



## **AACU and *Man vs Prostate* Bladder Health Policy Stance**

The American Association of Clinical Urologists, Inc. (AACU) calls for immediate national action to address the silent epidemic of bladder health in men.

Bladder disease resulting from Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH) is a looming public health crisis. By age 65, one in three men will suffer from moderate-to-severe consequences: urgency, incontinence, emergency retention, or irreversible bladder failure requiring lifelong catheterization.

Despite these numbers, bladder health is systematically neglected compared to other male health conditions. Current initiatives reveal a stark disparity:

- Colon Cancer: 1 in 23 men (High screening awareness)
- Prostate Cancer: 1 in 8 men (High screening awareness)
- BPH Symptoms: 1 in 3 men (Minimal screening awareness)

BPH lags dangerously behind. Additionally, it does not help that “over 60 percent of all U.S. counties do not have a practicing urologist.”<sup>1</sup>

The AACU, in partnership with *Man vs Prostate*, asserts that the dialogue must begin between ages 45 and 60. However, dialogue alone is insufficient without the infrastructure to support it.

We call upon Congress and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to recognize bladder health as a public health priority. Specifically, we urge CMS to engage with the urologic community to modernize coding structures. We must establish proper reimbursement pathways that incentivize early bladder health screening, rather than merely reimbursing the management of failure.

We must bring bladder health into parity with other major health initiatives—clinically, financially, and legislatively.

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<sup>1</sup> American Urological Association (AUA) Our Priority: Address the Urologic Workforce Shortage; <https://www.auanet.org/advocacy/federal-advocacy/workforce-shortages>