



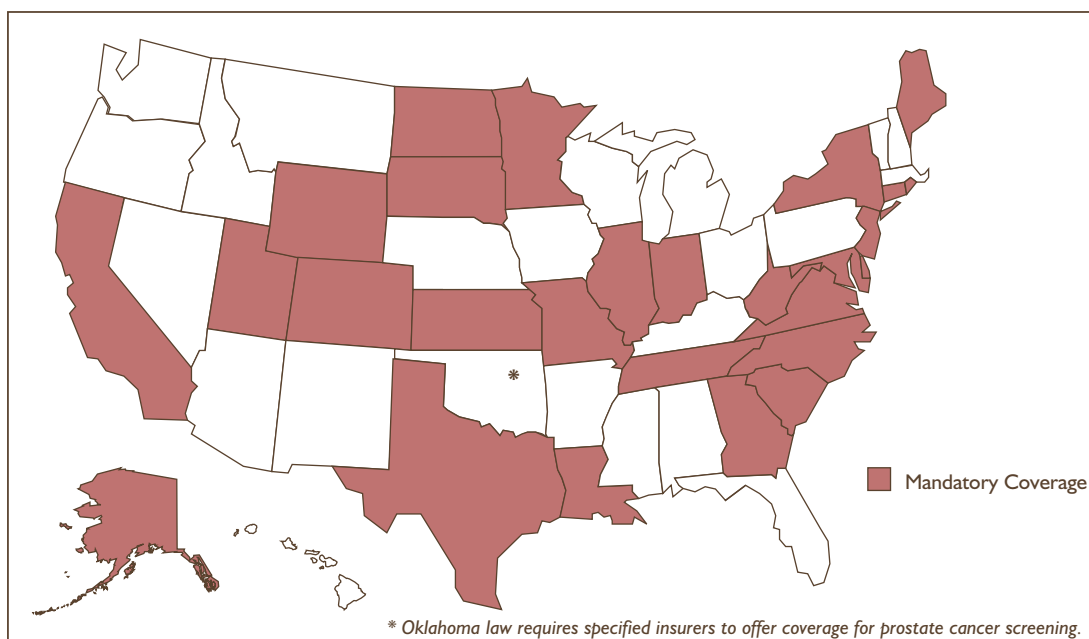
State Cancer  
Legislative  
Database Program

# PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING

FACT SHEET

APRIL 2002

## States with Laws Mandating Prostate Cancer Screening Coverage (through March 31, 2002)



Twenty-six states have enacted laws that mandate third-party coverage for prostate cancer screening. The laws in these states require specified insurers to provide coverage for certain prostate cancer screening exams. Notably, the law in **Oklahoma** requires only the *offer* of coverage by certain insurers.

The benefits of screening for prostate cancer are currently being studied. Scientists at the National Cancer Institute are studying ways to improve the reliability of the prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test. Scientists are also studying the value of early prostate cancer detection by the PSA test and digital rectal examination (DRE) on reducing the number of deaths caused by prostate cancer. Currently, 20 states require certain insurers to provide coverage for a PSA test for men at specified ages and frequencies. Of those states, 14 also require certain insurers to provide coverage for a DRE, in conjunction with the PSA test, as a prostate cancer screening mechanism. Three states—**Tennessee**, **West Virginia**, and **Wyoming**—require specified insurers to provide coverage for prostate cancer screening examinations and laboratory tests, but do not specify screening tests.

The age and frequency requirements for prostate cancer screening coverage vary by state. Two states—**Alaska** and **Maryland**—require prostate cancer screening examinations for men ages 40 and older. Under the law in **Georgia**, coverage is required for men ages 45 and older. Seventeen

states require screening coverage for men ages 50 and older. Furthermore, 11 states require screening coverage for men ages 40-49 if they have a family history of prostate cancer or other risk factors or symptoms, and/or if prostate cancer testing is recommended by a physician. In addition to other screening requirements, six states—**Connecticut**, **Indiana**, **Maryland**, **New York**, **South Dakota**, and **Tennessee**—require specified insurers to provide prostate cancer screening for men at any age if they have a history or symptoms of prostate cancer, or if such screening is recommended by a physician. Three states—**California**, **North Carolina**, and **Wyoming**—have laws that establish coverage requirements, but do not specify age or frequency guidelines.

Notably, three states—**Alaska**, **Illinois**, and **North Dakota**—require certain insurers to provide annual prostate cancer screening to African-American men at specified ages. Two states—**Maryland** and **Maine**—have instituted age limits above which coverage for annual prostate cancer screening services is not required.

Five states—**Indiana**, **Missouri**, **Rhode Island**, **South Carolina**, and **Virginia**—require coverage for prostate cancer screening by certain insurers in accordance with the American Cancer Society (ACS) guidelines. At present, the ACS recommends an annual PSA test and DRE for men ages 50 years and older, and for men ages 45 and older who are at high risk.

**Source: National Cancer Institute: State Cancer Legislative Database Program, Bethesda, MD, 2002.**

# State Prostate Cancer Screening Laws

(through March 31, 2002)

State	Tests Covered		Age Guidelines			American Cancer Society Guidelines <sup>3</sup>
	PSA	DRE	40 and over	50 and over	40-49 <sup>2</sup>	
Alabama						
Alaska	●		◆◆			
Arizona						
Arkansas						
California	●	●	Not Specified			
Colorado	●	●		●	●	
Connecticut	●			●■		
Delaware	●			●		
District of Columbia						
Florida						
Georgia	●		● (45+)		●	
Hawaii						
Idaho						
Illinois	●	●	◆	●	●	
Indiana	●	●		●■		●
Iowa						
Kansas	●	●		●	●	
Kentucky						
Louisiana	●	●		●	●	
Maine	●	●		● (up to 72)		
Maryland	●	●	●■ (up to 76)			
Massachusetts						
Michigan						
Minnesota	●	●		●	●	
Mississippi						
Missouri						●
Montana						
Nebraska						
Nevada						
New Hampshire						
New Jersey	●	●		●	●	
New Mexico						
New York	●	●		●■		
North Carolina	●		Not Specified			
North Dakota	●	●	◆	●	●	
Ohio						
Oklahoma						
Oregon						
Pennsylvania						
Rhode Island						●
South Carolina						●
South Dakota	●	●		●■		
Tennessee <sup>1</sup>				●■		
Texas	●			●	●	
Utah						
Vermont						
Virginia	●	●		●	●	●
Washington						
West Virginia <sup>1</sup>				●		
Wisconsin						
Wyoming <sup>1</sup>			Not Specified			
Totals	● = 20	● = 14	● = 3 ◆ = 3 ■ = 1	● = 17 ■ = 5	● = 11	● = 5

- NOTES:** 1 Requires specified insurers to provide coverage for prostate cancer examinations and laboratory tests, but does not specify required tests.  
2 States in this category require coverage for prostate cancer screening for men ages 40-49 with a family history of prostate cancer, other risk factors or symptoms, and/or with a physician's recommendation.  
3 The American Cancer Society recommends an annual PSA test and DRE for men ages 50 years and older, and for men ages 45 and older at high risk.
- KEY:** ● Requires coverage as specified.  
◆ Requires coverage for annual prostate screening for African-American men (ages 40 and over in Illinois and North Dakota and 35-39 in Alaska).  
■ Requires coverage for prostate cancer screening for men at any age with a family history of prostate cancer, other risk factors or symptoms, and/or with a physician's recommendation.