Guideline differences - general

Guideline	Covers symptomatic patients?	Applies in England?	Applies in Scotland?	Referral guidance: age 80+	Referral guidance: under 40
NICE guideline NG12: Suspected cancer: recognition and referral	Yes	Yes	No	Use clinical judgement	Use clinical judgement
NICE clinical knowledge summaries (CKS): prostate cancer	Yes	Yes	No	If initial PSA is 7.5–20 ng/mL with no symptoms suggesting metastatic disease, repeat once after 6 months. See age-80+ follow-up on slide 2.	Use clinical judgement (as NICE NG12)
NHS Scotland. Scottish referral guidelines for suspected cancer. Prostate Cancer	Yes	No	Yes	≥20 ng/mL	≥3 ng/mL (under-70 threshold)

NICE CKS: (June 2026 update)

Following PCRMP's withdrawal in June 2026, GPs should refer to NICE CKS for guidance. The June 2026 update includes UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) screening recommendations. Further guidance for asymptomatic men is expected in the future.

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Guideline differences – Threshold for referral

Guideline	Under 40 PSA (ng/mL)	Age 40–49 PSA (ng/mL)	Age 50–59 PSA (ng/mL)	Age 60–69 PSA (ng/mL)	Age 70–79 PSA (ng/mL)	Age 80+ PSA (ng/mL)
NICE guideline NG12: Suspected cancer: recognition and referral	Use clinical judgement	More than 2.5	More than 3.5	More than 4.5	More than 6.5	Use clinical judgement
NICE clinical knowledge summaries (CKS): prostate cancer	Use clinical judgement (As NICE guideline NG12)	More than 2.5 (As NICE guideline NG12)	More than 3.5 (As NICE guideline NG12)	More than 4.5 (As NICE guideline NG12)	More than 6.5 (As NICE guideline NG12)	If initial PSA is 7.5–20 ng/mL with no symptoms suggesting metastatic disease, repeat once after 6 months. After repeat PSA, refer via a suspected cancer pathway if ANY apply: 1. Symptoms suggest metastatic disease. 2. PSA has risen above 20 ng/mL. 3. PSA has more than doubled AND performance status is 0 or 1. If none apply but concerns remain, seek support through 'advice and guidance'. This differs from NICE NG12.
NHS Scotland. Scottish referral guidelines for suspected cancer. Prostate Cancer	≥3	≥3	≥3	≥3	≥5	≥20

NICE CKS: (June 2026 update)

Following PCRMP's withdrawal in June 2026, GPs should refer to NICE CKS for guidance. The June 2026 update includes UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) screening recommendations. Further guidance for asymptomatic men is expected in the future.

Scottish thresholds: use the full referral guidance, including UTI exclusions and older-patient considerations.

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