

Call for Submissions:

Review of Clinical Practice Guidelines for Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) Testing and Early Management of Test-detected Prostate Cancer (2016)

Opening Monday 18 April 2024

Closing Friday 31 May 2024

Contact

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Purpose of this call for submissions?

Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA), under an Agreement with the Commonwealth Department of Health, is conducting a review of the existing (2016) National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) approved *Clinical practice guidelines for Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) Testing and Early Management of Test-detected Prostate Cancer* (the 2016 Guidelines) which expired in 2021.

Through this call for submissions, we are seeking your thoughts and opinions on the 2016 Guidelines. All information you provide will be carefully considered as we undertake our review.

Who can make a submission?

Anyone with an interest in PSA testing for prostate cancer is invited to make a submission. This includes

- People concerned about the risk of prostate cancer
- Men and their families impacted by prostate cancer
- Health professionals
- Consumer organisations
- Policy makers
- Any member of the public

Prostate cancer in Australia

Prostate cancer is a major cause of mortality and morbidity in Australia. It is the second leading cause of cancer death in Australian men after lung cancer. In the seven years since the 2016 Guidelines for PSA testing and management of test-detected prostate cancer were published, over 23,000 Australian men have died from prostate cancer. Projections published in *The Lancet Public Health* in 2022 (led by the Daffodil Centre) estimate that 600,329 Australian men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and 116,385 men will die from prostate cancer between 2020 and 2044.

The evidence to date, as documented in the current (2016) NHMRC-approved guidelines generally recommends that men make informed decisions about PSA testing to indicate prostate

cancer risk. Emerging evidence from international and Australian modelling indicates that more structured recommendations may have a greater public health benefit. The 2016 guidelines are in urgent need of an update.

The review and update of the 2016 Guidelines?

The 2016 Guidelines provide evidence review, advice and clinical practice recommendations including PSA testing strategies for asymptomatic men who have made an informed choice to be tested, imaging and biopsy, active surveillance, watchful waiting and sociocultural aspects of PSA testing. Clinical practice points include evidence- and consensus-based recommendations, with the strength of evidence for each graded according to the NHMRC GRADE assessment protocol.

Since 2016, new evidence, standards of care, and technologies have improved the way prostate cancer is diagnosed, treated, and managed. An update to the Guidelines is required to ensure alignment with the latest evidence and best practice care.

The project will be delivered by Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia under an Agreement with the Commonwealth Department of Health, subcontracting an extensive literature review of newly published and relevant national/international scientific literature.

The revised Guidelines will follow the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Guidelines for Guidelines and seek NHMRC approval. The Guideline proposal and project plan have been registered with the NHMRC. Details of the project governance framework, organisation chart and the expert advisory focus groups can be found at these links:

The revised Guidelines will outline recommendations that include but are not limited to:

- Advice for consumers and health professionals about how best to support men in making an informed decision for or against PSA testing, taking into consideration potential benefits and harms.
- Advice about testing strategies to recommend to men who decide in favour of testing, depending on their age, family history and other concerns and potential risk factors for prostate cancer.
- Recommendations about further investigation after a PSA test result.
- The early treatment/management/surveillance of prostate cancer diagnosed following such investigation, ensuring alignment with the Optimal Care Pathway for prostate cancer.

Further information

- [2016 Guidelines](#)
- [Project Governance Framework](#)
- [Project Organisation Structure](#)
- [Focused Working Groups](#)
- [Editorials](#) published in the March edition of the Australian Journal of General Practice.

How can I make a submission?

Submissions should be made using the online form. You can save your progress and return to complete the form later by clicking the button at the top right of each page.

The form invites responses on questions covering the different chapters of the Guidelines and provides space for additional comments. You can open a copy of the Guidelines using this link: <https://www.pcfa.org.au/media/612113/PSA-Testing-Guidelines.pdf>. Where a question refers to a specific chapter of the Guidelines, a link to that chapter will be provided. Links will open in a separate tab for easier reference between documents.

Where possible, please refer to the relevant line and page number of the Guidelines when providing comments.

You do not have to respond to all questions. Please focus on the topics of most interest to you and/or your organisation.

The closing date for submissions is Friday, 31 May 2024. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Why your views matter

The information provided during this consultation will inform the revision of the 2016 Guidelines to ensure alignment with the latest evidence and best practice care.

What happens next

At the end of the consultation period, all submissions will be considered by the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia and the Commonwealth Department of Health. It is expected that a draft of updated Guidelines will be published in 2025.

Return to make your submission

<https://www.tfaforms.com/5119090>