

What is prostate cancer screening?

Two tests are available to screen for prostate cancer. You should discuss the benefits and risks of screening with your doctor and select the best test for you. Here are short descriptions of each:

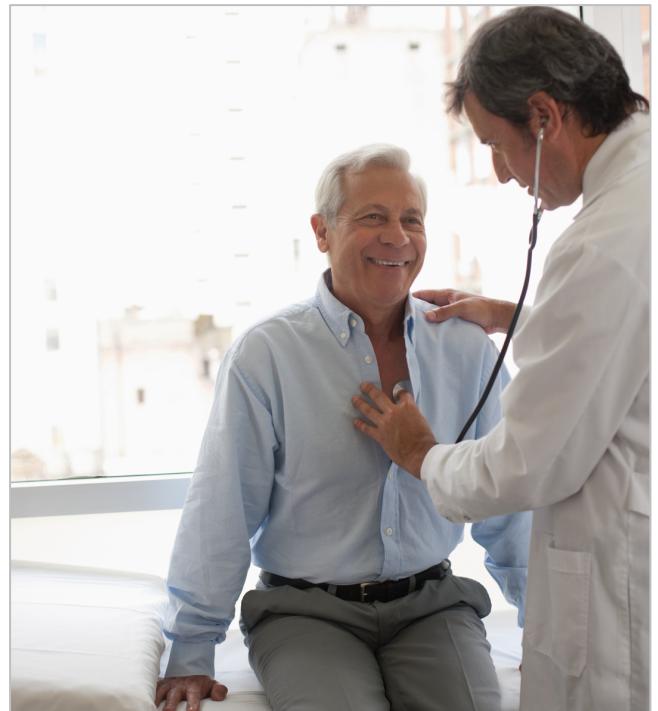
- **Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) Test**
Blood is tested to detect PSA, a substance made by the prostate which can be found at higher levels in men who have prostate cancer.
- **Digital Rectal Examination (DRE)**
A health care provider inserts a gloved, lubricated finger into a man's rectum to feel the prostate for anything abnormal, such as cancer.

What are the signs of prostate cancer?

The prostate is part of the male reproductive system, which includes the penis, prostate and testicles. Some men have signs of prostate cancer, but some do not. Symptoms may include:

- Trouble urinating.
- Weak or interrupted flow of urine.
- Urinating often, especially at night.
- Trouble emptying the bladder completely.
- Pain or burning during urination.
- Blood in the urine or semen.
- Pain in the back, hips or pelvis that does not go away.
- Painful ejaculation.

These signs can happen with other illnesses that are not cancer, so please discuss them with your physician.



Questions to ask your doctor

Here are a few questions to discuss with your physician if you are considering prostate cancer screening.

- Am I at greater risk for prostate cancer?
- When should I start to think about screening for prostate cancer?
- What is a biopsy and how is it done?
- What are the side effects or risks of a biopsy?
- If a biopsy shows cancer cells are present, what does that mean?

Source: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)



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