



CoC Flash

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



June 2003

Highlights of the Month:

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- Sign Up for CoC-Trained Independent Consultant Program
- No Survey Fee Increase
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Business Associate Agreement Compliance Almost Complete

Approximately 99 percent of Commission on Cancer approved cancer programs have signed the Business Associate Agreement in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Title II Subtitle F—Administrative Simplification. We would like to thank approved cancer programs for getting these documents approved and signed. We realize this required a tremendous effort and truly appreciate this level of cooperation.

With the Business Associate Agreement signed, business as usual will continue between these approved cancer programs and the CoC. The Cancer Program staff will continue to be able to:

- provide data edits
- analyze data
- prepare benchmark reports comparing individual cancer programs with aggregate data analyses from similar programs
- survey cancer programs through the Approvals Program which sets standards for quality, multidisciplinary cancer care
- provide free marketing for cancer programs through an information-sharing partnership between the CoC and American Cancer Society

As always, the CoC and its staff is available to assist cancer programs and respond to questions. Thanks again for completing the Business Associate Agreement.

Sign Up for CoC-Trained Independent Consultant Program

The deadline to apply for the CoC-Trained Independent Consultant Program is fast approaching. All applications for new and current consultants must be received by July 31, 2003. Training will be held in Chicago, IL on September 25-26, 2003. For further information, please see our Web site at <http://www.facs.org/dept/cancer/indconsultants.html>.

No Survey Fee Increase

The Commission on Cancer is pleased to announce there will be no increase in the survey fee for

the fiscal year July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004. The survey fee for individual hospital cancer programs is \$3500.

The survey fee for Network Cancer Programs is based on the number of facilities in the network. Please contact Vicki Chiappetta, Cancer Program Review Specialist, at vchiappetta@facs.org for information about the survey fees for Cancer Program Networks.

Network Cancer Program Information on Web

The following documents will be posted on the CoC Web site in mid-July for Network Cancer Programs:

- Benefits of a Network Cancer Program
- Guidelines for Network Cancer Programs
- Network Notification Form

Questions regarding network standards and/or programs should be forwarded to Vicki Chiappetta, Program Review Specialist, at vchiappetta@facs.org or 312/202-5288.

Commission on Cancer October 2003 Meetings

The American College of Surgeons will present its 89th Clinical Congress, October 19-23, 2003, in Chicago, IL. The objective of the American College of Surgeons Annual Clinical Congress is to help participants gain and apply knowledge to improve their current practice, research, and care of surgical patients.

As in the past, the Commission on Cancer (CoC) will hold the following meetings in conjunction with the Clinical Congress:

The **Annual Meeting** will be held on Sunday, October 19 at the Chicago Hilton and Towers Hotel. Blake Cady, MD, FACS, from the Women and Infants Hospital in Providence, RI, will present the keynote on his work in tobacco control. The meeting will be followed by a reception.

The **Cancer Liaison Program Meeting** is scheduled for Monday, October 20. A main topic of discussion will be the new role of the Cancer Liaison Physician as part of the CoC *Cancer Program Standards 2004*.

The CoC is pleased to announce that Andrew C. Von Eschenbach, MD, FACS, director of the National Cancer Institute, will present the CoC Oncology Lecture on Wednesday, October 22. The subject of the talk will be "Preemption of Malignant Expression: The Role of the Surgical Oncologist."

Invitations to CoC members, state chairs, cancer liaison physicians and cancer committee chairs will be mailed in July. Individuals who are Fellows of the College should have received a copy of the Clinical Congress Program Planner in the mail which outlines all the educational and social offerings, including postgraduate courses. The detailed program is also available on the American College of Surgeons Web site at <http://www.facs.org>. Questions related to the CoC meetings should be directed to Mary Ann Marts, Senior Membership Assistant, at mmarts@facs.org.

Springer Offers Clarifications to the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, 6th Edition

Springer-Verlag now has the clarifications to the *AJCC Cancer Staging Manual*, Sixth Edition posted in a PDF format on their Web site at <http://www.cancerstaging.net>. These clarifications can be printed as replacement pages that fit either the manual or handbook. Clarifications to the following chapters are included: Purposes and Principles of Staging, Cancer of the Lip and Oral Cavity, Soft Tissue Sarcoma, and Retinoblastoma. Please download the documents and note the changes. Questions and comments regarding the clarifications should be directed to Valerie Vesich, AJCC Technical Administrator, by e-mail at vvesich@facs.org.

Order Your Preferred AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, 6th Edition PDA Format Now

The *AJCC Cancer Staging Manual* is available in two PDA formats. Buy today!

