

Criterion 8.14: Each provider has qualified breastcare nurses

Elements

- 8.14.1 The breastcare nurse primarily provides information, education, support and counselling services for women undergoing assessment, but is available to assist women at any stage of the screening process, if required.
- 8.14.2 All women participating in BSA are entitled to services from the breastcare nurse which:
- comply with legal, professional, ethical and other standards relevant to the profession of nursing, minimising any potential harm to and optimising the quality of life of that individual
 - are delivered in a professional manner, consistent with the physical, psychological, spiritual and cultural needs of the individual.
- 8.14.3 The breastcare nurse works as a member of a multidisciplinary team in partnership with women, their families and whānau to empower each woman to make informed choices and optimise her health and wellbeing.
- 8.14.4 The role of the breastcare nurse includes, but is not limited to:
- empathetically providing support to women and their family/whānau
 - acting as advocate for the woman and her supporters
 - providing education and information with a particular emphasis on facilitating informed decision-making for women prior to attending assessment and after a diagnosis of cancer
 - promoting awareness of psychosocial issues of concern to well women participating in screening
 - referring women (where appropriate) to other support services
 - facilitating communication between other health professionals and services (particularly GPs/ PCPs) regarding the care of individual women
 - providing nursing support for clinicians during all stages of assessment
 - ensuring there are appropriate infection control protocols in place
 - facilitating appropriate handling and pathways for pathology specimens
 - facilitating access to clinical supplies for assessment days.
- 8.14.5 The role of a BSA breastcare nurse is undertaken by a registered nurse with a current practising certificate and a minimum of two years' postgraduate work experience as a registered nurse and a strong commitment to the provision of a high standard of care.
- 8.14.6 The registered nurse will have demonstrated an understanding of and a commitment to meeting the NPQS.
- 8.14.7 Within the first year of employment the BSA nurse must have attended/or be attending a breastcare nurse course where one is available. Where possible the course should be accredited by the New Zealand Nursing Council.
- 8.14.8 The breastcare nurse, in consultation with the manager, must develop both short-and long-term strategies relating to personal career development within the programme. In order to provide a specialist service for women, the breastcare nurse must have access to ongoing breast-specific training.

- 8.14.9 The breastcare nurse must follow the New Zealand Nurses Organisation Professional Development and Recognition Programme's requirements for nursing study, planned educational programmes and self-directed study, including attending:
- 50% of clinical multidisciplinary in-house sessions for case review, or 15 meetings annually, whichever is the greater
 - nationally recognised education programmes,
 - regional, national or international seminars, conferences or courses (at least three in any five-year period)

Clinical supervision, if requested by the breastcare nurse, is available.

- 8.14.10 The breastcare nurse demonstrates advanced knowledge of nursing theory and practice, with an emphasis on:

- anatomy and physiology of the breast
- signs and symptoms of breast disorders
- pathology of breast cancer
- diagnostic procedures/interventions and potential complications
- therapeutic interventions and potential complications
- treatment options and/or trial protocols
- self-help groups/support services and community networks
- issues relating to population screening of well women
- principles and processes of research and quality assurance
- professional ethics
- Health Information Privacy Code (1994)
- Health and Disability Service Consumers' Rights (SR 1996/78)
- the Treaty of Waitangi and the subsequent impact on Māori health.

- 8.14.11 The breastcare nurse will demonstrate expertise in:

- breast awareness
- nursing and health assessment
- client information and educational needs assessment
- assessment and support
- determining when the woman requires referral to relevant health professionals for additional specialised psychological care
- written and verbal communication
- communication/listening
- evaluation and feedback
- support and advocacy
- participation as a member of a multidisciplinary team
- quality improvement activities
- clinical breast examination, where mandated and appropriately trained.