

**Title:** Survey the Psych-Oncology Integration Models in Breast Cancer Care

**Background:** Breast cancer is one of the prevalent cancers and is associated with a higher risk of developing mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression. Despite guideline recommendations for routine distress screening, variability in behavioral health integration within oncology care persists, potentially leading to gaps in care.

**Objective:** This study aimed to identify areas where the current behavioral health services for breast cancer patients can be enhanced and to assess the potential role of psychiatric pharmacists in improving mental health support within the oncology setting.

**Methods:** A literature review was performed, followed by qualitative data collection through phone interviews. Healthcare professionals working in oncology, mental health, or pharmacy participated in a 17-question interview assessing service availability, screening practices and collaboration. Patients with current or prior breast cancer treatment completed a 10-question survey evaluating access to services, screening, perceived support, and barriers. Data was analyzed using thematic qualitative analysis.

**Results:** Significant variability in behavioral health services for breast cancer patients was observed in both the healthcare professional and patient interviews. Services were inconsistent across facilities, with limited integration into oncology care. Mental health screening was irregular with many patients reporting a complete absence of screening during treatment. Patients often sought mental support independently, with barriers including time, cost, and insurance coverage. Patients expressed high openness to working with a psychiatric pharmacist as part of their care team.

**Conclusions:** Behavioral health support in breast cancer remains under-integrated and inconsistent. Future research could help standardize behavioral health services and screening for patients with breast cancer, as well as assess the utility of incorporating psychiatric pharmacists into the oncology care team.