

## VITALIS OKWOR

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## **Application Title:**

University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital - Breast Cancer Support Group Project

## **General Audience Summary:**

Breast cancer management is currently one of the major health challenges in Nigeria. Most breast cancers patients are diagnosed at advanced stages resulting in limited treatment options and poorer treatment outcomes. The few that present early lack good follow up habits. Furthermore, lack of advanced technology and the high cost of treatment coupled with lack of an effective health insurance system in the country negatively impact treatment outcomes for patients. It is a common observation that after diagnosis of the disease and the first line treatment is given, most patients do not return for follow up or further treatment because of financial reasons, religious inclinations and the wrong belief that they are already cured after a single treatment. The enormous challenge of subsequent treatment with its attendant cost also serves as a major barrier to management. This project intends to address multiple gaps in care through the provision of easier access to palliative care services, improving the follow-up system and multidisciplinary management to ensure better quality of life and increased treatment compliance for patients.

**KEYWORDS:** Patient Navigation