



BRIDGING THE GAP

Advancing Prostate Cancer Care in Russia

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Russia has made significant progress in prostate cancer care through improved diagnostic access, an expanding oncology network, and government-backed cancer control initiatives. However, challenges remain in ensuring equitable access across vast regions, reducing late-stage diagnoses, and improving survivorship outcomes. High out-of-pocket costs for some therapies, uneven distribution of radiotherapy facilities, and gaps in biomarker adoption continue to restrict patient outcomes.

This policy brief examines the current state of prostate cancer care in Russia and outlines reforms to strengthen its **Level 3 – Advancing** maturity toward a fully integrated and equitable system

INTRODUCTION

Building on Infrastructure Gains While Addressing Equity Gaps

Prostate cancer is one of the most common cancers among Russian men, and incidence has risen steadily with aging demographics and improved diagnostic reporting. Government investment through national oncology programs has expanded access to PSA testing and cancer centers, particularly in urban areas. However, disparities persist across rural regions, and a substantial proportion of cases are still diagnosed at advanced stages.

As Russia reaches a **Level 3 – Advancing** maturity, further policy innovation and resource allocation are needed to ensure consistent, high-quality care nationwide.





PROSTATE CANCER IN RUSSIA

Current Landscape and Strategic Gaps

Pillar	Current Status	Strength	Policy Action
Early Detection & Diagnosis	PSA testing widely available in urban centers; opportunistic screening leads to improved early detection, though rural access is weaker.	National programs have expanded diagnostic services.	Implement a structured nationwide screening strategy targeting men 50+ with risk-based protocols, and expand access in rural areas.
Biomarker & Molecular Testing	Limited access to advanced biomarkers and genetic profiling outside major cities; mostly private-sector driven.	Emerging molecular testing services in urban cancer centers.	Scale biomarker testing in public oncology centers, and integrate reimbursement to expand uptake.
Treatment Access	Surgery, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy widely available in major cities; access is uneven in rural regions. Newer hormonal therapies and immunotherapy available but often expensive.	A growing oncology infrastructure supported by state funding.	Expand reimbursement for innovative therapies, ensure equitable distribution of radiotherapy machines across all regions.
Clinical Guidelines	National clinical guidelines exist but adherence is inconsistent across regions.	Strong alignment with international standards in leading hospitals.	Strengthen implementation monitoring, standardize nationwide clinician training, and expand CME opportunities.
Palliative & Survivorship Care	Palliative care access is improving but still uneven across regions; survivorship support programs remain limited.	National policies recognize palliative care as a health system priority.	Expand palliative care teams at regional hospitals, integrate survivorship programs into oncology centers.



CONCLUSION & Call to Action

Russia's **Level 3 – Advancing** maturity prostate cancer system demonstrates strong national commitment and notable progress in infrastructure, yet equity and innovation gaps persist. To maximize survival and quality of life, the system must transition from urban concentration to nationwide accessibility, ensuring that men across all regions benefit from early detection, advanced treatment, and survivorship support.



KEY POLICY PRIORITIES

1

Establish a National Prostate Cancer Screening Framework: Move from opportunistic PSA testing to structured, risk-based screening nationwide.

2

Scale Molecular and Biomarker Testing:

Integrate biomarker services into the public system with reimbursement pathways.

3

Ensure Equitable Treatment Access: Expand radiotherapy infrastructure and subsidize next-generation therapies.

4

Strengthen Clinical Standardization: Enforce adherence to national guidelines through audits, training, and monitoring.

5

Expand Survivorship and Palliative Care: Build comprehensive survivorship services and ensure equitable palliative care availability across rural and urban areas.

CONCLUSION

Russia stands at a critical point in prostate cancer care, demonstrating a solid **Level 3 – Advancing maturity**. While diagnostic and treatment capacity is strong in major cities, inequities in rural regions, limited access to innovative therapies, and gaps in survivorship support must be addressed. With sustained government commitment, expanded infrastructure, and integration of personalized medicine, Russia can move toward a more **Level 4 – Mature system**, delivering consistent, equitable, and innovative prostate cancer care nationwide.