About Breast Cancer National Clinical Guideline

This NCEC National Clinical Guideline covers the diagnosis, staging and treatment of breast cancer. This care is provided by a multidisciplinary team in an acute hospital setting. The majority of patients will require diagnostic tests (radiology, pathology) and depending on the treatment plan may require surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy. A proportion of patients may also require palliative care.

This guideline was developed by the National Cancer Control Programme to improve the standard and consistency of clinical practice in line with the best and most recent scientific evidence available.

In 2006, the second national cancer strategy, A Strategy for Cancer Control in Ireland (DoHC, 2006), advocated a comprehensive cancer control programme. It was recommended that national site-specific multidisciplinary groups be convened to develop national evidence-based clinical guidelines for cancer care. The principal objective of developing these guidelines is to improve the quality of care received by patients.

This guideline looks at care for adult patients (18 years or older) with newly diagnosed early and locally advanced breast cancer. This guideline does not cover breast cancer screening. This is carried out by the National Screening Service (NSS).