

## **16. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

16.1 Multidisciplinary Care

16.2 Communication Skills

16.3 Specialist Breast Nurse Training

16.4 GP Resources

## Multidisciplinary cancer care (MDC)

Reproduced with permission from the National Breast Cancer Centre (NBCC website) : [www.nbcc.org.au](http://www.nbcc.org.au)

Treatment and supportive care for people with cancer involves a number of different medical and allied health care professionals. Evidence indicates that a team approach to cancer care, in which health care professionals together consider all treatment options and develop an individual treatment plan for each patient, can reduce mortality and improve quality of life for the patient.

Such an integrated approach to health care is known as multidisciplinary care (MDC).

There is growing evidence that MDC improves the cancer journey experience and the outcomes of the case.

### Further Information:

[Multidisciplinary Cancer Care in Australia—an overview.](#)—  
National Breast Cancer Centre

[Multidisciplinary meetings for cancer care - a guide for health service providers](#)—National Breast Cancer Centre

### Related Topics

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## Communication Skills

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The NBCC has developed a series of evidence-based communication skills modules that provide a summary of the relevant research and guidelines about how best to address issues when communicating with patients with cancer.

Each module comprises a concise summary of the relevant literature and research with reference to the NBCC and NCCI's Clinical practice guidelines for the psychosocial care of adults with cancer.

### Workshop style and content

Past reviews of research have shown that communication skills training workshops are most effective when they are interactive, encourage participation, allow skills to be practised and allow participants to receive feedback on their performance. A combination of these strategies is ideal and can lead to improvements in communication skills. Interactive workshops give health professionals the opportunity to practice communication techniques in a safe and supportive environment.

Participants are invited to practice their skills and receive feedback from the facilitator(s) and other participants. The role play provides the opportunity for participants to experiment in a safe environment with techniques and approaches they would not normally use in their clinical practice.

### Workshop modules

The NBCC has to date developed 11 evidence-based communication skills training modules. For this series of Communication Skills Training Grants the

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## Communication Skills *cont'd*

following NBCC modules are available:

- [Breaking bad news](#)
- [Discussing the transition from curative to palliative care](#)
- [Communication skills for radiographers performing mammography](#)
- [Addressing the needs of younger women with breast cancer](#)

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## Specialist Breast Nurse Competency Standards

Competency Standards for Specialist Breast Nurses are available at the NBCC website. For more information click on this link: [SBN Competency Standards](#)

## Breast Care Nurse courses

**Victoria** – The Cancer Council Victoria/[La Trobe University Breast Cancer Distance Education Program](#) has been running for five years with over 600 nurses who have graduated as accredited Breast Care Nurses throughout Australia. For more information click on this link: [La Trobe University Breast Cancer Distance Education Program](#).

**New South Wales** - [Breast Cancer Nurse Practicum](#) – The College of Nursing offers a week long practicum which is part of a project whose aim is to improve the access of women with breast cancer in rural areas to coordinated care, support services, advice and information in relation to their condition. For more information on click on this link [Breast Cancer Nurse Practicum](#).

**West Australia** – Specialist Breast Nurse course Edith Cowan University

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## GP resources

[Advice about familial aspects of breast cancer and epithelial ovarian cancer](#)

[Advice about familial aspects of breast cancer and ovarian cancer: a guide for health professionals](#)

[Aromatase inhibitors as adjuvant endocrine therapy](#)

[Breast fine needle aspiration cytology and core biopsy; a guide for practice.](#)

[Clinical practice guidelines for the management and support of younger women with breast cancer](#)

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

[Clinical practice guidelines for the management of early breast cancer \(2nd ed.\)](#)

[Clinical Practice Guidelines for the psychosocial care of adults with cancer - A summary guide](#)

[Investigation of a new breast symptom: a guide for general practitioners](#)

## [MDC resources](#)

[Multidisciplinary Cancer Care in Australia](#)

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## GP resources *cont'd*

### [Multidisciplinary meetings for cancer care—a guide for health providers](#)

### [The clinical management of Ductal Carcinoma in situ \(DCIS\), Lobular Carcinoma in situ \(LCIS\) and atypical hyperplasia of the breast.](#)

### [The management of the woman with metastatic breast cancer](#)

The [Cancer Institute NSW](#) has developed The Standard Cancer Treatment protocols program (CI-SCaT) which enables cancer clinicians and general practitioners to access complete treatment protocols, their supporting evidence and dose calculation. Patients and the public can also find detailed information on their treatment and its side effects.

Currently, the CI-SCaT site lists over 350 evidence-based protocols for medical oncology and haematology. The site is being expanded with protocols that address bone marrow transplantation, radiotherapy, palliative care and nursing procedures. The site experiences significant patronage and is now widely accessed throughout NSW and in other states.

### [Cancer Institute NSW's CI-SCaT site](#)

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