



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

Healthcare question

What is the best timing to inform women who have a negative result?

Good practice statement:

Women with a negative mammography screening result should be informed about their test result as soon as possible but not beyond 30 days after the mammogram (ungraded good practice statement).

Question	Response
(i) Is the statement clear and actionable?	Yes, the statement specifies what action is needed (the best timing to inform women about their negative test) in which setting (breast cancer screening programmes).
(ii) Is the message really necessary in regard to actual health care practice?	Yes, currently there is no guidance on the optimal timing of providing negative screening results.
(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 likely have impact on women's anxiety, stress, quality of life and general well-being, subsequent participation and on women's trust on breast screening initiatives.
(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 the optimal timing would likely result in indirect evidence, as timing of communicating screening results is largely dependent on organisational aspects.
(v) Is there a well-documented clear and explicit rationale connecting the indirect evidence?	Yes, the rationale is that timely communication and clarity on when to expect the results will result in less anxiety and stress, and higher satisfaction with screening participation.