

### DEALING WITH PRACTICAL NEEDS & SOCIAL ISSUES

*Reference: Psychosocial Clinical Practice Guidelines (1999), pp.45-46.*

#### EVIDENCE

- Many women are not aware of the availability of support services (Level IVb).
- Many women travelling for breast disease treatment do not receive financial assistance to which they are entitled (Level IVa).
- It is beneficial for women to be provided with information about practical issues & support (Level IVa).

#### OBJECTIVE

When consulting with the woman with breast disease ensure that she is well informed & supported on practical issues relating to her treatment.

## Practical & social concerns

### CHECKLIST

- Encourage the woman to voice concerns of practical nature which may influence her treatment decisions, including:
  - isolation (physical & emotional)
  - length of treatment
  - transport
  - child minding
  - sick leave
  - wigs
  - clothing
  - sources of information.
- Refer to social worker if any practical &/or financial problems identified (section 12.2.3).
- Breast Care Nurse consulted to assist in:
  - identifying needs & addressing problems
  - provide & reinforce information.
- Inform of current costs of, & accessibility to:
  - prosthesis (where appropriate)
  - breast reconstruction (where appropriate)
  - treatment costs/cost variations (section 12.2.3).
- Explain that assistance available for:
  - treatment costs
  - transport
  - accommodation
  - child minding (where appropriate).
- Following identification of problems:
  - make appropriate referrals, eg. lymphoedema management refer to Breast Care Nurse, physiotherapist, Lymphoedema Clinic
  - refer to sections 11 & 12 for referral guide & contact numbers.
- Provide the woman with a list of support services & contact numbers.