

**JAPAN**



# BRIDGING THE GAP

## Sustaining Excellence in Prostate Cancer Care in Japan

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Japan** has one of the most advanced and comprehensive prostate cancer care systems globally, supported by universal health coverage, high screening uptake, and widespread access to modern diagnostics and therapies. Standardized clinical guidelines are consistently applied nationwide, and patient outcomes exceed regional averages.

However, as Japan's population ages, sustaining service capacity, ensuring equitable access across all prefectures, and integrating next-generation innovations into clinical practice are critical to maintaining its **Level 5 – Advanced** maturity status

### INTRODUCTION

#### Excellence Anchored in Universal Access

Prostate cancer is one of the most common cancers among Japanese men, but survival rates remain high due to early detection programs, advanced treatment modalities, and strong adherence to clinical guidelines. Nationwide PSA screening for men over 50 is widely available, and Japan's well-coordinated health system ensures timely referrals, consistent care standards, and equitable reimbursement for essential therapies. While the system is robust, rising case volumes and regional disparities in specialist availability require forward-looking policy measures to maintain excellence.





# PROSTATE CANCER IN JAPAN

## Current Landscape and Strategic Gaps

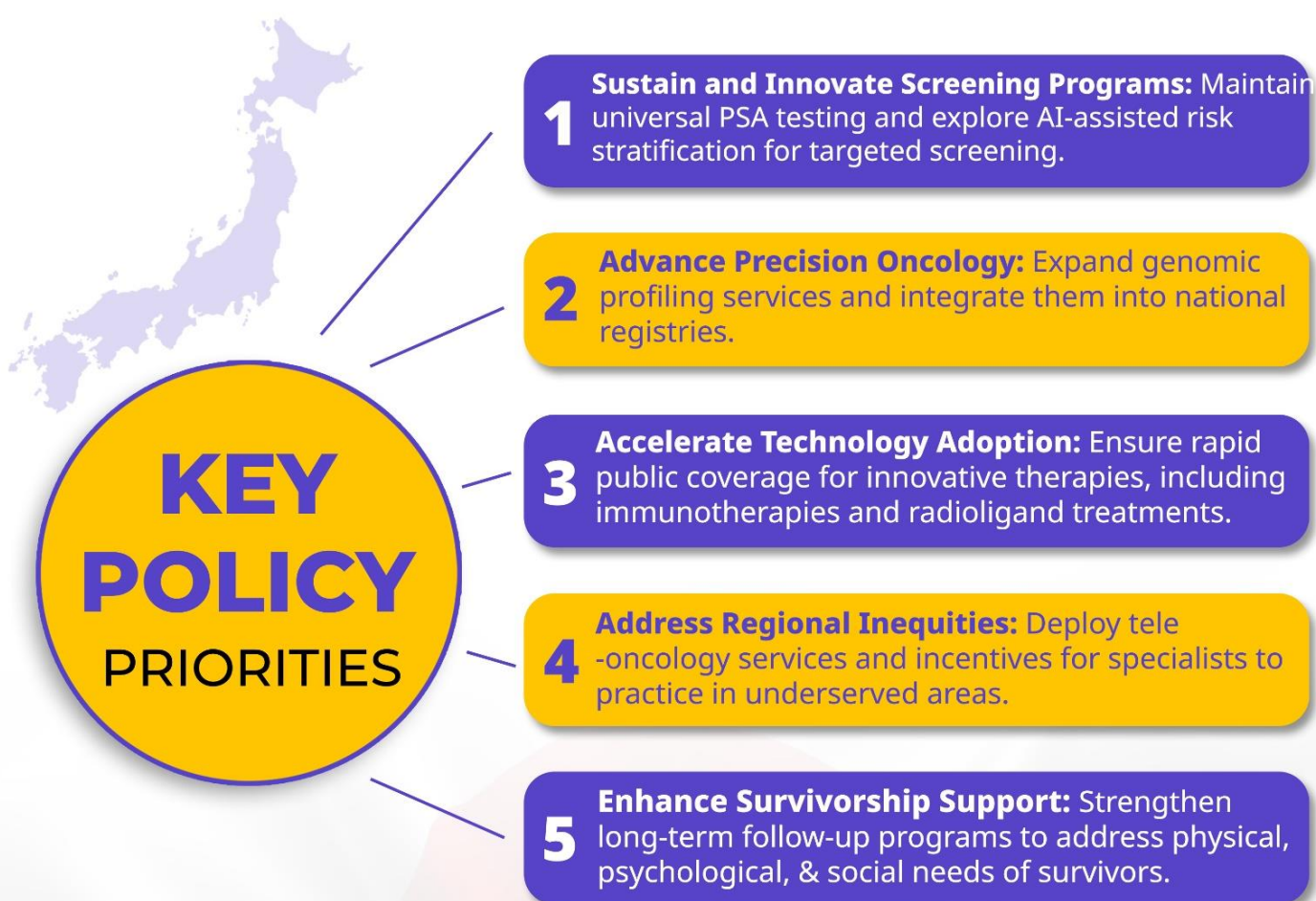
Pillar	Current Status	Strength	Policy Action
Early Detection & Diagnosis	Widespread PSA testing as part of annual health checks for men over 50; high public awareness leads to early-stage diagnosis in most cases.	National and municipal programs provide free or subsidized screening.	Sustain funding for PSA screening and explore targeted outreach for high-risk younger men.
Biomarker & Molecular Testing	Comprehensive biomarker and genetic profiling available in public and private hospitals.	Integration of molecular testing into treatment planning is standard practice.	Expand genomic testing capacity to support personalized medicine and participation in global research networks.
Treatment Access	Full range of therapies available, including surgery, radiotherapy, hormonal therapy, chemotherapy, and next-generation targeted agents.	Universal health insurance ensures affordability of most treatments.	Continue to integrate innovative treatments rapidly into the public formulary and support training for emerging technologies.
Clinical Guidelines	National prostate cancer guidelines are regularly updated and strictly followed across all prefectures.	High compliance rates among clinicians ensure consistency of care.	Maintain regular guideline revisions to incorporate global evidence and real-world data.
Palliative & Survivorship Care	Comprehensive palliative care integrated into oncology services; survivorship programs include rehabilitation, psychological support, and lifestyle counseling.	Strong network of multidisciplinary care teams.	Expand survivorship research programs to better address long-term quality of life and late effects.





## CONCLUSION & Call to Action

Japan's prostate cancer care ecosystem is a model of efficiency, accessibility, and innovation. However, the aging population, coupled with increasing incidence rates, necessitates strategic investments in workforce expansion, telemedicine adoption, and integration of AI-driven diagnostics to preserve outcomes. Maintaining the country's **Level 5 – Advanced maturity** status will depend on its ability to adapt to demographic shifts while sustaining universal, high-quality care.



## CONCLUSION

Japan's **Level 5 – Advanced** maturity in prostate cancer care is underpinned by robust infrastructure, universal coverage, and a strong culture of clinical excellence. With the right forward-looking investments, the country can continue to set global benchmarks in survival, equity, and patient quality of life. By focusing on innovation, regional equity, and sustainable capacity, Japan can ensure that every patient benefits from the highest standard of prostate cancer care, now and in the decades ahead.