

# BRIDGING THE GAP

## Advancing Prostate Cancer Care in Vietnam

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Vietnam** has made progress in raising cancer awareness and expanding oncology services, yet significant disparities remain in prostate cancer care. Early detection is limited, and most diagnoses still occur at advanced stages. While major hospitals in urban centers provide advanced treatments, rural populations face limited access and high financial burdens. The absence of a national prostate cancer screening program, combined with uneven infrastructure and shortages of specialized staff, restricts patient outcomes.

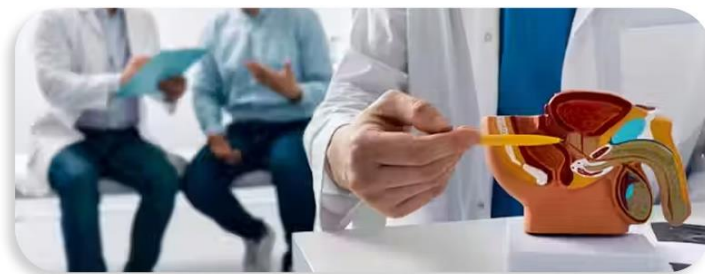
With a **Level 2 – Developing** maturity, Vietnam has a foundation to build upon through targeted policies and system strengthening.

### INTRODUCTION

#### Progressing Beyond Awareness Toward Integrated Care

As Vietnam continues to face the growing burden of non-communicable diseases, prostate cancer incidence is on the rise. Public health campaigns and general cancer awareness efforts have laid an important foundation, but these gains have not translated into timely diagnosis or equitable access to treatment. While centers in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City provide advanced surgical and radiotherapy options, gaps in rural healthcare, affordability, and systematic screening remain.

Vietnam's **Level 2 – Developing maturity** highlights partial progress but also emphasizes the urgent need for cohesive national strategies.





