



# European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer (ECIBC): European guidelines on breast cancer screening and diagnosis

## Healthcare question:

What are the most effective methods for maintaining clear lines of communication between all care providers involved in breast cancer screening?

## Good practice statement:

**Breast cancer screening programmes should maintain clear lines of communication with all care providers** (ungraded good practice statement).

Question	Response
(i) Is the statement clear and actionable?	Yes, the statement specifies what action is needed (maintaining clear lines of communication with all care providers) in which setting (breast cancer screening programmes).
(ii) Is the message really necessary in regard to actual health care practice?	Yes, anecdotal information suggests that maintaining clear lines of communication between all care providers involved in the care for women participating in screening programmes is not self-evident.
(iii) After consideration of all relevant outcomes and potential downstream consequences, will implementing the good practice statement result in large net positive consequences?	Yes, implementing the good practice statement would result in better quality of care.
(iv) Is collecting and summarizing the evidence a poor use of a guideline panel's limited time and energy (opportunity cost is large)?	Yes, collecting and summarizing evidence for maintaining clear lines of communication versus not maintaining clear lines of communication would likely result in very indirect evidence, as not maintaining clear lines of communication would not be a sensible option (and therefore not directly investigated).
(v) Is there a well-documented clear and explicit rationale connecting the indirect evidence?	Yes, the rationale is that clear communication between all care providers will increase quality of care by (amongst others) making fewer errors and a more accurate diagnosis, which are linked to appropriate (timing of) clinical management, resulting in improvement of health outcomes.