



# CoC Flash

A Monthly News Update from the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons



July 2004

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- Committee on Approvals Expands Approvals Eligibility
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## Survey Savvy Registration Is Closed

Due to space constraints that permit only 150 participants, the CoC has closed registration for the workshop "Survey Savvy: An Essential Workshop for Cancer Programs Committed to Providing High-Quality Care" which will be held October 25-26, 2004. Registration forms and checks received following the date of closure, July 16, will be returned. **No waiting list will be kept for this event.**

The CoC will hold another Survey Savvy Workshop on February 24 & 25, 2005 in Chicago, IL. Course details and registration information on that workshop will be announced in a future issue of *CoC Flash* and posted on our Web site in October.

## Committee on Approvals Expands Approvals Eligibility

Standard 1.1 of *Cancer Program Standards 2004* sets forth the eligibility requirements for CoC-approved cancer programs and facilities that are applying for approval. Two additional accreditation methods have now been recognized as meeting the eligibility requirement.

**State Accreditation or Licensure:** Accreditation or licensure of a hospital through a state agency allows the facility to receive Medicare payments and is equivalent to Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) or American Osteopathic Association (AOA) accreditation.

**American College of Radiation Oncology (ACRO):** The ACRO practice accreditation fulfills the eligibility requirements for freestanding cancer center programs and integrated cancer programs offering radiation oncology services.

For additional information on eligibility requirements, please contact Asa Carter at [acarter@facs.org](mailto:acarter@facs.org).

## SAR Annual Update Clarifications Issued

- Annual Update period is July 1-September 30, 2004.
- All ratings and comments are NOT required to be completed at this time.
- No documentation is required to be submitted to the CoC during the Annual Update period.
- The SAR Training Guide should be reviewed before completing the SAR Annual Update.
- Questions about the SAR Annual Update should be submitted by e-mail to [SAR@facs.org](mailto:SAR@facs.org).

**The following sections and Standards are REQUIRED to be completed for the SAR Annual Update:**

General Information  
 Medical School Affiliation  
 Residency Programs  
 Pediatric Component

Cancer Committee Leadership-Standards 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.11  
 Cancer Data Management & Cancer Registry Operations-Standards 3.1, 3.3  
 Clinical Management-Standards 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7  
 Research-Standards 5.1, 5.2  
 Community Outreach-Standards 6.1, 6.2, 6.3  
 Professional Education & Support-Standards 7.1, 7.2  
 Quality Improvement-Standards 8.1, 8.2

## Pre-Survey Documentation Provided to Surveyors

In addition to the 11 items listed on page seven of *Cancer Program Standards 2004*, an accession list from the last complete year (2002 if 2003 is incomplete or 2003 if complete) is also required. The surveyor will choose charts to review for staging (Standard 4.3) from this list. Details about the record selection process and method to receive the list of records from the surveyor are to be discussed with the surveyor prior to the on-site visit.

## Changes Made to the FIPS Research Activities Page

Please note that the Research Activities page of the Facility Information Profile System (FIPS) has changed. The CoC will no longer collect clinical trial patient accruals. In addition, each September, the facility *Participation in Clinical Trials Cooperative Groups or Other Research* area will be updated according to what was entered by the facility during the SAR Annual Update. Currently, FIPS is displaying 2002 research activity, and this information will be updated automatically in September to show 2003 research activity.

Also note, in the interest of utilizing patient-friendly language, the CoC and American Cancer Society (ACS) have agreed to change how Research Activities are displayed on the ACS Web site. The 19 *Cooperative Groups* and *Other Research Groups* listed in FIPS have been condensed into the following five categories on the ACS Web site:

NCI sponsored clinical trials  
 NCI sponsored clinical trials for children  
 Pharmaceutical company sponsored clinical trials  
 Institutional sponsored clinical trials  
 No clinical trials offered

## Hits to the American Cancer Society's CoC Hospital Locator Increase

The ACS has reported close to 7,200 visitors to the *CoC Hospital Locator* this year. This figure equates to an approximate average of 1,200 visitors per month-over 270 visitors more than the monthly average in 2003! This Web-based search engine on the ACS Web site enables the public to locate CoC-approved cancer programs by Zip code, city, and state, or by resources and services offered.

Is your facility's FIPS information up-to-date? The CoC encourages cancer programs to modify FIPS content at least twice a year or more frequently, if necessary. Any modifications made to the system are reflected on the ACS Web site within 24 hours. To view your facility's information on the *CoC Hospital Locator* go to [http://www.cancer.org/asp/search/ftc/ftc\\_global.asp](http://www.cancer.org/asp/search/ftc/ftc_global.asp).

## Monthly Web Conferences on CLP Role Are Available

Does your cancer program staff need to gain a better understanding of the role of the Cancer Liaison Physician? If so, this could be a very well spent hour. This Web conference presentation is available to anyone interested in learning about the role and responsibilities of the Cancer Liaison Physician as the Community Outreach Coordinator.

Lasting approximately 50 minutes, participants will require Internet and telephone access. No registration is necessary.