# PROSTATE CANCER IN VIETNAM

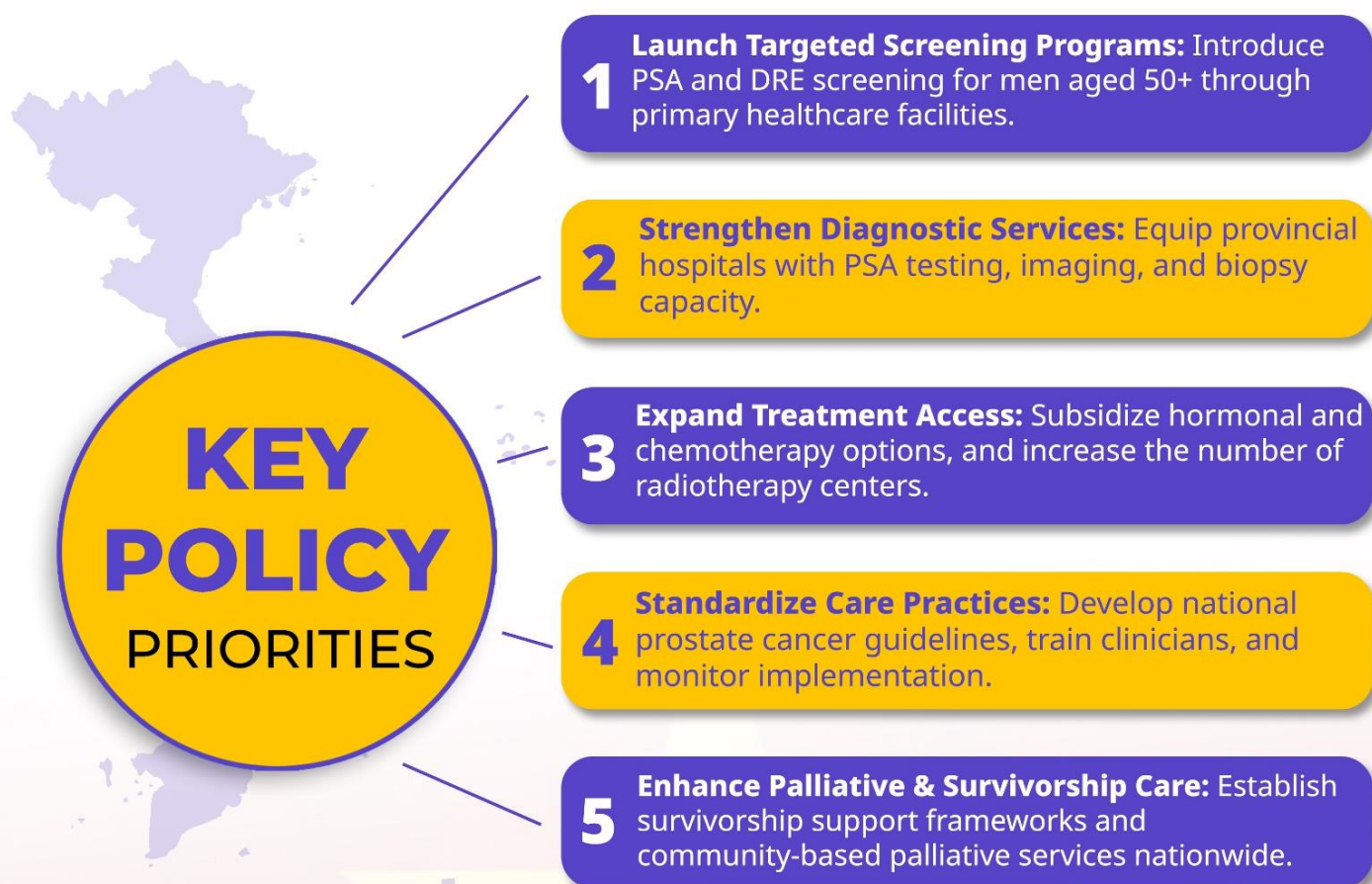
## Current Landscape and Strategic Gaps

Pillar	Current Status	Strength	Policy Action
Early Detection & Diagnosis	No national screening program; PSA testing is available in urban hospitals but rarely used systematically. Most cases are diagnosed late.	Growing awareness of prostate cancer among urban populations.	Establish a structured early detection program with PSA and DRE for high-risk men, integrated into primary healthcare.
Biomarker & Molecular Testing	Limited biomarker and genetic testing in public sector; available only in specialized centers.	Access improving in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City teaching hospitals.	Expand biomarker services to regional centers through government and industry partnerships.
Treatment Access	Surgery and radiotherapy are available in major cities, but limited elsewhere. Costs for hormonal and targeted therapies are high and mostly out-of-pocket.	Major oncology centers provide advanced surgical and radiotherapy care.	Increase public procurement of essential prostate cancer drugs, expand radiotherapy machines beyond major cities, and subsidize treatment for low-income patients.
Clinical Guidelines	No specific national prostate cancer treatment guidelines; physicians follow international protocols inconsistently.	Oncology societies reference NCCN and ESMO guidelines.	Develop and disseminate national guidelines adapted to Vietnam's health system capacity.
Palliative & Survivorship Care	Palliative care is growing but unevenly distributed; psychological support and survivorship services are underdeveloped.	Pilot community palliative initiatives exist in select regions.	Expand palliative and survivorship programs to district-level facilities; train healthcare workers in comprehensive patient support.



## CONCLUSION & Call to Action

Vietnam has taken important steps toward strengthening cancer care, but prostate cancer services remain uneven and underdeveloped outside major cities. Moving from **Level 2 – Developing** toward a more mature system will require scaling up diagnostic access, improving affordability of therapies, and embedding prostate cancer into national cancer control strategies.



## CONCLUSION

Vietnam's **Level 2 – Developing** maturity in prostate cancer care reflects progress in awareness and treatment availability in urban areas, but persistent inequities in access, affordability, and early detection. To move toward a higher level of maturity, Vietnam must implement a **coordinated national strategy** that integrates screening, equitable treatment access, and survivorship care. With strong government commitment, international collaboration, and investment in infrastructure, Vietnam can significantly improve outcomes and provide more equitable prostate cancer care for its population.