



BRIDGING THE GAP

Advancing Innovation & Equitable Access in Prostate Cancer Care in the United Arab Emirates

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

United Arab Emirates (UAE) has made significant progress in establishing a strong foundation for prostate cancer care. With robust infrastructure, advanced diagnostics, and access to innovative treatments, the country reflects a **Level 4 - Advanced** maturity. Despite this progress, challenges remain around ensuring equitable access for all population groups, strengthening survivorship care, and embedding nationwide screening.

This policy brief examines the UAE's current landscape and outlines opportunities to consolidate achievements while addressing emerging gaps.

INTRODUCTION

A High-Capacity System with Opportunities for Greater Equity

Prostate cancer is among the leading cancers affecting men in the UAE. The country has invested heavily in advanced medical technology, high-standard cancer centers, and access to innovative therapies, including targeted and hormonal treatments. However, reliance on urban-based centers, variations in private versus public coverage, and relatively modest participation in routine screening hinder universal impact.

With a **Level 4 maturity**, the UAE stands well-positioned to transition toward a fully integrated, equitable, and sustainable prostate cancer system.





PROSTATE CANCER IN THE UAE

Current Landscape and Strategic Gaps

Pillar	Current Status	Strength	Policy Action
Early Detection & Diagnosis	Opportunistic PSA screening is available, but no national organized program. Uptake is uneven, particularly among expatriate populations.	High availability of diagnostic facilities in major hospitals.	Introduce a national prostate cancer screening framework, targeting men aged 50+ and high-risk groups (including Emirati families with history of prostate cancer).
Biomarker & Molecular Testing	Widely available in major cancer centers, including genetic and molecular profiling.	Strong access to modern laboratory infrastructure and private sector investment.	Expand biomarker and genomic testing access to all public hospitals, ensuring affordability and equity.
Treatment Access	Full spectrum of treatment is available, including surgery, radiotherapy, hormonal therapy, and advanced immunotherapies.	Access to cutting-edge therapies and international clinical trials.	Strengthen financial coverage across both Emirati and expatriate populations, ensuring affordability in private settings.
Clinical Guidelines	Clinical protocols often based on international best practices; some emirate-level variation.	High expertise among oncologists and urologists.	Standardize prostate cancer guidelines at a federal level and ensure continuous medical education programs.
Palliative & Survivorship Care	Palliative care services are expanding but not uniformly available. Survivorship and psychosocial support programs remain limited.	Existing palliative care integration in major hospitals.	Scale survivorship programs, build community-based palliative teams, and ensure culturally appropriate psychological support.



CONCLUSION & Call to Action

The UAE has established itself as a leader in prostate cancer care in the Middle East, with advanced infrastructure, world-class therapies, and strong health system governance. However, equity, access, and survivorship remain areas requiring focused investment. By aligning policies toward universal access and building a comprehensive survivorship framework, the UAE can strengthen its trajectory toward excellence in prostate cancer care.



KEY POLICY PRIORITIES

- 1 Launch a National Screening Program:** Formalize and implement structured prostate cancer screening to promote early detection.
- 2 Ensure Universal Access to Biomarker Testing:** Expand genetic and molecular diagnostic availability to all hospitals, including public facilities.
- 3 Guarantee Affordability of Treatments:** Enhance insurance coverage for expatriates and standardize financial protection across all population groups.
- 4 Standardize National Guidelines:** Establish and enforce evidence-based national prostate cancer treatment protocols across all emirates.
- 5 Expand Palliative & Survivorship Care:** Scale survivorship programs and ensure equitable palliative care access beyond major cities.

CONCLUSION

With a **Level 4 – Advanced** maturity, the UAE is among the most progressive countries in the region for prostate cancer care. Its advanced infrastructure and access to innovative therapies are world-class, but gaps in equity, affordability, and survivorship remain. By institutionalizing a nationwide screening program, strengthening financial protection, and expanding survivorship services, the UAE can move toward becoming a global benchmark for comprehensive, equitable prostate cancer care.