

## Improving the Efficiency of Breast Multidisciplinary Team Meetings: A Toolkit for Breast Services

### Section 10: Clinical Trials

Clinical trials help to improve the quality and effectiveness of breast care. They are important not only to assess new treatments for breast cancer, but also to evaluate diagnostic and screening tests for breast cancer, methods of cancer risk reduction, breast cancer follow up, etc. They may also allow patients the opportunity to access treatments in development not yet routinely available to all patients.

Good recruitment into clinical trials is therefore essential to improving breast cancer outcomes. Recruitment often relies heavily on the treating clinician being aware of available clinical trials and this can often lead to ad hoc patterns of recruitment.

The MDTM process can be a valuable opportunity to facilitate improved recruitment into clinical trials. This may be achieved in a number of ways:

- By increasing colleagues' awareness of clinical trials during discussions at the MDTM. One option is to have a list of available trials and their eligibility criteria available at the MDTM for easy reference.
- By formal screening of cases prior to the MDTM to identify patients eligible for available clinical trials. The research team is essential to this process.
- By documenting trial eligibility on MDTM outcome documentation to prompt clinicians to discuss these with their patients. This can also ensure that appropriate trial patient information sheets can be provided by the research team for the relevant patient consultations.

Audits comparing numbers of patients identified as eligible for specific clinical trials and whether the patient was given details of the clinical trial can be useful to facilitate these processes.

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