

# Prostate blood test (PSA)

## Who should consider the test?

Any man over 50, or any man over 45 who is black or has a family history of prostate cancer.

## I have no symptoms, should I have a test?

Most early stage prostate cancer does not cause any symptoms.

***I have Symptoms?*** Book a routine appointment to discuss

## What is the test actually checking?

PSA is 'prostate specific antigen' – a protein that the prostate releases into the bloodstream.

## About the result:

If the level is high, it *could* indicate a cancer, but it can also be due to a reason that is not a cancer such as infection, exercise, sex, 'enlarged prostate'.

If the level is normal it is reassuring but it is still important to report any symptoms to your doctor.

## What happens if the level is high?

This will depend on other information your doctor has about you, but either they will ask you to repeat the test in a few weeks or they'll offer to refer you to a specialist. You'll also be asked for a sample of urine.

**More info please:** 0800 074 8383 (prostate nurses)

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