



BRIDGING THE GAP

Sustaining Excellence and Innovation in Prostate Cancer Care in the Netherlands

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Netherlands has one of the most advanced and equitable prostate cancer care systems globally, with strong screening awareness, robust diagnostic infrastructure, and universal access to state-of-the-art treatments. The country's health system ensures timely detection, high survival rates, and comprehensive survivorship care. However, rising incidence due to an aging population, the need for continued innovation in precision medicine, and managing regional capacity pressures remain ongoing priorities.

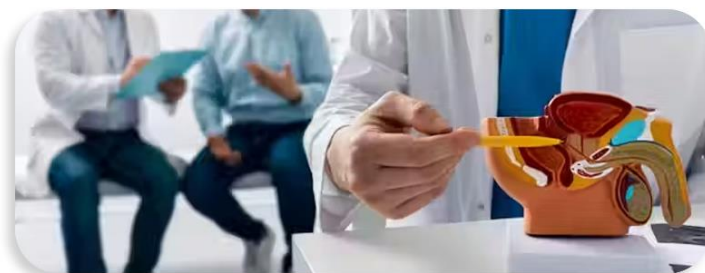
This policy brief assesses the Netherlands' strengths at **Level 5 – Advanced** maturity and outlines strategies to maintain leadership while adapting to future challenges.

INTRODUCTION

Building on a Strong Foundation of Comprehensive Care

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Dutch men, with most cases detected early thanks to high health literacy, strong primary care engagement, and opportunistic PSA testing. The Netherlands benefits from a universal health coverage model, well-distributed oncology infrastructure, and evidence-based national clinical guidelines.

With survival rates among the highest in Europe, the country's focus is shifting toward long-term quality of life, precision oncology integration, and sustainable system financing.





PROSTATE CANCER IN NETHERLANDS

Current Landscape and Strategic Gaps

Pillar	Current Status	Strength	Policy Action
Early Detection & Diagnosis	Opportunistic PSA testing widely available through primary care; shared decision-making tools ensure informed patient choices.	High participation in opportunistic screening; advanced imaging and biopsy capabilities nationwide.	Continue promoting shared decision-making, monitor overdiagnosis rates, and explore targeted risk-based screening protocols.
Biomarker & Molecular Testing	Comprehensive access to biomarkers, genomic profiling, and advanced imaging such as PSMA PET-CT in both public and private settings.	Fully integrated into standard of care; reimbursed under universal coverage.	Expand research into novel biomarkers and ensure rapid adoption of validated tools into practice.
Treatment Access	Nationwide availability of robotic-assisted surgery, advanced radiotherapy techniques, hormonal therapies, chemotherapy, and novel agents.	Universal health coverage ensures equitable access regardless of income or region.	Maintain equitable access amid rising incidence and evolving treatment costs; invest in workforce training for emerging technologies.
Clinical Guidelines	Up-to-date, evidence-based national guidelines from the Dutch Urological Association, regularly revised.	High adherence across all healthcare levels.	Integrate new evidence rapidly, especially for precision oncology and minimal-invasive therapies.
Palliative & Survivorship Care	Well-developed survivorship programs, multidisciplinary rehabilitation, and comprehensive palliative care services.	Strong integration between hospital, community, and home-based care.	Expand telemedicine support for survivorship and ensure consistent access to palliative services in all municipalities.



CONCLUSION & Call to Action

The Netherlands' prostate cancer care system exemplifies Level 5 – Advanced maturity, with strong outcomes and equitable access. Future priorities focus on sustaining quality while embracing innovation, particularly in precision oncology and survivorship care models.



1 Refine Screening Approaches: Introduce risk-based algorithms to minimize overdiagnosis and overtreatment.

2 Lead in Precision Medicine: Accelerate research and integration of molecular diagnostics and targeted therapies.

3 Sustain Workforce Capacity: Train oncology professionals in new surgical and radiotherapy technologies.

4 Enhance Survivorship Models: Expand digital health tools for remote monitoring and rehabilitation.

5 Maintain Equity: Monitor for regional disparities and ensure uniform service quality nationwide.

CONCLUSION

With its robust infrastructure, universal access, and high survival rates, the Netherlands stands at the forefront of global prostate cancer care. However, sustaining **Level 5 – Advanced** maturity will require continued adaptation to evolving scientific advances, demographic changes, and cost pressures. By reinforcing innovation, risk-based prevention, and integrated survivorship strategies, the Netherlands can ensure that its prostate cancer care model remains both equitable and future-ready—delivering optimal outcomes for every patient.