



Prostate Specific Antigen Ordering

Prostate specific antigen (PSA) testing can be performed as either a screening test or to monitor the progress of known disease. Medicare reimbursement of PSA depends on how the test is being used.

PSA screening tests

Medicare will only pay for one test per patient per year. An asymptomatic male is entitled to one PSA screening test within a 12 month period. Any additional screening tests requested within this period will be privately billed.

Monitoring the progress of known disease

If a male is being re-tested to follow the progress of known disease, Medicare Australia will reimburse multiple PSA tests within a year for monitoring purposes. To ensure that the Medicare rebate is applied, medical practitioners need to ensure the clinical history of previous prostatic disease is noted on the referral form. Clinical history of prostatic diseases might include any of the following:

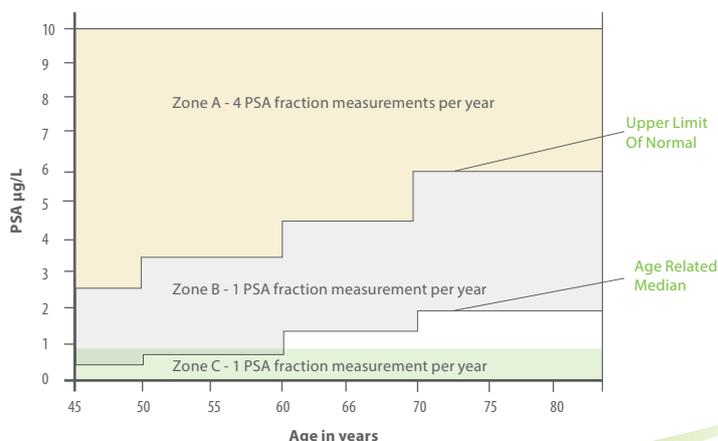
- Cancer of the prostate (CaP)
- Prostatectomy
- Prostatic adenocarcinoma
- Zoladex/Lucrin Depot/Androcur
- Benign prostatic hypertrophy
- BPH
- Prostate Disease
- Enlarged prostate
- Prostamegaly
- Prostatism
- Prostatitis
- TURP

Testing for Free and Total PSA (PSA fractionation)

Testing for Free/ Total PSA is age dependant. A Medicare rebate is available on follow up of a PSA result that:

- a) Lies at or above the age-related median, but below the age related, method specific upper reference limit - qualifies for one test per 12 month period or
- b) Lies at or above the age related, method specific upper reference limit but below a value of 10ug/L - qualifies for four tests per 12 month period.

Refer also to over the page

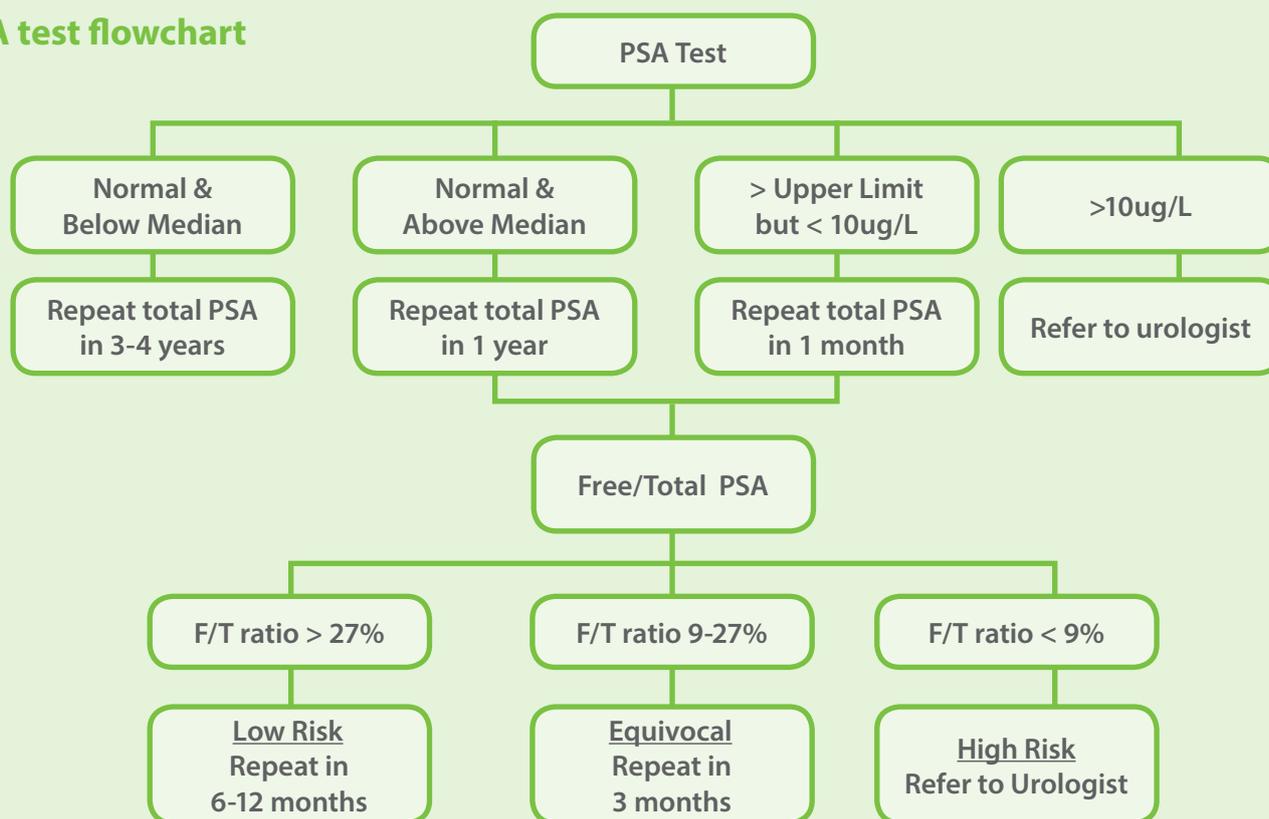


PSA intervals and medians by age group

Age (years)	Total PSA reference interval (ug/L)	Median (ug/L)
40 - 50	≤ 2.5	0.6
50 - 60	≤ 3.5	0.8
60 - 70	≤ 4.5	1.2
>70	≤ 6.5	2.1

- Very low PSA.** The measurement of free PSA is inaccurate and of limited clinical value if the total PSA is low. (Lower than the median for age, as indicated in the table above). (Zone C)
- High normal PSA.** If a male has a PSA between the median and upper limit of normal for his age he can have free PSA measured once per year. There is a Medicare rebate for this test. An example might be a 65 year old male with a total PSA of 2.0 ug/L. This result is above the median (1.2) for this age group. (Zone B)
- Raised PSA.** Free PSA can be measured four times each year in men with total PSA concentrations above the normal limit for their age as long as the PSA is less than 10 ug/L. There is a Medicare rebate for these tests. (Zone A)
- PSA greater than 10 ug/L.** There is no Medicare rebate for PSA fractions when the total PSA is greater than 10 ug/L.

PSA test flowchart



For more information:

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