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Dear Colleague

**Improving Outcomes in Breast Cancer: Update**

The Institute's guidance on the organisation and delivery of services for people with breast cancer is enclosed with this letter. It is the first to be published by the Institute in a series of site-specific cancer guidance, which aims to support the NHS as it targets resources on the disease and coordinates services within and between organisations.

The guidance was originally developed in 1996 by the National Cancer Guidance Steering Group (NCGSG) and published by the Department of Health. This update, also prepared by NCGSG, is being published by NICE following consultation with a range of stakeholders.

The guidance is not subject to the standard implementation Direction, which requires NHS organisations to make resources available for NICE technology appraisals within 3 months of publication. Networks exist, in England and Wales, to coordinate services for people with cancer. This guidance is intended to inform those arrangements and should therefore be taken into account by service managers and clinical staff, in the design and implementation of local breast cancer services.

Further topics in development and their anticipated publication dates are set out below:

- Improving Outcomes in Urological Cancers – September 2002
- Improving Outcomes in Haemato-oncology – May 2003
- Improving Outcomes in Colorectal Cancer – June 2003
- Improving Outcomes in Head and Neck Cancers – September 2003

If you have any comments on the guidance, please let me know. You can use the contact details at the head of this letter or email me at: [andrew.dillon@nice.nhs.uk](mailto:andrew.dillon@nice.nhs.uk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Dillon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Dillon  
Chief Executive