## All Web conferences are offered at Central Standard Time (CST)

- Wednesday, August 18, 2004 - 9:00 to 10:00am
- Tuesday, September 21, 2004 - 5:00 to 6:00pm
- Thursday, October 21, 2004 - 10:00 to 11:00am
- Wednesday, November 17, 2004 - 3:00 to 4:00pm
- Tuesday, December 14, 2004 - 11:00am to 12:00pm

Visit our Web site at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/liaison.html> for further instructions. Please direct any inquiries to Carolyn Jones at [cjones@facs.org](mailto:cjones@facs.org).

## Speaker Requests

At this time, the CoC's Speakers Bureau is no longer accepting requests for CoC-trained speakers to make presentations at meetings in September 2004. Organizations wishing to secure a speaker for October should submit a speaker request form by the end of August. See the Education Activities section of our Web site, <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/coceduc.html>, for details.

## Marketing Your CoC-Approved Cancer Program

Is your facility the only CoC-approved program in your city? How many CoC-approved programs are in your state? Do you know how many CoC-approved programs are in the same category within your state or across the country?

An up-to-date list of CoC-approved cancer programs is available through the link "Find an Approved Cancer Program Near You" on our Web site at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/index.html>. This public access link allows individuals to search for approved programs by city, state, or category. Let your marketing or public relations department work with this information in order to promote your facility and its role in cancer care.

## CoC Welcomes Newly Approved Cancer Programs

The CoC is pleased to announce that 31 cancer programs received their first Approval Award in 2003. To review a list of programs that have joined in the effort to provide quality cancer care, see our Web site at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/approved2003.html>.

## NCDB Edits Are Adapted to Better Fit with State Requirements

Edit requirements for data submitted to NCDB for the Fall 2004 Call for Data slated to begin October 4, 2004, have been slightly modified to better coordinate with the data collection requirements of some state central registries. As originally posted, the NCDB edits required that Collaborative Stage fields be blank for all cases diagnosed prior to 2004. Because some states are requiring those items to be completed for cases currently being abstracted, regardless of the diagnosis date, NCDB will not apply the edits requiring blanks for pre-2004 cases. The purpose of this action is to accommodate software providers that might otherwise need to create competing forms of submission files for the NCDB and some states, in order to smooth the submission process for registries regardless of their software services. The revised information, for registrars and software providers who wish to begin testing their data for the next submission, is posted on the NCDB Web page at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/ncdb/index.html>. The updated files are identified on the Web page by the date indicator "7/29/04."

## A New Look For Collaborative Staging Web Pages

During August, the Collaborative Staging (CS) Task Force will release the newly designed Web pages for Collaborative Staging. These pages will still be hosted on the AJCC Web Site at <http://www.cancerstaging.org>, and they are the primary portal for access to CS material and documentation. Make sure to visit the new CS Web pages, refresh your links, or make sure CS is bookmarked in your "Favorites" list.

## CoC Meetings to be Held in Conjunction with Clinical Congress

The CoC will host its Annual Meetings in October at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, New Orleans, LA, in conjunction with the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress.

### Meeting Schedule:

### **Sunday, October 10, 2004**

Commission on Cancer Annual Meeting  
2:00 - 4:30 pm  
Napoleon Ballroom

Commission on Cancer Reception  
4:30 - 6:00 pm  
Versailles Ballroom

### **Monday, October 11, 2004**

Cancer Liaison Program Meeting  
7:00 - 9:00 am  
Napoleon Ballroom

Invitations to the meetings were sent via e-mail on July 9, 2004, to CoC Members, Disease Site Team Members, State Chairs, Surveyors, Cancer Liaison Physicians, and Cancer Committee Chairs. The invitations included a letter along with an attached PDF file containing a meeting schedule. **The meeting schedule form is to be completed and faxed to Mary Ann Marts at 312/202-5009. The deadline for return is September 15, 2004.**

If you are in one of these groups and did not receive an invitation, please contact Mary Ann Marts at [mmarts@facs.org](mailto:mmarts@facs.org) to request one.

## **Register Online for This Year's Clinical Congress in New Orleans**

The Program Committee for this year's Clinical Congress has designed an extensive array of sessions to meet the needs of general surgeons, surgeons in the specialties, and surgeons in training. Virtually every area of contemporary surgical practice will be addressed, including critical topics such as the acute abdomen, early breast cancer, gastrointestinal hemorrhage, soft tissue sarcoma, and perioperative pain. Innovative and leading-edge topics are also included, such as gene silencing, robotics, assessment of surgical innovation, findings of recent clinical research, and the role of surgeons in mass casualty events. In addition, sessions will be offered on competency-related issues, such as practice-based learning and improvement, patient safety and teamwork, evidence-based surgery, management of the non-operative aspects of the operating room, ethics and professionalism, economic morbidity and mortality conferences, and optimizing the learning environment for surgical training. Skills-oriented and didactic postgraduate courses, specialty sessions, multidisciplinary sessions, video-based educational sessions, presentations of research being done by young investigators, and scientific and technical exhibits will also be offered during the week of the meeting. Visit <http://www.facs.org/clincon2004/index.html> for more information and to register.

