Title:	**Prostate specific antigen (PSA) near patient testing for diagnosis and management of prostate cancer, May 2005**
Agency:	Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing GPO Box 9848 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
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Aim

To assess the safety, effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of prostate specific antigen (PSA) near patient testing by specialists for the diagnosis and management of prostate cancer and under what circumstances public funding should be supported.

Conclusions and results

Safety A broad literature search failed to identify any relevant studies on the safety, psychological or psychosocial impact of PSA near patient testing.

Effectiveness One published study that had marginally addressed the concept of PSA near patient testing was identified. This study did not meet the eligibility criteria and did not address the primary research question for the review. There is insufficient evidence to indicate PSA near patient testing by specialists is superior to PSA testing in a laboratory setting.

Cost-effectiveness Insufficient evidence exists upon which to base an economic evaluation of PSA near patient testing. Due to the limited data on the relative effectiveness of PSA near patient testing compared with laboratory testing, it was not possible to estimate the cost-effectiveness of the test.

Recommendations

MSAC recommended that on the strength of evidence pertaining to the safety, effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of prostate specific antigen testing for the diagnosis and management of prostate cancer, the current funding arrangements remain unchanged.

Method

MSAC conducted a systematic review of medical literature using the Cochrane Library, EBM Reviews, Medline, PreMedline, EMBASE, PubMed, CINAHL, Biological Abstracts, Current Contents and the Australian Medical Index databases from 1966-2004.