

The Patient Barrier Assessment Tool:

To support with the detection of underserved patients living with metastatic breast cancer (mBC)



Introduction

Globally, including in developed nations, many underserved patient populations (UPPs) with advanced/metastatic breast cancer (ABC/mBC) do not have appropriate access to healthcare. These patient groups include: older patients, patients with low income, patients with low health knowledge, patients in rural locations, and patients from historically marginalized groups.¹

Objective

The Patient Barrier Assessment Tool was developed to address barriers to care and eliminate potential unconscious biases from clinical decision-making. The tool is designed to determine an individual's risk of facing disparities in healthcare, and is intended to be used as a quick triage resource for healthcare professionals (HCPs).

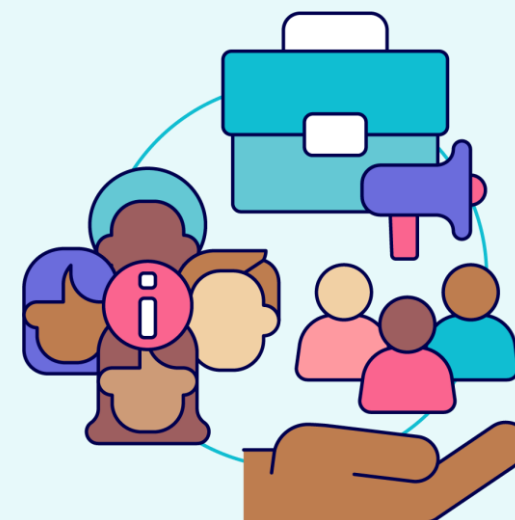
The tool is a check list for HCPs, which includes:

- Key questions to determine the risk level of a patient
- A score card with guidance to determine whether a patient is high risk in any category and requires additional support

Using the tool will support HCPs with detecting underserved patients in a timely manner and enable them to provide necessary support.

How this tool was developed

This Patient Barrier Assessment Tool was developed in collaboration with a global multistakeholder group of experts. The expert Task Force was formed to gain further understanding of and prioritise remaining unmet needs in mBC care for UPPs, and to ideate tangible solutions to overcome these. The Tool was proposed by the Task Force to support with the detection of UPPs. Following its inception, the expert members iterated and validated the content during a live working session in 2023.





Patient Barrier Assessment Tool



Instructions for use

The Patient Barrier Assessment Tool can be used directly with patients in person or via tele- or phone consultations. The tool can be used by primary care professionals, nurses, social workers or any member of the healthcare team.

1. Ask the patient the questions below or ask them to complete the form themselves.
2. Total the score for each category and use the guidance in the blue box to determine the patient's level of risk in each category. Moderate to High risk indicates the need for additional assistance and resources.

1 AGE AND COMORBIDITIES:

CATEGORY	SCORE: MULTIPLE CHOICE, SELECT 1 OPTION ONLY
----------	--

Age

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ 18 – 39 years = 1 | ☐ 65 – 74 years = 0 |
| ☐ 40 – 65 years = 0 | ☐ 75+ years = 1 |

Co-morbidities

Diagnosed with any other illnesses, diseases, or comorbidities, including psychiatric disorders?

- | |
|---|
| ☐ No comorbidities = 0 |
| ☐ One co-morbidity = 1 |
| ☐ Two or more co-morbidities = 2 |

TOTAL

A SCORE OF 1 = MODERATE RISK LEVEL
A SCORE OF 2 OR MORE = HIGH RISK LEVEL

2 DEMOGRAPHIC:

CATEGORY	SCORE: MULTIPLE CHOICE, SELECT 1 OPTION ONLY
----------	--

Ethnicity

Identifies as being from an ethnic, religious, indigenous/native population and/or other historically marginalized group

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ Agree = 1 | ☐ Disagree = 0 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

Feels underserved as a result of their ethnicity

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ Agree = 1 | ☐ Disagree = 0 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

Gender

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| ☐ Female = 0 | ☐ Male = 1 |
| ☐ Transgender = 1 | ☐ LGBTQ+ = 1 |

TOTAL

A SCORE OF 1 OR MORE = HIGH RISK LEVEL



Patient Barrier Assessment Tool



3 LANGUAGE AND HEALTH LITERACY:

CATEGORY

SCORE: MULTIPLE CHOICE, SELECT 1
OPTION ONLY

Language

Requires a translator for medical discussions

☐ Agree = 1

☐ Disagree = 0

Health literacy

Requires help when reading instructions or written material from a doctor or pharmacy

☐ Agree = 1

☐ Disagree = 0

TOTAL

.....

A SCORE OF 1 OR MORE = HIGH RISK LEVEL

4 GEOGRAPHY:

CATEGORY

SCORE: MULTIPLE CHOICE, SELECT 1
OPTION ONLY

Transport

Requires help with transportation to medical appointments

☐ Agree = 1

☐ Disagree = 0

Distance from specialist centre

Lives more than 90 minutes from physician's clinic or hospital

☐ Agree = 1

☐ Disagree = 0

TOTAL

.....

A SCORE OF 1 OR MORE = HIGH RISK LEVEL





Patient Barrier Assessment Tool



5 FINANCE:

CATEGORY	SCORE: MULTIPLE CHOICE, SELECT 1 OPTION ONLY
Insurance Unable to access health care via health insurance or national health service	☐ Agree = 1 ☐ Disagree = 0
Flexible work Unable to take time off work for healthcare appointments	☐ Agree = 1 ☐ Disagree = 0
Impact to income The disease will significantly impact income and ability to pay for essentials or bills – through contributing to medical costs, or loss of work	☐ Agree = 1 ☐ Disagree = 0
TOTAL	

A SCORE OF 1 OR MORE = HIGH RISK LEVEL

6 SUPPORT AND TECHNOLOGY:

CATEGORY	SCORE: MULTIPLE CHOICE, SELECT 1 OPTION ONLY
Support Does not have a reliable family member/friend/other to help with healthcare decisions	☐ Agree = 1 ☐ Disagree = 0
Technology Does not use the internet in daily life	☐ Agree = 1 ☐ Disagree = 0
TOTAL	

A SCORE OF 1 OR MORE = HIGH RISK LEVEL