



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

Healthcare question:

Should professionals (radiologists, radiographers-readers, nurses and pathologists) with training or professionals without training provide care to women participating in breast cancer screening programmes?

Good practice statement:

Only professionals with specialised training in the area they practice should provide care to women participating in breast cancer screening programmes, breast cancer diagnostic services or screening assessment services (ungraded good practice statement).

Question	Response
(i) Is the statement clear and actionable?	Yes, the statement specifies what action is needed (training for radiologists, radiographers-readers, nurses and pathologists) in which setting (breast cancer screening programmes, breast cancer diagnostic services or screening assessment services). The ECIBC Training Template for radiologists and radiographers is currently under development and will be published as a Reference Document. ¹
(ii) Is the message really necessary in regard to actual health care practice?	A survey on training practices in European countries was shared as part of the ECIBC Training Template. The results of the survey will show the training provided in different countries, for radiologists or radiographers-readers.
(iii) After consideration of all relevant outcomes and potential downstream consequences, will implementing the good practice statement result in large net positive consequences?	Yes, research suggests that training programmes could reduce the number of false positives (van den Biggelaar 2008), which is related to recall rate and hence patient safety and satisfaction.
(iv) Is collecting and summarizing the evidence a poor use of a guideline panel's limited time and energy (opportunity cost is large)?	Yes, because it is unlikely that professionals without specialised training will be selected to work for breast cancer screening programmes, breast cancer diagnostic services or screening assessment services.
(v) Is there a well-documented clear and explicit rationale connecting the indirect evidence?	Yes, the rationale is that training will increase the performance by making fewer errors and a more accurate diagnosis, which are linked to appropriate (timing of) clinical management, resulting in improvement of health outcomes.

¹ The ECIBC training template for Digital Breast Cancer Screening is listed as one of Reference Documents in the European Quality Assurance Scheme. The main aim of the training template is to ensure that radiologists and radiographers working with digital breast cancer screening technologies receive adequate training levels both before and during their practice in screening, thus providing high quality of care with high patient satisfaction