

4. CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

4.1 Early Breast Cancer

4.2 Advanced

4.3 Psychosocial

4.4 Younger Women

4.5 Publication Information

Early Breast Cancer Clinical Practice Guidelines

[*Clinical practice guidelines for the management of early breast cancer*](#) is a document useful for both health professionals and consumers. It is designed to:

- assist in decision-making by women and their doctors;
- educate all involved in the care of women with breast cancer;
- assess and assure the quality of care;
- reduce the risk of legal liability by improving care; and
- bring the issue of cost-effectiveness into the public arena.

This **resource** presents guidelines, and does not pretend to be a textbook. Clinicians looking for further information on the biology and natural history of breast cancer should consult the relevant texts.

The guidelines are not rigid procedural paths, nor are they prescriptive. They aim to provide information on which decisions can be made, rather than dictate what the decisions should be.

The guidelines are designed to provide information to assist decision making and are based on the best evidence available at time of publication. They are a guide to appropriate practice, to be followed subject to the clinician's judgment and the woman's preference in each individual case.

The Summary guidelines for the management of early breast cancer is on pages 7—10.

Related Topics

- [4.2 Clinical Practice Guidelines Advanced](#)
- [4.3 Clinical Practice Guidelines Psychosocial](#)
- [4.4 Clinical Practice Guidelines Younger Women](#)
- [4.5 Publication Information](#)

Advanced Breast Cancer Clinical Practice Guidelines

Advanced breast cancer includes both locally advanced and metastatic breast cancers.

The Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Advanced Breast Cancer were developed by a multidisciplinary working party, which was rigorous in seeking the best available evidence, including research published up to mid-2000.

The Guidelines are primarily intended for use by all health professionals involved in the management of women with advanced breast cancer.

Breast cancer has a longer developmental history than many other common cancers and often takes the form of a chronic illness.

While recognising that there is a clear need for high level professional skills in diagnosis and management, careful attention has also been given to a patient's emotions, psychosocial inter-relationships and general well being.

The Guidelines aim to provide material that will be helpful and supportive to those managing the difficult range of problems that may present in advanced breast cancer.

The Summary of guidelines for the management of advanced breast cancer is on pages 5—12

Related Topics

- [4.1 Clinical Practice Guidelines Early](#)
- [4.3 Clinical Practice Guidelines Psychosocial](#)
- [4.4 Clinical Practice Guidelines Younger Women](#)
- [4.5 Publication Information](#)

Psychosocial Care of Adults with Cancer—Clinical Practice Guidelines

An estimated 50,000 Australians suffer anxiety or depression each year following a diagnosis of cancer.

Until now these consequences of cancer have gone largely undetected and untreated because health professionals have had little education or training about these problems or good evidence on how they can best be prevented and managed.

The Guidelines describe the opportunities health professionals have to ensure that patients don't experience serious, long-term clinical disorders such as depression and anxiety. Further, where cancer patients do experience these problems, the Guidelines provide an evidence-based guide to detecting them and ensuring patients get the right type of referral and expert treatment.

The Summary of evidence for the psychosocial care of adults with cancer is on pages 7 –10

Related Topics

- [4.1 Clinical Practice Guidelines Early](#)
- [4.2 Clinical Practice Guidelines Advanced](#)
- [4.4 Clinical Practice Guidelines Younger Women](#)
- [4.5 Publication Information](#)

Younger women with breast cancer—Clinical Practice Guidelines

Approximately 6% of new breast cancer cases diagnosed in Australia each year are in women aged 40 years or younger. Although incidence is lower in younger women compared with their older counterparts, younger women are more likely to be diagnosed with larger, more aggressive tumours, and have worse disease-free and overall survival outcomes. Younger women are also more likely to experience psychological distress following diagnosis.

The [*Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management and support of younger women with breast cancer*](#) have been developed to complement the other existing guidelines. The guidelines focus on issues that are specific to the age and / or life stage of younger women, and aim to assist younger women and their doctors in making decisions about all aspects of breast cancer care.

The Summary of guidelines for the management of younger women with breast cancer are on pages 4—5

Related Topics

[4.1 Clinical Practice Guidelines Early](#)

[4.2 Clinical Practice Guidelines Advanced](#)

[4.3 Clinical Practice Guidelines Psychosocial](#)

[4.5 Publication Information](#)

Publication Information

[Clinical practice guidelines for the psychosocial care of adults with cancer](#)

Author: National Breast Cancer Centre 2003
Publisher: National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
Copies of this publication can be ordered through the National Breast Cancer Centre on their toll free number: 1800 624 973

[Clinical practice guidelines for the management of advanced breast cancer](#)

Author: National Breast Cancer Centre 2001
Publisher: National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
For publication purchases please contact Aus Info on their toll free number 132 447

[Clinical practice guidelines for the management of early breast cancer](#)

Author: National Breast Cancer Centre 2001
Publisher: National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
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[Clinical practice guidelines for the care and support of younger women with breast cancer](#)

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