## **ACOSOG Seeks Patients for Colorectal and Brain Cancer Clinical Trials**

The American College of Surgeons Oncology Group (ACOSOG) is working to increase patient accrual in two ongoing clinical trials--"Early Age-of-Onset Colorectal Cancer" (Z0190) and "Patients with One to Three Brain Mets" (Z0300)--and invites surgeons to participate in the studies.

Z0190 focuses on patients with early age-of-onset colorectal cancer (diagnosis before age 50), who comprise a uniquely interesting and relatively unstudied cohort. Any qualified MD with a focus on oncology research is invited to participate in this trial. Patients must have Stage I, II, or III adenocarcinoma of the colon or rectum and must have a baseline colonoscopy prior to or within one year of the initial curative colorectal resection. Also, patients must be willing to provide a family cancer history to the study team and continue with follow-up colonoscopic surveillance according to the protocol. If the patient is a cancer survivor, patient must have undergone potentially curative treatment for all prior malignancies and be at low risk for recurrence.

Z0300 is a Phase III randomized trial of the role of whole brain radiation therapy in addition to radiosurgery in the management of patients with one to three cerebral metastases. Any qualified MD with a focus on oncology research is invited to participate in this trial. Patients must have one to three previously untreated brain metastases, with each lesion measuring less than 3 cm and must be able to be treated with either a gamma knife or linear accelerator-based radiosurgery system. If the patient is a cancer survivor, patient must have undergone potentially curative therapy for all prior malignancies and must be at low risk for recurrence.

Full eligibility requirements and more information about the protocols may be found at <http://www.acosog.org>.

## **Mary Jo Strebel Retires**

On August 31, 2004, Mary Jo will retire from the American College of Surgeons after 14 years. Our staff

is saddened by her departure, but extremely grateful to have worked with someone as experienced and knowledgeable in the registry field as Mary Jo. We wish her all the best as she enters this new phase of her life.

#### **-A Personal Note from Mary Jo**

I asked to have this opportunity to say how much I have enjoyed working with all of you and, hopefully, helping you to get through all of the changes in the registry field over these years. I will miss talking to and seeing all of you. My daughter is going to have her first baby in December, so I will be moving from Chicago to Canton, GA (Atlanta area) sometime in September. I would love to hear from you, send e-mail to [dkscs@msn.com](mailto:dkscs@msn.com).

## **Spotlight on CoC Member Organization: American Dietetic Association (ADA)**

The American Dietetic Association (ADA) has been a member organization of the Commission on Cancer (CoC) since 1995. The current representative is Norman G. Hord, PhD, MPH, RD with Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI.

The ADA was founded in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1917, and was dedicated to helping the government conserve food and improve the public's health and nutrition during World War I. With nearly 70,000 members, it is the nation's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals. Approximately 75 percent of the members are registered dietitians and 4 percent are dietetic technicians, registered. Other members include clinical and community dietetics professionals, consultants, food service managers, educators, researchers, dietetic technicians and students. Members represent a range of practice areas and interests including public health; sports nutrition; medical nutrition therapy; diet counseling, cholesterol reduction, diabetes, heart and kidney disease; vegetarianism; food service management in business, hospitals, restaurants, long-term care facilities and education systems; education of other health-care professionals; and scientific research.

The ADA's mission to lead the future of dietetics and its commitment to help people enjoy healthy lives brings it into the forefront of five critical health areas facing all Americans. The five key areas for attention by the Association are:

- 1) Obesity and overweight
- 2) Aging
- 3) Complementary care and dietary supplements
- 4) Safe and nutritious food supply
- 5) Human genome and genetics

We invite you to learn more about the ADA and its programs by visiting its Web site at <http://www.eatright.org>.

## **To Subscribe to CoC Flash**

CoC Flash is e-mailed automatically each month to individuals for whom the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons has an e-mail address. If you wish to continue to receive the newsletter on a monthly basis, you need do nothing. You can discontinue your subscription by writing to [coc@facs.org](mailto:coc@facs.org) and requesting that your name be deleted from the database. Individuals not currently receiving the newsletter may subscribe to the publication by sending an e-mail containing your name, address, telephone and fax numbers to [coc@facs.org](mailto:coc@facs.org), and asking to be added to our electronic distribution database.

## **To Submit Information**

CoC Flash will accept submissions received by the third week of each month. However, the CoC reserves the right to decide whether or not the materials are appropriate for inclusion. Information for CoC Flash should be timely, newsworthy, brief, and of use and interest to the constituents of the Commission, which include cancer registrars, liaison physicians, cancer committee chairs, and other cancer-oriented health care professionals. To submit material, send it to [coc@facs.org](mailto:coc@facs.org).

## **Mission**

The Commission on Cancer is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to reducing the morbidity and mortality of cancer through education, standard setting, and the monitoring of quality care. CoC Flash is a monthly news service for constituents of the CoC provided by the Commission and the Cancer Programs staff of the American College of Surgeons.

