

Thames Valley Priorities Committee Commissioning Policy Statement

Policy No. TVPC104 **Prostate specific antigen testing**

**Recommendation made by
the Priorities Committee:** **September 2021**

Date of issue: **October 2021**

Prostate specific antigen (PSA) may be offered if it requested by a patient aged over 50 years, OR if they meet one of the following clinical criteria:

- Lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS), such as nocturia, urinary frequency, hesitancy, urgency or retention.
- Erectile dysfunction.
- Visible haematuria.
- Unexplained symptoms that could be due to advanced prostate cancer (for example lower back pain, bone pain, weight loss).

A digital rectal examination should be offered in conjunction with PSA testing.

Where PSA test results are mildly raised above the age specific range for an individual patient (3.0 nanograms/ml for patients over 50 years), it may be appropriate to repeat the test within two to three months to monitor the trend.

PSA testing is NOT recommended for asymptomatic patients, unless they are over age 40 AND are at higher risk of prostate cancer (e.g. if they are from the Black ethnic group -e.g. African or African Caribbean and/or have a family history of prostate cancer).

Note: PSA testing for prostate cancer should be avoided if the patient has:

- An active, or within 6 weeks of successful treatment for a urinary infection.
- Had a major physical intervention, such as prostate biopsy or resection, in the previous 3 months.
- Had a minor physical intervention, such as cystoscopy or catheterisation, in the previous 6 weeks.

This policy statement has considered the Evidence-Based Interventions List 2 Guidance (2020).

NOTES:

- Potentially exceptional circumstances may be considered by a patient's CCG where there is evidence of significant health status impairment (e.g. inability to perform activities of daily living) and there is evidence that the intervention sought would improve the individual's health status.
- This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance, e.g. from NICE.
- Thames Valley clinical policies can be viewed at <http://www.fundingrequests.ccsu.nhs.uk/>

Clinical codes

Not applicable