Springer-Verlag offers **EZTNM**, a physician-designed, professional-grade cancer staging program

for Palm OS handhelds. It provides the definition for each TNM parameter, a staging calculator to provide stage of disease, 46 different cancer types organized by anatomic region, stage grouping tables for each site, a note pad to detail patient information, and all of the 6th Edition revisions to the AJCC TNM classification. To order, visit Springer-Verlag's Web site at <http://www.cancerstaging.net>. EZTNM is available in three packages:

AJCC Cancer Staging Manual plus EZTNM (\$84.95)
AJCC Cancer Staging Handbook plus EZTNM (\$54.95)
Stand-alone for the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual (\$39.95)

A Palm OS and Win CE compatible PDA version of the *AJCC Cancer Staging Handbook*, 6th Edition is available from [Skyscape](http://www.skyscape.com). This product offers the full text, all illustrations and tables, and includes a TNM calculator. To receive a 15% discount, order online at <http://www.skyscape.com/ajccl>.

New State Chairs

The Commission is pleased to welcome three new state chairs: Richard C. Anderson, MD, FACS (Illinois-L); Jeffrey R. Haller, MD, FACS (Montana); and, Mark J. Ott, MD, FACS (Utah).

Spotlight on CoC Member Organization: National Institutes of Health

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has been a member organization of the Commission on Cancer (CoC) since 1953. Specific representation from the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program (CTEP) and Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program were added in 1982 and 1979, respectively. The current representatives include Joseph Lipscomb, PhD, of the Outcomes Research Branch, and Lynn Gloeckler Ries, MS, of the SEER Program.

The NCI leads a national effort to reduce the burden of cancer morbidity and mortality. Its goal is to stimulate and support scientific discovery and its application to achieve a future when all cancers are uncommon and easily treated. Through basic and clinical biomedical research and training, NCI conducts and supports programs to understand the causes of cancer; prevent, detect, diagnose, treat, and control cancer; and disseminate information to the practitioner, patient, and public.

The NCI provided financial support for programs of the CoC between 1960 and 1985. In 1998, the NCI funded the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group (ACOSOG)—the first cooperative group established to evaluate the surgical management of patients with malignant solid tumors.

The CoC currently works in collaboration with the NCI SEER Program to coordinate data collection and standard-setting activities, and with the Outcomes Research Branch to improve the outcomes of cancer care. A recent initiative of the NCI was the launch of the Cancer Control PLANET Web site (<http://cancercontrolplanet.cancer.gov>). PLANET is an acronym for Plan, Link, Act, Network with Evidence-based Tools for comprehensive cancer control. The PLANET portal provides access to data and resources that can help planners, program staff, and researchers to design, implement, and evaluate evidence-based cancer control programs. The CoC state chairs, our volunteer surgeons, contribute their time and expertise as members of the state cancer planning teams who utilize the PLANET as a resource for cancer control planning activities. We invite you to learn more about the NIH and its institutes and programs by visiting their Web site at <http://www.nih.gov>.

Interested in Becoming a CoC Member Organization?

The CoC is a multidisciplinary organization comprised of professional organizations dedicated to reducing the morbidity and mortality of cancer. Currently comprised of 39 member organizations, the CoC remains committed to expanding its involvement with organizations aligned with its mission and goals. A new CoC Application for Membership and brochure of Application Requirements is now available for those organizations who have an interest in becoming a member organization of the CoC. The CoC Executive Committee is the governing body which reviews membership applications and makes decisions regarding new members.

Interested organizations may contact Lynda Watt at lwatt@facs.org to request a copy of the brochure and application.

ACOSOG Releases New Web Site

The American College of Surgeons Oncology Group (ACOSOG) unveiled a new Web site on Monday, June 16. The site is still available at the Group's existing Web address, <http://www.acosog.org>.

The new site features a fresh design and an updated structure, making it easier to read and more navigable. A searchable staff directory and a Committees section that lists the working groups of the ACOSOG Administrative, Scientific Direction, and Organ Site Committees are now available. Much of the information on the new site will be password-protected. All users are encouraged to click on the Member Login link to enter their user names and passwords as a first step when visiting the site. This will ensure that users receive access to all protected areas of the Web site.

Changes

The Patient Registration System is now located in a protected area of the Web site. The link to Patient Registration will **not** appear unless the user has logged in. Only after a successful login will the link to Patient Registration appear along the top of the page. Please note that the actual registration system has not changed in any way; it has just been placed into a protected area.

The documents and announcements for ACOSOG studies have been reorganized under the Studies section. A unique page containing the protocol, informed consent model, case report forms, and other study documents has been created for each ACOSOG study. Again, pages for individual studies are also password-protected and will **not** appear as links unless the user is logged in.

Usernames and passwords for the new Web site will not change. Group members unsure of their usernames or passwords should call 919/668-8400 or send an e-mail to comphelp@surgerytrials.duke.edu for verification. Please feel free to contact the ACOSOG Coordinating Center with any questions or concerns.

Benefit of Being An Approved Program

You'll have a model for organizing and managing your cancer program to ensure multi-disciplinary, integrated, and comprehensive oncology services.

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 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, 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.

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. CoC Flash is a monthly news service for constituents of the CoC provided by the Commission and the Cancer Programs section of the American College of Surgeons.

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