



Commission  
on Cancer

# Flash



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

## March 2007

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### National Cancer Registrars Week April 9-13

Congratulations! The week of April 9-13 marks NCRA's annual recognition of Cancer Registrars Week. This year's theme, "Cancer Registrars: The Core of Your Cancer Program," aptly describes the contributions cancer registrars make to the management and coordination of cancer program activities; including their support of the CoC Approvals Program and the survey process. The CoC congratulates cancer registrars across the country, and the seven on staff of the CoC and AJCC, and recognizes their commitment to cancer program management activities that promote the provision of high quality care.

### Mark Your Calendar for Survey Savvy 2007

Join us for "Survey Savvy: Implementing Best Practices to Improve Cancer Program Performance." This educational workshop will address current standards and information set forth in *Cancer Program Standards 2004 Revised Edition* and focus on customizing and utilizing best practice examples to go beyond basic compliance with the CoC standards.

**When:** Wednesday and Thursday August 1 and 2, 2007

**Where:** InterContinental Hotel Chicago, 505 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago IL

### But Wait! There's More

The CoC will also offer two **half-day Pre-Workshop Sessions**—one for individuals from (or interested in) **Network Cancer Programs (NCP)**, the other for individuals from (or interested in) **Pediatric Cancer Programs (PCP) and Pediatric Cancer Program Component (PCPC) Programs**. These sessions will:

- 1) Address special issues pertaining to these category-specific programs
- 2) Discuss effective quality improvement activities
- 3) Provide an opportunity for open discussion of best practices

**When:** Tuesday, July 31, 2007, 12:30pm–5:30pm

**Where:** InterContinental Hotel Chicago, 505 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago IL

**Fees:**

\$100.00 to attend a Pre-Workshop Session Only (half-day)

\$425.00 to attend Survey Savvy Only (2 days)

\$500.00 to attend both a Pre-Conference Session and Survey Savvy (2.5 days)

See our Web site and *CoC Flash* in the upcoming weeks for additional details and registration information.

## Programs Receive Approval in 2006

The Commission offers its congratulations to the following 24 facilities and networks that were newly approved in 2006.

- Stanford Hospital and Clinics, Stanford, CA
- Memorial Healthcare System, Hollywood, FL
- Miami Children's Hospital, Miami, FL
- University of Miami Sylvester Cancer Ctr., Miami, FL
- Upson Regional Medical Center, Thomaston, GA
- Trinity Regional Medical Center, Fort Dodge, IA
- Terre Haute Regional Hospital, Terre Haute, IN
- Norton Healthcare, Louisville, KY
- Mercy Hospital of Portland, Portland, ME
- Fairview Southdale Hospital, Edina, MN
- Fairview University MC-Mesabi, Hibbing, MN
- Carolinas Medical Center Union, Monroe, NC
- Forsyth Regional Cancer Center, Winston-Salem, NC
- Lincoln Medical & Mental Health Center, Bronx, NY
- Continuum Health Partners, New York, NY
- Mount Carmel Health System, Columbus, OH
- Memorial Hospital, Fremont, OH
- Wayne Memorial Hospital, Honesdale, PA
- Piedmont Medical Center, Rock Hill, SC
- Sumner Regional Medical Center, Gallatin, TN
- Northwest Texas Healthcare System, Amarillo, TX
- Harris Methodist Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX
- Kelsey-Seybold Clinic, Houston, TX
- Franciscan Health System, Tacoma, WA

Fifty percent of the programs listed here are Community Hospital Cancer Programs and an additional 30 percent are Network Cancer Programs. Two facilities in the Community Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Program (COMP) category are included, and one facility from each of the following categories was added: Teaching Hospital Cancer Program (THCP), Pediatric Cancer Program (PCP), and Freestanding Cancer Center Program (FCCP).

