

Breast Cancer Program Resource Grid

This grid outlines Oncology Roundtable guidance on the resources required to develop a basic, intermediate, and advanced breast cancer program. It provides a framework for initial discussions on resource investment and program implementation. Data included represent key differentiating factors by program status but are not exhaustive. Leveraging internal clinical expertise prior to using this grid will allow you to enhance and customize it to reflect your institution's priorities and physician feedback.

Ratings are provided for each category indicating the relative importance of that program characteristic to the tumor site in question.



Program Feature	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
3 Leadership Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal program leadership (administrative or clinical) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative program coordinator Medical director 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program steering committee
4 Care Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to nurse navigator Retrospective tumor board Consultations and diagnostics not coordinated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated breast nurse navigator Portion of cases presented at treatment planning conference Coordinated consultations and diagnostics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multidisciplinary clinics in which patient evaluation is completed in one visit, or virtually in 2-3 days Formal method for determining case inclusion in prospective treatment planning conferences or 100% of cases presented
3 Treatment Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adherence to nationally recognized guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active discussion of, and adherence to, nationally recognized guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete integration of nationally recognized guidelines or clinical pathways
3 Patient Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ad hoc shared decision making Access to decision aids Access to education materials Education classes (e.g. chemotherapy orientation) Point of contact available to answer patient questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardized approach to shared decision making Caregiver engagement and support Access to robust in-person and online educational resources Patient provided guidance about conducting effective online research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular use of decision aids Patient education priorities assessed periodically throughout treatment Educational information available to patients 24/7 via online portals
3 Clinical Expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General surgeons perform breast surgeries Dedicated mammographers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fellowship-trained breast surgeons Dedicated clinical breast radiologists Plastic surgeons available to program on a part-time basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fellowship-trained breast surgeons Subspecialized medical oncologists and radiation oncologists Dedicated pathologists Breast reconstruction surgeons Oncoplastic surgeons
2 Diagnostic Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analog mammography 2D breast ultrasound Digital mammography (CR or FFDM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breast MRI Digital breast tomosynthesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breast-specific gamma imaging Positron emission mammography¹ Elastography¹ Automated breast ultrasound Contrast-enhanced spectral mammography¹
2 Treatment Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3D-CRT IMRT Tumor marker testing (e.g., HER2, estrogen receptor) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APBI/HDR brachytherapy SBRT IGRT AccuBoost Signature assays (e.g. Oncotype DX) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cryoablation IORT MRgFUS¹ Hypofractionation Comprehensive genomic profiling
2 Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No breast cancer-specific clinical trials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few breast cancer-specific clinical trials at institution Access to clinical trial network Data management support on a limited basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active breast cancer-specific clinical research at institution Collaboration with other entities (e.g. NCI) Dedicated data management support Dedicated clinical research nurses
4 Quality Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retrospective data analyses from tumor registry data Data analyses leveraged for individual initiatives Participation in national benchmarking initiatives (e.g. CP3R) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal benchmarking Actionable breast cancer-specific dashboards Data analyses sometimes leveraged to inform program (re)design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated breast tumor registrar Real-time data updates Part-time data/analytic support Dedicated breast cancer data mart Data analyses actively inform program (re)design
3 Support Services ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social work and clinical psychology available Basic nutrition education Access to support groups Access to palliative care services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardized nutrition referrals Lymphedema specialists Physical therapy available Financial counseling available Sexual health support available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive nutrition program Access to complementary and alternative medicine After-hours symptom management
3 Survivorship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survivorship care plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survivorship support services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated survivorship clinic
4 Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independently operated radiology and pathology Time from first screening appointment to surgery more than two months Access to nurse navigator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreement with radiology for turnaround time under 48 hours for all screening mammography exams Same-day turnaround for all diagnostic mammography exams Time from first screening appointment to surgery of two months or less Dedicated nurse navigator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same-day turnaround for all screening and diagnostic mammography exams Time from screening to surgery of less than one month
3 Screening Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analog mammography 2D breast ultrasound Digital mammography (CR or FFDM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breast MRI Digital breast tomosynthesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automated breast ultrasound Breast-specific gamma imaging¹ Dedicated breast CT¹ Molecular breast imaging Positron emission mammography¹ Single-shot spectral mammography¹
2 Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on breast cancer program available on-site Participation in off-site information expos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community educational sessions Hospital-sponsored outreach events Dissemination of breast cancer program information to all referring physicians and current patients with appropriate risk factors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobile mammography
3 Prevention/Risk Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imaging services Access to genetic testing, counseling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dietary and lifestyle programs Basic high-risk clinic (e.g. dedicated staff, resources) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive high-risk clinic (e.g. dedicated space, systematic patient follow-up)

¹ Still in research and development.
² Support services are made available to breast cancer patients but are not necessarily dedicated exclusively to them.

Source: Oncology Roundtable research and analysis.