
AAVBC

American Academy
of Value Based Care

Prostate Cancer

Quick Reference Guide

2025

AAVBC Prostate Cancer Quick Reference Guide

Table of Contents

CLINICAL SNAPSHOT	3
RECOGNITION AND DIAGNOSIS	4
Medicare Screenings.....	4
Subtle Early Signs in Older Adults >65 yrs.....	5
Geriatric Risk Factors.....	5
Red flags.....	6
Diagnostic Thresholds.....	7
First - rule out reversible PSA fluctuations.....	7
PSA Screening by Age.....	7
PSA Screening.....	8
When to Use Digital Rectal Exam (DRE).....	8
NCCN Very-High-Risk Criteria 2025.....	9
Clues to Dig Deeper.....	9
Common Oversights.....	10
Key Differentials in Elderly.....	10
Comorbidity Screening in Men >65 with Suspected or Confirmed Prostate Cancer.....	11
Staging and Severity.....	11
MEAT DOCUMENTATION ESSENTIALS	13
Clinical Documentation Elements.....	13
Reframing Common Documentation Shortcuts.....	14
TREATMENT AND REFERRAL	14
Treatment and Referral Criteria.....	14
Evidence-Based Prevention Actions.....	15
Non-Rx Treatment Documentation:.....	16
Follow-up Timing.....	16
Comorbidity Management.....	17
Cost-Smart Strategies.....	18
Quality Metrics Tie-In.....	18
CODING REMINDERS AND CASE EXAMPLES BOX	18
Specificity Requirements.....	18
Annual Clinical Review and Confirmation.....	19
Good Documentation is Comprehensive Coding.....	19
EHR tips.....	20
Brief case examples.....	20
REFERENCES	21

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 management⁶
- **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	Coverage varies by MAC; often covered	Unlisted Lab (varies)	Improves prediction of high-grade cancer;
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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