## Welcome New State Chairs

Please join the CoC in welcoming the following new State Chairs:

Nipun Merchant, MD, FACS, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN

Tomas M. Heimann MD, FACS, Bronx VA Medical Center, Bronx, NY

## CoC Continues National Ad Campaign

Traveling by air in 2007? Then keep an eye out for advertisements promoting the CoC and the opportunity to locate a nearby CoC-Approved Cancer Program offering high-quality cancer care. Month-long ads will run in the following airline magazines:

Southwest Airlines—April & August issues  
United Airlines—April & August issues  
US Airways—July issue  
American Airlines—December issue  
Delta Airlines—December issue

### **Order Your New FORDS Manual**

A hard copy of the new Facility Oncology Registry Data Standards (FORDS) manual, *FORDS: Revised for 2007*, is available for purchase through the Publications and Services Catalog of the American College of Surgeons at <http://www.facs.org/commerce/catsplash.html>. The cost is \$45.00US.

### **CoC Seeks Constituent Input Through Online Surveys**

On March 21, select groups of CoC constituents were sent an e-mail relating either to a survey on educational needs or the CoC's staging standard. If you were the recipient of one or both of these e-mails, we hope you will take a moment to complete the survey(s) and give us your thoughts. The Commission is improving its efforts to provide a supportive educational program for constituents and to seek input when important issues arise relating to the delivery of quality cancer care. As a CoC constituent, your input is essential. Results of the surveys will be communicated later this year.

If you received an e-mail related to an online survey, but discarded the survey access URL without completing the survey, please send an e-mail to [CoC@facs.org](mailto:CoC@facs.org). We'll send you the appropriate information.

### **2007 SAR Training Guide is Now Available**

The new *2007 SAR Training Guide* is now available. This guide provides thorough explanations, directions, and examples for completing the SAR for a 2007 survey or for program tracking and record keeping in between survey years. Access to the SAR Training Guide is available online through the CoC Datalinks Activity Menu, the SAR Menu, and the CoC Approvals Program Web page at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/approval.htm>. It is highly recommended that you review the entire guide before completing the SAR for survey preparation or for tracking and record keeping purposes.

### **CoC Seeks Surveyors**

Join our Surveyor team! The CoC is looking for physicians qualified to perform cancer program surveys on behalf of the CoC. Individuals are expected to perform on average 12 surveys per year in a designated geographic area. Above all, volunteers must be dedicated to the mission of the Commission and to ensuring that cancer patients receive high quality care.

Are you or do you know a board certified physician with the all following characteristics?

- Recent or current experience as a Cancer Committee Chair, Cancer Liaison Physician, or Cancer Committee Member
- A clinical or administrative member of a current CoC-Approved Cancer Program
- Proficient with computers and the Internet
- Ability and time to perform 12 surveys each year
- Strong support of the CoC's mission, goals, and objectives
- Familiarity with CoC programs and initiatives

If so, please contact Lisa Landvogt, Administrator, Approvals and Standards, (312)202-5314 or [llandvogt@facs.org](mailto:lilandvogt@facs.org) for more information and an application.

## NCDB Corrections Due June 1

CoC-Approved Cancer Programs that have NCDB data corrections to return are reminded that the deadline for submission is drawing near. To receive a Compliance (1) rating for Standard 3.7, facilities must submit their 2005 case corrections to the NCDB by June 1, 2007. We strongly encourage programs to act now and avoid the last-minute rush. Please direct questions to Nancy Etzold via e-mail at [NCDB@facs.org](mailto:NCDB@facs.org) or by phone at (312)202-5339.

## May 31 is Deadline for FIPS Level II Data Release

It's that time of year again! The deadline to release FIPS Level II data is May 31, 2007. We ask that you discuss the release of Level II data at your next cancer committee meeting.

Your facility's 2005 data has been posted to the Facility Information Profile System (FIPS). Based on your facility's most recent data submission to the National Cancer Data Base (NCDB), these Level II data represent the total number of cancer cases diagnosed in 2005 by site and AJCC physician stage. You must indicate your facility's decision to share these data with the American Cancer Society (ACS) through the ACS's National Cancer Information Center (800-ACS-2345) and Web site (<http://www.cancer.org>).

Last year, 66 percent of CoC-approved facilities shared Level II cancer caseload information on the ACS Web site. The CoC recorded more than 20,000 hits by the public to this Level II data.

