



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
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JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE
Directorate I - Institute for Health and Consumer Protection
Public Health Policy Support – Healthcare Quality Team

European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer

Development of the European Quality Assurance scheme for Breast Cancer Services

Informal calls for expressions of interest

**External experts to the Quality Assurance Scheme
Development Group (QASDG) of the European Commission
Initiative on Breast Cancer (ECIBC).**

- breast cancer pathologist**
- general practitioner**
- information technology specialist**
- nutritionist**
- pharmacist**
- radiographer**
- rehabilitation specialist**

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Abbreviations

European Commission	EC
European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer	ECIBC
Guidelines Development Group	GDG
Joint Research Centre	JRC
Quality Assurance Scheme Development Group	QASDG

Introduction

The European Commission's Initiative on Breast Cancer ([ECIBC](#)) aims at ensuring and harmonising quality of breast cancer services across European countries.

The European Commission initiated a project to develop a European Quality Assurance scheme for breast cancer services (henceforth *European QA scheme*) that will define a common set of quality and safety requirements for breast cancer services in Europe. The scheme will cover all the relevant areas of healthcare provision for breast cancer and all processes of breast cancer care. These requirements will be based on evidence-based recommendations provided by the guidelines.

The *European QA scheme* will be developed by the Quality Assurance Scheme Development Group (QASDG), which was established following a call for expression of interest organised by DG SANTE. However, in the recent work carried out by the QASDG, the need for additional expertise in several fields relevant for certain breast cancer processes has arisen and this call aims to fulfil that need.

Purpose of this call

This informal call is aimed at recruiting external experts for the QASDG:

- a breast cancer pathologist
- a general practitioner
- an information technology specialist
- a nutritionist
- a pharmacist
- a radiographer
- a rehabilitation specialist

Interested individuals who satisfy the eligibility criteria and who possess the relevant competences are invited to apply.

Applicants should note that the work of the QASDG is scheduled to last for 30 months since nomination (July 2015) with a possible renewal for another 30 months.

The external experts will contribute to the QASDG's work temporarily, based on request. They will have to attend QASDG meetings and participate to remote activities for their specific competence. They ARE NOT chosen from the GDG reserve list. They do not have voting rights and/ or they do not formulate recommendations.

All candidates will apply, and act if nominated, in their individual capacity – i.e. not representing any organisation or affiliation.

This call for expressions of interest is open to citizens from Europe and elsewhere.

Remit of the QASDG

The QASDG will be the working group directly involved in the processes required for developing and piloting the *European QA scheme*. Among their tasks the following will be included.

- Deciding on clinical and organisational areas to be covered within the *European QA scheme*
- Selection of the breast cancer specific requirements, making use of the evidence provided by trustworthy guidelines

- Selection and definition of the quality indicators, based upon the abovementioned recommendations
- Support JRC during the consultation and pilot stage of the *European QA scheme*
- Approval of the *European QA scheme* draft, pilot and final versions.

The QASDG will work in close collaboration with the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA), that will be the main partner for this task. EA will provide the draft scheme design according to Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 and will also coordinate the piloting of the *European QA scheme*.

The work of the QASDG will be based on the principles of excellence, independence, multidisciplinary approach and transparency.

Breast cancer pathologist for the QASDG

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must fulfil the following criteria.

- Have a university degree in medicine
- Have a minimum of 10 years of relevant professional experience as in breast cancer pathology
- Be active as breast cancer pathologist at the moment of the application
- Be proficient in English to a level that will allow active participation in discussions, understand working documents and, if needed, draft a written contribution
- Be independent: the advice delivered must not be influenced by any consideration other than the evaluation of scientific elements relating to the topic addressed

Selection criteria

The following selection criteria will be applied in evaluating eligible candidates.

- Relevance of professional experience: the ideal candidate would be pathologist specialised in breast cancer with an active role in a scientific society issuing professional recommendations on histological and molecular classification of breast cancer
- Involvement in multidisciplinary working groups at a regional/national/international level. Special attention will be given to candidates active within the European Society of Pathology (ESP)

General practitioner for the QASDG

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must fulfil the following criteria.

- Have a university degree in medicine
- Have a minimum of 10 years of relevant professional experience as general practitioner
- Be active as general practitioner at the moment of the application
- Be proficient in English to a level that will allow active participation in discussions, understand working documents and, if needed, draft a written contribution
- Be independent: the advice delivered must not be influenced by any consideration other than the evaluation of scientific elements relating to the topic addressed

Selection criteria

The following selection criteria will be applied in evaluating eligible candidates.

- Relevance of professional experience: the ideal candidate would be a general practitioner currently active in primary care
- Involvement in multidisciplinary working groups at a regional/national/international level. Special attention will be given to experience in participation to research or quality improvement projects on coordination with screening programmes and/or with breast centres (*e.g.* for follow-up of breast cancer women)

Information technology specialist for the QASDG

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must fulfil the following criteria.

- Have a university degree
- Have a minimum of 10 years of relevant professional experience with cancer information systems
- Be active in the field at the moment of the application
- Be proficient in English to a level that will allow active participation in discussions, understand working documents and, if needed, draft a written contribution

- Be independent: the advice delivered must not be influenced by any consideration other than the evaluation of scientific elements relating to the topic addressed

Selection criteria

The following selection criteria will be applied in evaluating eligible candidates.

- Relevance of professional experience: the ideal candidate would be a computer scientist developing or managing software for screening programmes, or cancer information systems at hospital, regional or national level
- Involvement in multidisciplinary working groups at a regional/national/international level. Special attention will be given to contribution to working groups aimed at harmonising cancer information systems at regional/national/international level

Nutritionist for the QASDG

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must fulfil the following criteria.

