



# BRIDGING THE GAP

## Sustaining Excellence and Innovation in Prostate Cancer Care in Italy

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Italy** has a well-developed prostate cancer care system, offering widespread screening opportunities, robust diagnostic capacity, and advanced treatment options. The country benefits from a strong public healthcare system, national clinical guidelines, and active research participation. However, regional disparities, delayed access to certain innovative therapies, and uneven survivorship care coverage remain challenges.

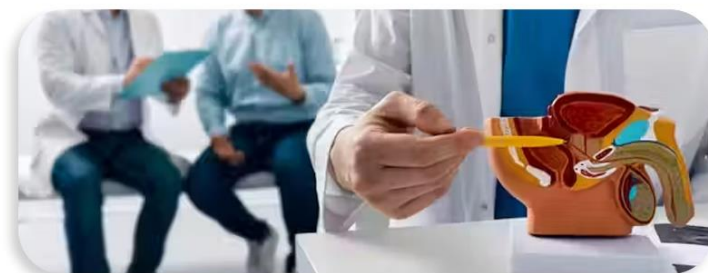
With a **Level 4 – Advanced** maturity level, Italy is positioned to refine its prostate cancer services through innovation, integration, and equitable access strategies.

### INTRODUCTION

#### Advancing from Strength to Leadership in Prostate Cancer Care

Prostate cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer among Italian men, with early detection programs and advanced treatments contributing to high survival rates. National health coverage ensures broad access to diagnostics and therapy, though some delays and inequalities persist between northern and southern regions.

Italy's current infrastructure, expertise, and policy frameworks provide a solid platform to push toward global leadership in prostate cancer outcomes.





# PROSTATE CANCER IN ITALY

## Current Landscape and Strategic Gaps

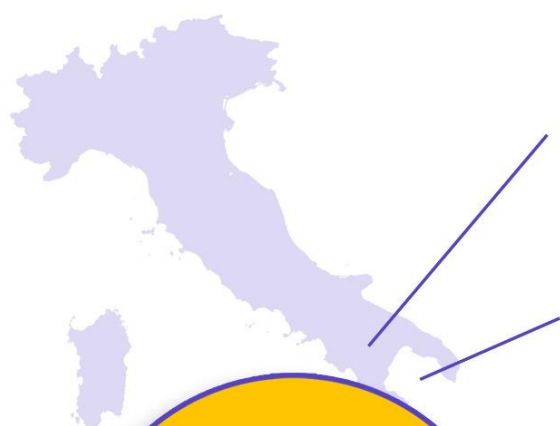
Pillar	Current Status	Strength	Policy Action
Early Detection & Diagnosis	Opportunistic PSA testing is widespread; high awareness among men. Digital rectal exams (DRE) and multiparametric MRI are available across most regions.	Strong GP network and integration with urology services.	Standardize screening policies nationwide to ensure equity, with targeted outreach in underserved regions.
Biomarker & Molecular Testing	Broad access to PSA, free-to-total PSA ratio, and genetic testing for selected high-risk patients; molecular diagnostics available in specialized centers.	Research-active institutions integrating precision oncology.	Expand biomarker testing availability to all regional hospitals and ensure reimbursement for advanced genetic profiling.
Treatment Access	Full spectrum of treatment options including surgery, radiotherapy, brachytherapy, hormonal therapy, and advanced systemic therapies like novel anti-androgens and chemotherapy.	High clinical expertise and multidisciplinary tumor boards.	Reduce regional delays in access to innovative medicines through streamlined approval and procurement processes.
Clinical Guidelines	National guidelines are aligned with EAU (European Association of Urology) recommendations; implemented through regional health authorities.	Strong professional societies ensuring guideline adherence.	Strengthen audit systems to monitor uniform application across all regions.
Palliative & Survivorship Care	Palliative care integrated into oncology pathways; survivorship programs active in many hospitals.	Established network of hospice and home-based care providers.	Expand survivorship care models to ensure equal availability in rural and southern regions.





## CONCLUSION & Call to Action

Italy's prostate cancer care is already among the most advanced globally, but sustained progress will depend on eliminating regional inequities, accelerating access to innovations, and ensuring survivorship care coverage nationwide.



### KEY POLICY PRIORITIES

1

**Harmonize Screening Approaches:** Implement a consistent, evidence-based screening framework across all regions to ensure equity.

2

**Expand Precision Medicine Access:** Guarantee biomarker and molecular testing availability in all hospitals and integrate results into clinical decision-making.

3

**Accelerate Access to Innovation:** Reduce administrative delays for reimbursement and uptake of novel therapies.

4

**Enhance Data-Driven Quality Improvement:** Use national cancer registries to monitor adherence to guidelines and patient outcomes.

5

**Strengthen Survivorship Support:** Ensure nationwide availability of psychological, rehabilitation, and lifestyle counseling services.

## CONCLUSION

With its **Level 4 – Advanced** maturity, Italy stands as a European leader in prostate cancer care, combining early detection, advanced diagnostics, and state-of-the-art treatment. However, achieving true equity across regions and ensuring universal access to the latest innovations will be critical for sustaining and enhancing this position. By focusing on integration, equity, and innovation, Italy can set a global benchmark for prostate cancer outcomes while ensuring that all patients—regardless of where they live—benefit from the full potential of its healthcare system.