 to 4 times higher than all other racial and ethnic groups.

Cost Burden

- National spending on prostate cancer care exceeds \$10 billion annually, including diagnostics, treatment, and long-term management.⁶
- **Localized Disease** – Cost Efficiency of Active Surveillance (AS)^{1,6,7}
 - Low-risk patients (Grade Group 1) managed with **Active Surveillance** reduce expenditures by **50–70% in the first 2 years** versus immediate prostatectomy or radiation (typical procedure episode cost **\$20,000–\$30,000**)
 - Correctly identifying Grade Group 1 patients and assigning them to AS can reduce **PMPY costs by \$10,000–\$15,000** over 10 years.
- **Intermediate/High-Risk Localized Disease**^{1,6,7}

- Definitive therapy (radical prostatectomy, external beam radiation, brachytherapy) often exceeds \$25,000–\$40,000 including hospital, anesthesia, pathology, and follow-up
- Salvage radiation or ADT after recurrence adds substantial long-term expenditures that must be risk-stratified and managed proactively.
- **Metastatic & Advanced Disease (Highest Cost Segment)**^{1, 6, 7}
 - Transition to metastatic hormone-sensitive (mHSPC) or castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC) drives the **steepest cost escalation**.
 - Advanced therapy regimens: AR-targeted agents (abiraterone, enzalutamide, apalutamide), docetaxel, PSMA-PET imaging, and bone-targeted therapies—commonly exceed **\$100,000 PMPY**

Medicare screenings:^{1-5, 8}

Test	Clinical need (who/when)	Coverage	CPT Code	Notes
PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Men 55–69: Individual decision (USPSTF Grade C) after shared decision-making ● Men ≥70: Not recommended for routine screening (Grade D) ● Consider earlier if high-risk (family history, BRCA2) 	Medicare covers PSA annually for men ≥50 when ordered by a clinician.	84153 (total PSA)	Screening frequency usually every 2 years if chosen. Elevated PSA requires repeat testing + shared decision-making before biopsy
Digital Rectal Exam (DRE)	Assess prostate nodules/asymmetry in symptomatic men or those with abnormal PSA	Covered when part of an evaluation for urinary symptoms or abnormal PSA	G0102 (screening DRE—Medicare)	AUA/NCCN: DRE is optional in screening but recommended during diagnostic workup
Free PSA (% free PSA)	Men with borderline PSA (4–10 ng/mL) to assess risk of clinically significant cancer	Covered when ordered to investigate an abnormal CBC or specific clinical signs	84154	Lower % free PSA → higher likelihood of prostate cancer; helps determine need for biopsy
4Kscore® (Kallikrein panel)	Adjunct test for men with elevated PSA considering an initial or repeat biopsy	Coverage varies by MAC; often covered with appropriate ICD-10 (e.g., R97.2)	Unlisted Lab (varies)	Improves prediction of high-grade cancer; reduces unnecessary biopsies.
Prostate MRI (Multiparametric MRI)	Pre-biopsy evaluation in men with elevated PSA; staging for known cancer	Covered when medically necessary for diagnosing prostate cancer	86700, 86706 (Prostate), 76942	Higher yield of high-grade cancers compared with systematic biopsy

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