

Action Breast Cancer, a part of the Irish Cancer Society, is the leading provider of breast cancer information and support in Ireland. Each year we reach over 25,000 women who are concerned about breast cancer or breast health. Our services are free and include:

- **National Breast Cancer Helpline** 1800 30 90 40 – staffed by specialist cancer nurses
- **Patient care programmes** – providing emotional support and practical assistance for those living with breast cancer
- **Health promotion** – providing community and workplace programmes on breast awareness and leading a healthy lifestyle
- **Advocacy** – providing a voice for those affected by breast cancer in Ireland
- **Professional support** – complementing the services offered by those caring for breast cancer patients

- **Research** – funding vital Irish research that will have a significant impact on the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer.

For more information visit www.cancer.ie/action
As part of the Irish Cancer Society, ABC is entirely funded by donations from the public. If you would like to support our work by making a donation, or becoming a volunteer, please contact:

Action Breast Cancer
Irish Cancer Society
43/45 Northumberland Rd
Dublin 4
Tel: 01 2310500
Fax: 01 2310555
Email: abc@irishcancer.ie

Action Breast Cancer has produced these Standards of Care for breast prosthesis and bra fitting services following the national research which investigated the provision, fitting, supply and use of external breast prostheses in Ireland. In doing so it involved asking women with breast cancer about this aspect of their care, as well as breast care nurses and prosthesis and bra fitters.

These Standards of Care will give women an understanding of what to look for from prosthesis and bra fitting service, and useful guidelines for those providing the service.

Action Breast Cancer commissioned this research and it was conducted in conjunction with the School of Nursing in Dublin City University with funding received from the Health Research Board as part of the Building Partnerships for a Healthier Society Research Award Scheme.

THESE STANDARDS OF CARE
ARE ENDORSED BY
Europa Donna Ireland
Irish Breast Care Nurses' Association
Reach to Recovery

Standards of Care

for breast prosthesis fitting services



Standards of Care

for breast prosthesis fitting services

1 A fitting service should encourage women to make contact with the service and put her at ease. Everything possible should be done to ensure the **best possible fitting and fitting experience.**

6 Women should **always be measured** for a breast prosthesis and/or mastectomy bra. If it is appropriate for a woman to be measured without removing her bra, this option should be offered to her.

2 The fitter should be **trained, knowledgeable, and sensitive** to women's needs. A woman should have a choice of seeing a female fitter.

7 Chosen products should be made available to women **in a timely fashion.** If there is a delay, women are entitled to know the reason for the delay and how long they have to wait.

3 The fitting environment should be **easily accessible and spacious with good lighting and ventilation.** A range of products should be on display and the room should have fitting rooms for privacy and a full-length mirror.

8 Women should be carefully informed about **how to care for their prosthesis** according to the manufacturers' instructions.

4 Women are entitled to a prompt appointment. Adequate time should be made available for the fitting and for women to **receive appropriate emotional support.**

9 Women should **receive impartial information** about alternative products and ranges available from other sources. Brochures from a variety of ranges should be made available to all women.

5 Women are entitled to **see and try a range of products** so that they can choose the best product to meet their individual needs.

10 An **information leaflet** outlining what to expect at the prosthesis fitting should be made available to all women, as well as clear guidelines on entitlements and the replacement of prostheses and mastectomy bras.