



BRIDGING THE GAP

Advancing Equity and Innovation in Prostate Cancer Care in Brazil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Brazil has developed a relatively advanced prostate cancer care framework, with organized screening in certain regions, established clinical guidelines, and a growing network of oncology centers. However, regional disparities in access, delays in diagnosis, and uneven availability of advanced therapies remain challenges. Public sector coverage through the Unified Health System (SUS) ensures broad access, but capacity constraints and variability in service delivery hinder optimal outcomes.

This policy brief evaluates the current state of prostate cancer care in Brazil and outlines reforms to strengthen its **Level 3 – Advanced** maturity toward a uniformly high standard nationwide.

INTRODUCTION

Building on Strong Foundations to Address Persistent Gaps

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among Brazilian men, with incidence rising partly due to improved detection. Public awareness is boosted by national campaigns like **“Novembro Azul” (Blue November)**, and the SUS offers screening and treatment free of charge.

Despite these strengths, inequalities persist—rural and northern regions often have longer wait times for diagnostic confirmation and treatment initiation, and access to advanced radiotherapy and novel hormonal therapies is still concentrated in major cities.





PROSTATE CANCER IN BRAZIL

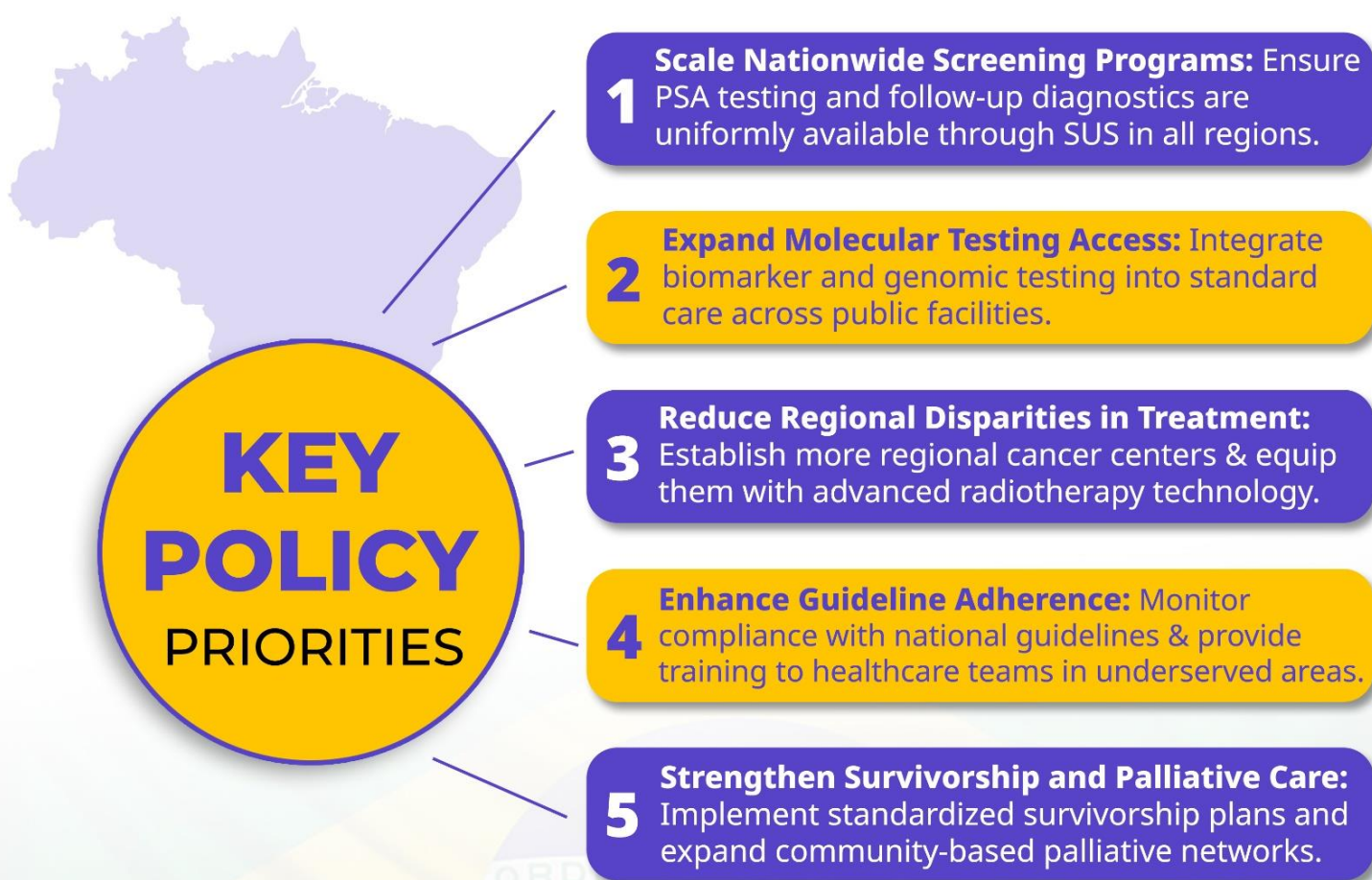
Current Landscape and Strategic Gaps

Pillar	Current Status	Strength	Policy Action
Early Detection & Diagnosis	Opportunistic screening widely available; some states implement organized PSA testing programs. Access to biopsy and imaging varies by region.	National awareness campaigns drive high public recognition of prostate cancer.	Expand organized screening nationwide, with targeted outreach in underserved rural and northern areas to ensure equitable access.
Biomarker & Molecular Testing	Available in private sector and leading public oncology centers, but not universally accessible in SUS facilities.	High-quality molecular testing in reference hospitals.	Scale molecular diagnostic services across all SUS cancer centers and include reimbursement in public health budgets.
Treatment Access	Surgery, radiotherapy, and hormonal therapy are widely available in major cities; delays and limited capacity in some states.	Comprehensive cancer centers in urban hubs.	Increase investment in regional cancer treatment hubs, expand radiotherapy machine availability, and ensure equitable access to novel therapies.
Clinical Guidelines	National clinical guidelines are in place and regularly updated; adherence is generally high in urban centers.	Ministry of Health supports dissemination and training.	Strengthen enforcement of guidelines in all states, with quality monitoring and training in rural facilities.
Palliative & Survivorship Care	Established palliative care services in most large hospitals; survivorship programs emerging but not standardized.	Integration of palliative care into oncology care pathways.	Standardize survivorship care plans across SUS, expand community-based palliative programs, and improve access to pain relief medicines in rural areas.



CONCLUSION & Call to Action

Brazil's prostate cancer system benefits from robust public health infrastructure, strong awareness initiatives, and defined clinical guidelines. However, regional inequalities in diagnostic and treatment access remain a critical barrier. By targeting investments toward underserved areas and standardizing access to advanced diagnostics and therapies, Brazil can progress toward a **Level 4 – Optimized** system.



CONCLUSION

With a **Level 3 – Advanced** maturity in prostate cancer care, Brazil is well-positioned to make the leap to full optimization. The foundation of public sector access, strong awareness programs, and established guidelines is already in place. The focus now must shift to closing geographic and socioeconomic gaps, ensuring that all Brazilian men—regardless of where they live—receive timely, high-quality, and comprehensive prostate cancer care.