



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
COURT OF AUDIT

AUDIT REPORT

Addressing the issue of prostate cancer

Performance audit

Audited period: 1 January 2014 to 15 September 2017



Prostate cancer is
**the most common
cancer** in men

19%

of all diagnosed
cancers
among men

11%

of all deaths
among men are
cancer-related



More than one half
affected between
60 to 74
years of age.



More than
1,400
cases
identified
per year.



370
men per year die
of prostate cancer

First examination at an urologist



From 2014 to 2017, an average **waiting period** was **4 and a half month**, at some urologist even **1 year**.



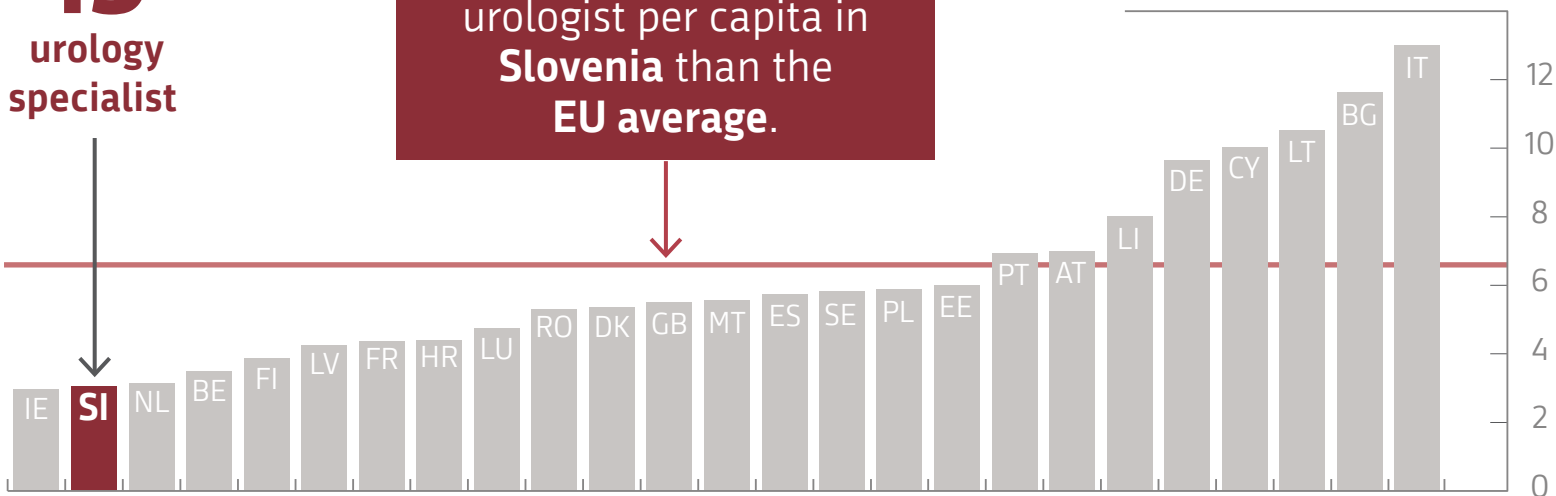
Existing IT support did not enable accurate and up-to-date **data collection** on waiting periods.



49
urology
specialist

There are **2-times less** urologist per capita in **Slovenia** than the **EU average**.

Number of urologist per 100,000 inhabitants





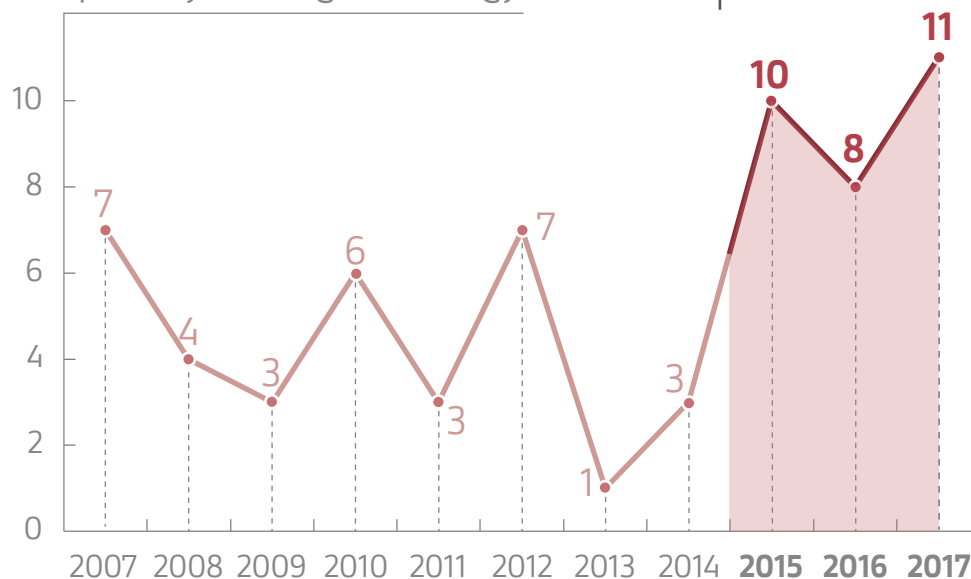
In Slovenia there are

28
urology specialists
in training

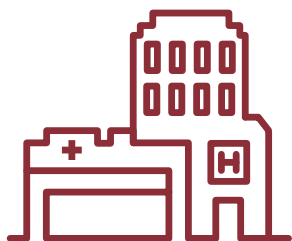
From 2014, the
**number of medical
specialty trainings
published increased.**

This will not
have **any significant
effect** on the quality
and on the amount of
time spent for patient
treatment **at least
5 years.**

Number of medical
specialty trainings in urology



**The Ministry of Health
failed to carry out
population needs analyses**
to be able to plan human
resources development.



9 healthcare service providers implementing urological surgeries and surgical treatments

900 surgeries of prostate cancer per year

60% of surgeries performed by **two healthcare service providers**

- **Public healthcare service network was not defined.** Its development was not planned.
- **The Ministry lacked an overview of all available operating rooms** for the needs of urological treatments.