- Have a university degree in a healthcare related field (e.g. medicine, nutrition sciences, nursing, biology, etc.)
- Have a minimum of 10 years of relevant professional experience with cancer
- Be active as nutrition specialist at the moment of the application
- Be proficient in English to a level that will allow active participation in discussions, understand working documents and, if needed, draft a written contribution
- Be independent: the advice delivered must not be influenced by any consideration other than the evaluation of scientific elements relating to the topic addressed

Selection criteria

The following selection criteria will be applied in evaluating eligible candidates.

- Relevance of professional experience: the ideal candidate would provide diet counselling to cancer patients and/or perform research on diet and breast cancer prevention
- Involvement in multidisciplinary working groups at a regional/national/international level

Pharmacist for the QASDG

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must fulfil the following criteria.

- Have a university degree in pharmacy or related field
- Have a minimum of 10 years of relevant professional experience with drugs for cancer
- Be active as clinical pharmacist at the moment of the application
- Be proficient in English to a level that will allow active participation in discussions, understand working documents and, if needed, draft a written contribution
- Be independent: the advice delivered must not be influenced by any consideration other than the evaluation of scientific elements relating to the topic addressed

Selection criteria

The following selection criteria will be applied in evaluating eligible candidates.

- Relevance of professional experience: the ideal candidate would be a clinical pharmacist working in an oncology centre. Special attention will be given to experience in quality and safety issues related to drug (*e.g.* chemotherapy) prescription and administration
- Involvement in multidisciplinary working groups at a regional/national/international level

Radiographer for the QASDG

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must fulfil the following criteria.

- Have a university degree in radiography
- Have a minimum of 10 years of relevant professional experience with mammography
- Be active as radiographer for mammography at the moment of the application
- Be proficient in English to a level that will allow active participation in discussions, understand working documents and, if needed, draft a written contribution
- Be independent: the advice delivered must not be influenced by any consideration other than the evaluation of scientific elements relating to the topic addressed

Selection criteria

The following selection criteria will be applied in evaluating eligible candidates.

- Relevance of professional experience
- Involvement in multidisciplinary working groups at a regional/national/international level

Rehabilitation specialist for the QASDG

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must fulfil the following criteria.

- Have a university degree in a healthcare or social sciences related field
- Have a minimum of 10 years of relevant professional experience with cancer patients
- Be active in the rehabilitation of breast cancer patients at the moment of the application
- Be proficient in English to a level that will allow active participation in discussions, understand working documents and, if needed, draft a written contribution
- Be independent: the advice delivered must not be influenced by any consideration other than the evaluation of scientific elements relating to the topic addressed

Selection criteria

The following selection criteria will be applied in evaluating eligible candidates.

- Relevance of professional experience: special attention will be given to candidates showing expertise in rehabilitation areas not already covered by QASDG members, such as an expert in physical therapy specialised in lymphedema rehabilitation, or a social worker supporting breast cancer patients to cope with practical challenges.
- Involvement in multidisciplinary working groups at a regional/national/international level.

Independence

The external experts are appointed in their personal capacity. Applicants are required to include a declaration of commitment to act independently of any external influence and a declaration of any interests which might be considered prejudicial to their independence. If

appointed, they will agree to make both annual written declarations of interest and written and/or oral subject specific declarations of interest knowing that these will be made public.

Selection process

The selection process will consist of three stages.

1. Verification of the admissibility of the applications and eligibility of applicants.
2. Comparative evaluation and establishment of a list of the most suitable applicants.
3. Appointment of the best candidate(s) as external expert in one or both fields of expertise subject to this informal call.

In addition to the eligibility and selection criteria, a balanced composition within the GDG will be sought also in terms of:

- geographical diversity;
- gender balance; and
- independence (potential conflicts of interest).

Appointment of external experts

The JRC will inform the candidates of the result of the selection procedure as soon as possible.

Applications will be retained for potential future needs for the same fields of competence. In that case candidates will be re-contacted to confirm their interest in being involved in the ECIBC.

The names, CVs, pictures, Commitment declarations and Conflict of interest declarations of the appointed external expert(s) will be published in the European Commission webpages.

Indemnities

Unless stated otherwise in the letter of invitation, QASDG external experts shall be entitled to [indemnities related](#) to their participation in the meetings.

Protection of personal data

The Commission will ensure that applicants' personal data are processed as required by [Regulation \(EC\) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000](#) on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 8, 12.1.2001). This applies in particular to the confidentiality and security of such data.

For an overview of the policy:

http://ec.europa.eu/dataprotectionofficer/legal_framework_en.htm

For further details on how data are managed at JRC please go to the link <http://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register/details.htm?id=28522> (the example applies to meetings in particular but the policy is the same for personal data protection for surveys).

Application procedure

DEADLINE: 10 May 2016, midnight (Ispra local time)

The submission of an application does not automatically guarantee the appointment to the QASDG. The Commission will decide on the basis of the written application and will inform the candidates of the result of the selection procedure as soon as possible after the closure of the call.

To submit your application, please follow these steps:

1. Download and carefully read the document:
[Guidance to declaration of interests](#)

2. Download, print, fill in, sign and scan the ['Declaration of interests' \(Dol\) form](#)
3. Prepare your **CV** (not exceeding three pages and with a maximum of 15 publications and 20 participations to conferences, preferably in [Europass format](#)), sign and scan it.
4. Choose your profile and fill in the application form, attaching the scanned **CV** and **Dol form**.
5. Submit the online [application form](#). **Only these applications will be considered.**

Contact information

For clarifications on the information requested, or for technical questions related to the application form, please send an email to the following address: JRC-ECIBC@ec.europa.eu