



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

## Healthcare question:

What is the best timing to invite women for further assessment?

## Good practice statement:

**Women with a positive mammography screening result should be informed about their test result in a timely and sensitive manner and scheduled for further assessment as soon as possible** (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 positive 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 positive 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.
(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.