Any designated cancer program staff member with a CoC Datalinks User ID and Password can release these data by doing the following:

- Log onto CoC Datalinks at <https://web.facs.org/datalinks>
- Go to Level II: Cases Reported to the NCDB by Site and Stage on your facility's Activity Menu
- Select one of the three options that appear:
  - Accurate release to the ACS
  - Accurate do not release to ACS
  - Inaccurate do not release to ACS

If none of these options is selected, then your FIPS Level II data will remain in DRAFT form, and it will appear as though your facility has not reviewed the data.

Contact [FIPS@facs.org](mailto:FIPS@facs.org) should you have any questions.

## Learn More about Cancer Staging

The Online Education Center for Cancer Programs offers nine, one-hour cancer staging courses. Continuing education credit and CME are available following the successful completion of a program post-test. Presented by well-known physicians and registrars, the programs provide detailed, site-specific discussion of the appropriate use of staging schema. Sites include: breast, colorectal, and lymphoma.

The Online Education Center also offers 4 FREE Collaborative Staging programs on breast, colorectal, lung, and prostate cancers.

Learn from the comfort of your own home or office. Sessions can be viewed at your own pace, you may start and stop whenever you choose, and you may view them as often as you'd like. Continuing education credit is available. Individuals from CoC-Approved Cancer Programs receive a 25% discount on the cost of presentations.

## Participate in "Role of the CLP" Webconferences

Need role clarification? Have questions about the Cancer Liaison Physician's (CLP) responsibilities? Join us for the next Web conference to better understand the activities of the CLP. Facilitated by a CoC State Chair, this is your opportunity to ask questions.

### Schedule:

Wednesday, April 4, 2007; 9:00 am to 10:00 am CST  
Thursday, June 14, 2007; 10:00 am to 11:00 am CST  
Wednesday, August 8, 2007; 11:00 am to 12:00 pm CST  
Tuesday, October 2, 2007; 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm CST  
Thursday, December 6, 2007; 9:00 am to 10:00 am CST

**Audience Participation Instructions:**

Audio Dial-in: 1-877-218-2987; Passcode 9227382#  
Meeting URL: <http://web.meetme.net/r.aspx?p=2&a=70541692008057>

If you are not able to use the above URL, then follow these steps:

1. Go to: <http://web.meetme.net/audience>
2. Enter the Meeting Key: 70541692008057

These sessions last approximately 50 minutes and require Internet and telephone access. Registration is NOT necessary. Visit our Web site at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/liaison.html> for further instructions.

Can't participate the day of the live Web conference? Log on to the CoC's Online Education Center at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/webcast/index.html> and review a one-hour recorded session of this very same talk. This presentation is free of charge and includes synchronized audio, slides, and a written transcript. Presenter Aaron D. Bleznak, MD, FACS, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Cancer Liaison, provides information on the CoC's activities and resources and strategies for CLPs to be effective in their role.

For questions, please contact Carolyn Jones at 312.202.5183 or [cjones@facs.org](mailto:cjones@facs.org).

**Visit Our Upcoming Exhibits**

The CoC and American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) will be exhibiting at the following meetings in April:

**National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA)**

April 22-25  
Las Vegas Hilton; Las Vegas, NV

**Oncology Nursing Society (ONS)**

April 24-27  
Mandalay Bay Convention Center; Las Vegas, NV

If you are attending these meetings, stop by the CoC and AJCC booths to speak with our staff and see the new materials the CoC and AJCC have to offer.

**Last Chance! SEER Abstractors and Coders Workshop**

The SEER Abstractors and Coders Workshop is now open to everyone. This two-day workshop will be held April 25–26 at the Las Vegas Hilton. Attendance on both days is required. There is no additional fee to attend Wednesday and there is no fee for Thursday.

The workshop will offer a more comprehensive and in-depth training on the Multiple Primary and Histology Coding Rules and will include cases and new concepts regarding histologies. You will find the agenda and registration information at <http://www.scgcorp.com/seerabstract2007/>. Registration ends April 4, 2007. If there are no shows, walk-ins will be welcome beginning at 10:45 a.m.

Participants must be registered for at least Wednesday of the NCRA Conference. Please go to the NCRA Web site, <http://www.ncra-usa.org/conference/index.htm> for NCRA registration details.

