

For all technology appraisal guidance relevant to this section, including genomic biomarker-based therapy, see the [NICE topic page on breast cancer](#). The point at which to use genomic biomarker-based therapy in solid tumour treatment pathways is uncertain. See the [NICE topic page on genomic biomarker-based therapy](#).

1.4 Supportive care

- 1.4.1 Healthcare professionals involved in the care of patients with advanced breast cancer should ensure that the organisation and provision of supportive care services comply with the recommendations made in [NICE's cancer service guidance on improving outcomes in breast cancer](#) and [improving supportive and palliative care for adults with cancer](#), in particular the following two recommendations:
- 'Assessment and discussion of patients' needs for physical, psychological, social, spiritual and financial support should be undertaken at key points (such as diagnosis; at commencement, during, and at the end of treatment; at relapse; and when death is approaching).'
 - 'Mechanisms should be developed to promote continuity of care, which might include the nomination of a person to take on the role of "key worker" for individual patients.' [2009]

1.5 Managing complications

Lymphoedema

Recommendations in this section have been stood down as they have been superseded by the February 2025 update on [lymphoedema early identification, risk reduction and management in the NICE guideline on early and locally advanced breast cancer: diagnosis and management](#).

1.5.1 This recommendation has been stood down.

1.5.2 This recommendation has been stood down.