



BRIDGING THE GAP

Advancing Prostate Cancer Care in Mexico

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mexico has made measurable progress in prostate cancer awareness and access to certain treatments, yet significant inequities persist in early detection, diagnostic availability, and treatment distribution. Services are concentrated in urban areas, leaving rural and underserved populations at a disadvantage. While public health insurance schemes cover part of the cost for some treatments, access to advanced therapies and standardized care remains inconsistent.

This policy brief examines the current state of prostate cancer care in Mexico and outlines strategic reforms to elevate its **Level 2 – Developing** maturity toward a more equitable and comprehensive national response.

INTRODUCTION

Progress Undermined by Unequal Access

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men in Mexico and a leading cause of cancer-related deaths. While awareness campaigns and the inclusion of prostate cancer services in public health coverage have helped, most diagnoses still occur at advanced stages. Geographic disparities, shortages of trained oncologists in rural regions, and inconsistent adherence to treatment protocols limit the system's effectiveness.

At **Level 2 – Developing** maturity, Mexico is positioned to strengthen existing initiatives and address systemic bottlenecks through coordinated, equity-focused policy action.



Mexico Ranks at Level 2 – Developing Prostate Cancer Maturity Framework



PROSTATE CANCER IN MEXICO

Current Landscape and Strategic Gaps

Pillar	Current Status	Strength	Policy Action
Early Detection & Diagnosis	Opportunistic PSA testing is available, but there is no organized national screening program; rural populations have limited access to diagnostic services.	Health awareness campaigns have increased PSA testing rates in urban areas.	Launch a national risk-based screening program with strong rural outreach and improve diagnostic services in community health centers.
Biomarker & Molecular Testing	Advanced molecular testing is available mainly in private hospitals and select academic centers.	High-end laboratories exist in major cities like Mexico City, Monterrey, and Guadalajara.	Expand biomarker testing capacity in public facilities and integrate it into national clinical protocols.
Treatment Access	Surgery, radiotherapy, and hormonal therapy are available in major cities, but access is uneven; advanced treatments like targeted therapies are mainly in the private sector.	Public health insurance (INSABI) covers some standard treatments.	Increase public sector procurement of advanced therapies and ensure regional distribution of radiotherapy facilities.
Clinical Guidelines	National oncology guidelines exist but prostate cancer protocols are inconsistently applied.	Availability of multidisciplinary oncology boards in some tertiary hospitals.	Enforce standardized prostate cancer treatment guidelines nationwide and mandate adherence through audits and continuous professional education.
Palliative & Survivorship Care	Palliative care services are present in major cancer centers but limited in rural regions; survivorship programs are rare.	Established palliative care departments in key institutions.	Expand palliative care services to regional hospitals and integrate survivorship support into primary care networks.



CONCLUSION & Call to Action

Mexico's prostate cancer care system is at a transitional stage—strengthened by existing infrastructure and policy frameworks, but hindered by inequitable access and inconsistent standards. By leveraging current resources and addressing coverage gaps, the country can improve early detection, treatment outcomes, and overall patient well-being.



KEY POLICY PRIORITIES

- 1 Implement a National Screening Program:** Focus on risk-based screening for men aged 50+ and expand diagnostic access in underserved areas.
- 2 Integrate Biomarker Testing:** Ensure biomarker and molecular testing are accessible in public hospitals to guide personalized treatment.
- 3 Expand Treatment Equity:** Increase regional distribution of oncology facilities and subsidize advanced therapies.
- 4 Enforce Guideline Adherence:** Strengthen implementation and monitoring of national prostate cancer treatment protocols.
- 5 Strengthen Palliative & Survivorship Care:** Build community-based palliative networks and establish survivorship programs.

CONCLUSION

With a **Level 2 – Developing** maturity, Mexico's prostate cancer system benefits from established health infrastructure and policy awareness but remains challenged by service concentration, rural-urban disparities, and uneven implementation of standards. Focused investment in early detection, equitable treatment distribution, and palliative care expansion will accelerate progress toward a mature, patient-centered care model. Coordinated action between federal and state governments, healthcare providers, and civil society will be key to ensuring that all Mexican men—regardless of income or geography—receive timely and effective prostate cancer care.