



# BRIDGING THE GAP

## Advancing Prostate Cancer Care in Greece

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Greece** has made notable progress in prostate cancer care, with high awareness, widespread access to PSA testing, and established treatment infrastructure. However, gaps persist in nationwide screening participation, equitable access in rural areas, and integration of survivorship services. Out-of-pocket expenses for some advanced therapies and uneven availability of molecular diagnostics limit the full realization of an optimal care pathway.

This policy brief assesses Greece's **Level 3 – Advanced** prostate cancer maturity and recommends targeted reforms to achieve a more equitable and fully integrated care system.

### INTRODUCTION

#### Building on Strong Foundations for Better Outcomes

Prostate cancer is one of the most common cancers among Greek men, and the country benefits from strong healthcare infrastructure, experienced oncology specialists, and established cancer registries. Public awareness is relatively high, aided by media coverage and health society initiatives.

Despite these strengths, early detection is largely opportunistic, and regional disparities persist in access to advanced treatments and specialized diagnostics. Moving from Level 3 toward a more comprehensive system will require focused efforts on equity, survivorship, and personalized medicine integration.





# PROSTATE CANCER IN GREECE

## Current Landscape and Strategic Gaps

Pillar	Current Status	Strength	Policy Action
Early Detection & Diagnosis	PSA testing is widely available, but no organized national screening program; participation is driven by physician recommendation or patient initiative.	High awareness among the public and primary care physicians.	Introduce an organized, risk-based national screening program targeting men aged 50+ and high-risk groups aged 45+.
Biomarker & Molecular Testing	Available in major hospitals and private labs, but access can be limited in rural or island regions.	Established diagnostic capacity in urban tertiary centers.	Expand molecular diagnostic capabilities to regional hospitals and ensure reimbursement under public insurance.
Treatment Access	Comprehensive access to surgery, radiotherapy, and systemic treatments; however, newer therapies may face delays in public reimbursement.	Highly skilled oncologists and urologists across the country.	Accelerate approval and reimbursement for innovative therapies, and strengthen referral pathways for rural patients.
Clinical Guidelines	National guidelines align with European Association of Urology (EAU) recommendations and are followed in most public hospitals.	Strong adherence to evidence-based protocols.	Regularly update national guidelines and monitor compliance through audits and quality indicators.
Palliative & Survivorship Care	Palliative services exist but are not evenly distributed; survivorship programs are emerging but not standardized.	Active NGOs and cancer societies support survivorship initiatives.	Integrate survivorship care plans into routine oncology practice and expand community-based palliative care.





## CONCLUSION & Call to Action

Greece's **Level 3 – Advanced** maturity reflects a robust foundation in awareness, diagnosis, and treatment. The next step is to focus on eliminating inequities, expanding access to advanced diagnostics and therapies in underserved regions, and fully integrating survivorship and palliative care into the continuum.



### KEY POLICY PRIORITIES

- 1 Implement Organized Screening:** Launch a national, risk-based screening program to ensure consistent early detection rates across the population.
- 2 Expand Diagnostic Equity:** Provide molecular testing access to all regions, with full reimbursement under public insurance.
- 3 Speed Access to Innovation:** Shorten the time from regulatory approval to reimbursement for new prostate cancer drugs and technologies.
- 4 Standardize Survivorship Care:** Introduce structured survivorship programs, including mental health, physiotherapy, and long-term monitoring.
- 5 Strengthen Palliative Care Networks:** Ensure availability of palliative services in rural and island communities.

## CONCLUSION

Greece is well-positioned to become a European leader in prostate cancer care. With strong clinical expertise and infrastructure already in place, the focus should now shift to **equity, innovation adoption, and survivorship integration**. By addressing the remaining gaps in access and post-treatment support, Greece can progress from an advanced to a fully mature, patient-centered prostate cancer care system, ensuring that every man—regardless of geography or socioeconomic status—receives timely, effective, and holistic care.