## NCI Offers Multiple Primary and Histology Coding Rules Training Modules

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) in collaboration with the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University is pleased to announce that the first of two training modules for the 2007 Multiple Primary and Histology Coding Rules is now available on the NCI training web site at <http://www.training.seer.cancer.gov>.

Continuing education credits are being requested from the NCRA for completing this module at any time during the next six months. The second module, which will consist of site-specific exercises, should be available shortly. Contact SEER with questions.

### Need Help with Multiple Primary and Histology Coding Rules?

Get answers to commonly asked questions about the multiple primary and histology coding rules when you access the MP/H FAQ (frequently asked questions) section on the SEER Web site at <http://seer.cancer.gov/tools/mphrules/faq.html>. Click on any of the questions to view the answers. The FAQ is presented in an easy to read format. Additional questions and answers will be added to the FAQ section as they become available.

## NAACCR Training Programs

### In-Person Training Session

The NAACCR Cancer Registry Data Collection and Management Institute hosted by the Massachusetts Cancer Registry (MCR) will be presented in Boston, MA May 22–23, 2007. The first day of the workshop will concentrate on Collaborative Staging (CS) and include a review of cases provided by the MCR. Participants and instructors will work together through the cases and provide rationale for the CS codes. The second day will address other coding and abstracting issues including race and ethnicity data and treatment data. NAACCR in-person training is a national cancer-related educational activity, and CTR attendance can make a program eligible for a Commendation rating for CoC Standard 7.2. The registration deadline is May 4, 2007.

### Webinars

The North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) offers a continuing series of site-specific Web seminars (Webinars) for cancer data collectors. Quizzes and didactic exercises are completed and answers with rationale are given. Each Webinar includes a question and answer session. Remaining Webinars (below) have been approved by NCRA for 4 continuing education (CE) hours. Recordings of Webinars that have already been presented are also available.

May 10, 2007: Abstracting Prostate Cancer Incidence and Treatment Data

June 14, 2007: Abstracting Lung Cancer Incidence and Treatment Data

September 13, 2007: Abstracting Breast Cancer Incidence and Treatment Data

For more information on these NAACCR training opportunities including time, cost, and registration, go to the NAACCR Web site at <http://www.naacccr.org> and click on education and training. Please contact Shannon Vann ([svann@naaccr.org](mailto:svann@naaccr.org)) or Jim Hofferkamp ([jhofferkamp@naaccr.org](mailto:jhofferkamp@naaccr.org)) with your questions about these training opportunities.

## Spotlight on CoC Member Organization: International Union Against Cancer (UICC)

The International Union Against Cancer (UICC) has been a member organization of the Commission of Cancer (CoC) since 2003. The current representative is Brian O'Sullivan, MD with Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto, ON, Canada.

Founded in 1933, the UICC is a non-governmental, independent association of more than 270 member organizations in over 80 countries. Members are voluntary cancer leagues and societies, cancer research and treatment centers and, in some countries, ministries of health. It is devoted exclusively to all aspects of the worldwide fight against cancer and has a vision of a world where cancer is eliminated as a major life-threatening disease for future generations. Particular emphasis is placed on professional and public education.

UICC's objectives are to advance scientific and medical knowledge in research, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of cancer, and to promote all other aspects of the campaign against cancer throughout the world. Their four strategic directions are: cancer prevention and control, tobacco control, knowledge transfer, and capacity building. And their mission is to build and lead the global community engaged in:

- sharing and exchanging cancer control knowledge and competence equitably, transferring scientific findings to clinical settings,
- systematically reducing and eventually eliminating disparities in prevention, early detection, treatment and care of cancers
- delivering the best possible care to all cancer patients

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

### To Subscribe to CoC Flash

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### 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 improving survival and quality of life for cancer patients through standard-setting, prevention, research, education, and the monitoring of comprehensive quality care. CoC Flash is a monthly news service for constituents of the CoC provided by the Commission and the Cancer Programs of the American College of Surgeons.

For all the latest information on CoC activities, news, and events, visit our Web site at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/index.html>.



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