



Health
Sciences
Association of
British Columbia

The Union of Caring Professionals

backgrounder

HSA represents the health science professionals who work in the screening, diagnosis, treatment, recovery, and support of breast cancer patients and their families.

Through screening mammography, women all around BC experience the caring professionalism of mammography technologists.

Should the screening detect an irregularity, other health science professionals are ready to help with diagnosis, including:

- Ultrasound technologists help define breast lumps;
- cytotechnologists and lab techs perform preliminary diagnostic procedures on tissue biopsies.
- Nuclear medicine technologists perform tests to determine whether the disease has spread, or metastasized.

While undergoing treatment, breast cancer patients receive the expert care of more health science professionals.

- Radiation therapists plan and deliver radiation treatment to help prevent the spread of the disease.
- Pharmacists provide and monitor the drug and chemotherapy regimen, while educating patients and their families.
- Dietitians develop dietary plans to ensure proper nutrition during treatment and recovery.
- In recovery, breast cancer patients must work hard during rehabilitation – with the aid of physiotherapists and occupational therapists – to restore normal movement and function following breast cancer surgery.
- Social workers provide support and counseling to women and families who are dealing with the disease.