



HOW TO USE THIS PACKAGE

This package has been designed to assist health care professionals in providing coordinated, multidisciplinary care to women with breast disease. Contents of the package describe best practice standards in the care of women with breast disease, and have been based on:

- consultation with consumers;
- consultation with health care professionals;
- NHMRC publications, including:
 - Psychosocial Clinical Practice Guidelines: information, support and counselling for breast cancer, (1999);
 - Psychosocial Clinical Practice Guidelines: Summary of recommendations (2000);
 - The Management of Early Breast Cancer (1995), and
 - All about early breast cancer (1996).

The package contains several sections, each section being designed to complement and interlink with the other.

Sections of the package include:

Psychosocial Guidelines for Women with Breast Disease

A 'user-friendly' flip chart to guide health care professionals in the provision of psychosocial support for women with breast disease. For the users' convenience, to promote easy access to appropriate support services, a regional referral index has been included.

Care Pathway for the Management of Breast Disease in Women

A chart depicting an overview of the care and support a woman with breast disease may receive from a multidisciplinary care team throughout the course of her treatment. Reference to the Care Pathway by health care professionals will assist in coordinating the woman's care and support at different stages throughout the continuum of care.

Clinical Pathways for Breast Surgery

Charts depicting the sequence and timing of interventions recommended during surgical procedures for women with breast disease. Reference to the Clinical Pathways will assist health care professionals in planning care before, during and following breast surgery.

Details about how to use the pathways are provided at the beginning of the Clinical Pathways section.

Patient Care Pathways for Breast Surgery

'Consumer-friendly' versions of the clinical pathways describing a sequence of events that may occur before, during and after the woman's hospital stay. It is recommended that the appropriate pathway is discussed with, and given to women requiring breast surgery as part of their preoperative preparation.

Patient Information: Making decisions about treatment: A guide for women with breast cancer

An information pamphlet for women with breast disease to assist them in making choices about their treatment. It is recommended that the woman is given a copy of this pamphlet, in conjunction with a copy of NHMRC NBCC, "All about early breast cancer," after receiving the news that she has breast cancer.

Please note: This pamphlet can be photocopied, as required.

Booklets

For the users reference, copies of three relevant NHMRC guidelines (listed above) have been included.

A copy of Cancer Services in Victoria (CCV, 2000) has also been included to assist the user in accessing appropriate services for women with breast disease.

**Additional copies of this package are available from
Bendigo Regional BreastScreen Centre, 375 Barnard St., Bendigo, Victoria 3552
Ph: (03) 5441 6850 Fax: (03) 5441 6852 Email: imbsep@bendigo.breastscreen.org.au**