



MELBOURNE
PATHOLOGY

Information for patients

Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) Testing



Changes in Medicare PSA Testing Criteria

On 1 November 2023, Medicare criteria for PSA testing (Prostate Specific Antigen) changed.

This test is requested by your doctor in order to screen for prostate disease or to monitor previously diagnosed prostate disease.

Screening may take place whether you are at high risk of developing prostate cancer or not a high risk patient. According to Medicare criteria high risk means a significant family history of prostate cancer (a first degree relative (father, brother) diagnosed with prostate cancer).

Scenario 1: If you are being screened with no known family history (not high risk) then you are eligible for one test every 23 months – these will be rebated by Medicare.

Scenario 2: If you have a significant family history, you are eligible for one test every 11 months.

Scenario 3: If you have been previously diagnosed with prostate cancer, there are no restrictions and all your PSA tests are rebated by Medicare regardless of the frequency of testing.

If you are being screened in scenario 1 or 2, and do not meet the Medicare criteria (i.e. tested more than once in 23 months in scenario 1 or more than once in 11 month in scenario 2) you may receive an invoice for \$50. A financial consent form will be offered for you to sign at blood collection, and payment will only be required if you are ineligible for the rebate. The majority of our patients are eligible for the Medicare rebate and will be bulk billed. So even if you have signed this form, you will only be asked to pay if the eligibility criteria are not met. Please be assured that we have mechanisms in place to identify patients who are at high risk and those who are monitored using previous history, and we will match these with the Medicare eligibility criteria.

Your doctor may have discussed your risk, and may have explained why the test has been requested. The Medicare criteria are based on the latest Prostate Cancer Foundation and National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines.