Figure 2. Patient Follow-up After Radical Prostatectomy

Radical prostatectomy

PSA 6 months later

Undetectable or no rise in PSA

Retest every 6 months for 5 years and annually thereafter

Failure to achieve undetectable PSA; or increasing PSA levels on 2 occasions after an initially undetectable level

Assess likelihood of distant metastases; tests may include biopsy, bone scan, PSADT, or CT/MRI

PSADT indicates PSA doubling time. This algorithm is intended as a guide for using Quest Diagnostics laboratory tests to monitor patients following radical prostatectomy. It is based on the National Comprehensive Cancer Network guidelines. The algorithm is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended as medical advice. A physician’s test selection and interpretation, diagnosis, and patient management decisions should be based on his/her education, clinical expertise, and assessment of the patient.