Surgeries of prostate cancer



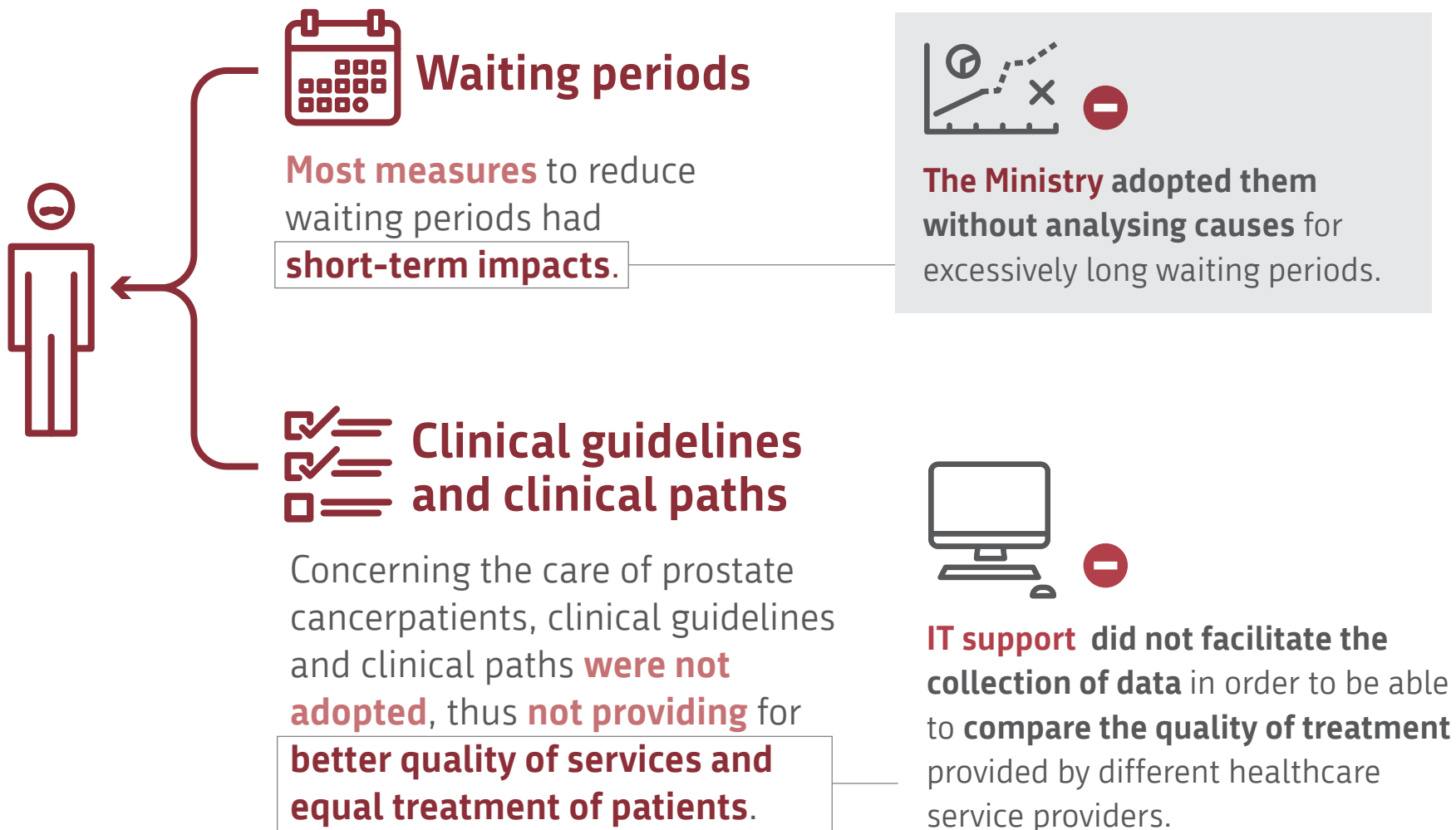
an average waiting period of **3 to 4 months** – patients received a **priority treatment**

Other urological surgeries and surgical treatments



waiting period of **up to 2 years**

- **Lack of personnel** (anaesthesiologists, nurses) **and time available** for the needs of urological treatments **in operating rooms** - to reduce the **waiting periods**, healthcare service providers performing surgeries would need at least **10 additional operational days per week.**





The Ministry was not effective when addressing problems of **prostate cancer treatments** within the period covered by the audit.



The Ministry started some activities already during the audit implementation:



provided for more **medical specialty trainings** in urology



approved more investments to increase the number of operating rooms in the field of urology



agreed on **purchasing new robotic system** for prostate cancer surgeries



Demands and recommendations

The Court of Audit expects the Ministry to develop **population needs analyses** serving as the basis for defining healthcare service network and for planning human resources and investments.

The Ministry must develop **measures in order to obtain exact data** on waiting periods, must **analyse causes for excessively long waiting periods** and define how to remedy the situation.