Project Draft

Pilot Project
„MUT“
Psychosocial company and consultation for patients with the diagnosis „Mamma Carcinoma“
- creation of psychosocial company and care management within the mammogram screening
  in consideration of diagnostic-, therapeutic- and rehabilitative stages –

1. Problem
The project „MUT“ deals with the psychosocial support within a mammogram screening. We assume that there is a need for psychosocial support from the point of the suspected diagnosis in the screening unit. The special population of women who probably have the diagnosis of cancer are in a kind of “waiting loop” from the beginning of the tentative diagnosis to the final diagnostic findings of breast cancer. This time of waiting is full of sorrow and fear for the patients. Currently, any kind of offer for a psychosocial support and consultation are missing within this period. If the concerned women receive the tentative diagnosis, this is often associated with a hopeless course of disease or even with death. If this tentative diagnosis is acknowledged, the women are under considerable strain at the moment of the re-invitation and in shock at the moment of the acknowledgement of the suspicion of breast cancer (shock of the diagnosis, critical life event). The first period, in case of noticeable symptoms within the first breast screening, is accompanied by differentiated diagnostic procedures (e.g. sonography, mammogram sections or magnification and biopsy as the case may be). Within the second period, the concerned patients are concretely confronted with the diagnosis breast cancer. During the process of the final diagnostic findings, the women are exposed to extraordinary mental pressure and uncertainties. Thus, a psychosocial deficit in care and consultation occurs within the period of the screening.

2. Project Hypothesis
We act on the assumption that the demand for psychosocial support will be of high importance for the concerned women already during the mammogram screening process. The
implementation of an especially skilled Breast Care Nurse as an intervention will satisfy this demand appropriately. Furthermore, we act on the assumption that the developed specific methods and proceedings of the integrated care will support the concerned women, e.g. at the moment of admission to the Breast Centre, and that they will have positive effects on the patients regarding transition processes to the rehabilitation.

3. Project Objective

The pilot project “MUT“ intends to analyse the demand for psychosocial support during the screening process. It aims at obtaining data for an optimal patient care with the help of qualitative and quantitative methods of collecting data. Furthermore, it intends to make proposals on methods of the Integrated Health Care as well as on the segment-comprehensive psychosocial care.

4. Control Sample

Throughout the project, 20 women with the diagnostic „mamma carcinoma“ will be interviewed personally at two or three different times within the framework of the clinical pathway. Furthermore, approximately 25-30 women will be surveyed by means of a standardised questionnaire. The sample consists of the concerned women of the screening centres at a particular time.

In addition, 18 experts of the institutions will be surveyed at a certain time.

5. Judicial and ethic general conditions

Empirical research on human sciences and phenomenon presumes a high ethic sensibility and responsibility on the part of the researchers. Especially studies on somatic, psychological and mental problems affect the privacy of participants and researchers of the study who are protected by the Basic Constitutional Law. Individual data protection as well as anonymization of the personal data will be assured, that also includes the publication of the research results.

6. Project period and location

The project has a period of 2 years and has started on 1 February 2008. The location of this project is Berlin, primarily the Reference Centre Mammography Berlin, one exemplary screening unit and the Helios Klinik Berlin-Buch.