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Application Title:

Breast Cancer Associations in Rwanda

General Audience Summary:

This patient-centred project will establish Breast Cancer Associations (BCAs) by training designated staff to foster patient self-empowerment as well as ownership of the disease. Led by the trained “patient navigators”, the BCAs will provide a forum for peer support among women with both early stage as well as advanced breast cancer through discussion, group problem solving of psycho-social challenges, breast cancer education, and health system navigation mentorship. The patient navigators will provide clear expectations and advice regarding the treatment and palliative care options available across the health sector from the community to national levels. Ultimately, BCA participants will be empowered to take ownership of their disease through self-management and confident navigation of a complex healthcare system. In addition, trained staff will gain skills that allow them to meaningfully educate and empower patients in rural Rwanda even beyond the grant period and in other forums.

Keywords:

Patient Navigation