

Get Screened for Prostate Cancer

Screening tests are used to find cancer before a person has any symptoms. For some types of cancer, screening can help find the disease at an early stage, when treatment is more likely to be successful.

Men should be screened for prostate cancer with the prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test. Your doctor can help you figure out the best screening schedule for you.

What Does the American Cancer Society Recommend?

Age 50 for men at average risk	Age 45 for men at higher risk	Age 70 to 74 for all men	Age 75 or older for all men
Men at average risk for prostate cancer should be screened with the PSA blood test every 2 years from ages 50 to 69.	Men at higher risk, including Black men and men with a family history of prostate cancer in one or more close relatives, should start screening at age 45 and should be screened every 1 or 2 years, depending on their risk.	Men aged 70 to 74 should talk with their doctor about whether screening is right for them.	Screening is not recommended. Some men aged 75 to 79 who are very healthy may choose to continue screening. But this should be discussed with their doctor. Screening is not recommended for men who are not expected to live at least 10 more years.

What Is Your Risk of Prostate Cancer?

Check each box that applies to you.

- ☐ You are age 50 or older.
- ☐ You are Black and age 45 or older.
- ☐ You are age 45 or older and your father or brother has had prostate cancer.

*If you checked **any** of the boxes, it's time to talk with your doctor about screening.*

What Do You Need to Know About Screening?

	**A blood test is needed.**	Screening for prostate cancer is done with a PSA blood test. Similar to how an A1C test measures your blood sugar level, a PSA test measures how much PSA is in your blood. PSA is a protein made by the prostate gland.
	**The PSA test cannot tell for certain if you have cancer.**	Screening can only find clues about your chance of having prostate cancer. For example, your chance of having prostate cancer goes up as your PSA level goes up. Still, having a high PSA level does NOT always mean that you have prostate cancer.

What Questions Should You Ask Your Doctor About Screening?

Talk with your doctor – they want to hear from you. They also want to help you better understand your risk of prostate cancer and what screening schedule is best. Ask questions like:

- What is prostate cancer? How serious can it be?
- What is my overall risk of prostate cancer?
- If I get screened today, how soon will I know the results?
- How much will screening cost me?
- What would the next steps be if my PSA level is higher than normal?
- Will I need follow-up appointments or more tests after screening?

 **Remember** to get regular check-ups, so your doctor can monitor your health.

 **Remember to share any new symptoms with your doctor.** Tell your doctor if you have symptoms like blood in your urine or if you have problems like starting or stopping urine when going to the bathroom.

Visit cancer.org/prostatecancer to learn more.

American Cancer Society®

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No. 080834 Rev. 11/26
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