



Commission
on Cancer

Flash



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

May 2007

Highlights for the Month:

- Prepare for Your Next Survey: Register Now
- QC Checklists for CAP Protocols Now Online
- Annual NCDB Call for Data Begins in September
- FIPS Level I and II Data Update and Release
- New Web Site Debuts
- Have You Seen the Online Education Center Lately?
- CoC to Host New Web Conference Series
- Don't Miss June 14 CLP Web conference
- SAR Slip Tip
- Mary Ann Marts Retires
- Visit Upcoming Exhibits
- Learn About CoC Member Organizations
- 8th National Conference on Comprehensive Cancer Programs and Services to Be Held
- ACS Releases Supplements to the 2007 Cancer Facts and Figures
- ACS Launches Cancer Prevention Study-3
- NAACCR Webinars Available
- CTR Exam Readiness Webinar Offered by NAACCR
- New NCI Training Module Available
- Spotlight on CoC Member Organization: National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project (NSABP)

Prepare for Your Next Survey: Register Now

Space is still available! Sign up now to attend *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 Avenue, 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:

- address special issues pertaining to these category-specific programs
- discuss effective quality improvement activities
- 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 Avenue, 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 at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/surveysavvy.html> for additional details and registration information. Registration deadline is Friday, July 6.

QC Checklists for CAP Protocols Now Online

In order to help programs evaluate the content of cancer-related pathology reports for compliance with Standard 4.6, a series of quality control (QC) checklists for College of American Pathologists (CAP) protocols have been created and posted in the online Best Practices Repository located at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/bestpractices.html>.

QC checklists are available for breast, colon and rectum, lung, prostate (both TUR and prostatectomy specimens), Hodgkin lymphoma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and for pediatric histologies neuroblastoma, retinoblastoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, and Wilms tumor.

Each checklist can be used to evaluate five pathology reports for each site or histology and includes all of the scientifically validated data elements defined by the current version of the CAP Cancer Protocols.

CoC cancer program surveyors will use these QC checklists during the chart review process for surveys scheduled from July 1 through December 31, 2007. Compliance information obtained by the surveyors during this time will be tabulated and shared with the Committee on Approvals and the CAP cancer committee to facilitate discussions and recommendations for change. The information will also be shared with CoC constituents.

Annual NCDB Call for Data Begins in September

Preliminary information for the annual National Cancer Data Base (NCDB) Call for Data is available online and the Call will open on Monday, September 10, 2007, for submission years 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2006 cases. Teleconferences were held in May with registry software providers to enable them to prepare software for timely release in conjunction with the Call for Data.

The edit metafile for the Call for Data is posted at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/ncdb/edits.html>, and is called NCDB_18 (as this will be the 18th annual Call for Data). Use that metafile for any submissions beginning in September. Call specifications are now posted on the Web site for software providers at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/ncdb/softwareproviders.html>. That site also includes a .pdf file of the slides prepared for providers. Call for Data information for registrars will be posted later in the summer.

The submission deadline for data years 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2006 will be November 2, 2007. Any resubmission of corrected cases will be required by June 1, 2008. A formal announcement for the Call for Data will be made in August.

FIPS Level I and Level II Data Update and Release

Although the "Spring Cleaning" season is almost over, it is still a great opportunity for cancer registrars in CoC-Approved Cancer Programs to take the lead in reviewing and updating their

facility's Level I resource and services information in the Facility Information Profile System (FIPS). The public is becoming increasingly aware of choices in cancer care, and CoC-Approved Cancer Programs have the chance to take advantage of free marketing for their facility through promotion of their resources and services to the public via the American Cancer Society (ACS) "Find a Cancer Hospital" located on the ACS Web site at <http://www.cancer.org>. You should be reviewing and updating these data whenever a resource or service changes, or annually at a minimum. So, please make a commitment to review your FIPS record over the next month and accomplish three things:

- (1) Review and update, if needed, all resource and service information. Remember to click on "Save Page" at the bottom of each page that is reviewed and revised.
- (2) Under Facility Contact Information, please check the facility's main phone number as we would prefer that the number be the facility's patient reference number or 1-800-number.
- (3) Please review and update all email addresses for the facility contact staff.

Has Your Facility Released Its 2005 Level II Data Yet?

If not, there's still time. For those facilities that have resubmitted NCDB data in response to the June 1 due date, or those still awaiting approval from their cancer committee, the deadline to release Level II data has been extended until July 1. As of May 22, more than 45 percent of CoC-Approved Cancer Programs have released their 2005 Level II data for posting on the American Cancer Society Web site for access by the public. Our goal is to reach 75 percent of programs authorizing release. After July 1, the CoC will contact each facility that has not released its Level II data within the FIPS to assess barriers or concerns. Remember, CoC-Approved Cancer Programs must indicate their decision to release Level II data every year.

If your facility has not yet reviewed its Level II data, please follow these simple steps:

- (1) Login to CoC Datalinks with your User ID and Password.
- (2) Enter the Facility Information Profile System (FIPS): Services and Resources
- (3) Click the purple bullet titled "Cases Reported to the NCDB by Site and Stage" on the left-hand side of the FIPS page.
- (4) Review the data in the Site by Stage table for accuracy.
- (5) Speak with your cancer committee to secure permission to release.
- (6) Indicate the facility's decision by choosing one of the three buttons: Accurate and Release, Accurate and Do Not Release, or Inaccurate and Do Not Release.

Any designated cancer program staff member (including the Cancer Liaison Physician) with a CoC Datalinks User ID and Password can release Level II data. If you do not have a User ID and Password, you may request one by writing to CoCDatalinks@facs.org.

For questions regarding Level I or II data, please contact FIPS@facs.org.

New Web Site Debuts

After nearly 10 years with the same look, the CoC debuted a new [Web site](#) at the end of April. If you haven't yet had a chance to review the site, we encourage you to look around and get a feel for its functionality. You may find that you'll need to update a few old bookmarks, but rest assured that the information from the old site was maintained. Plus we've updated and added quite a bit of new material. The CoC is pleased with this new site, and we hope you will continue to find it useful and informative for another 10 years.

Have You Seen the Online Education Center Lately?

The Online Education Center for Cancer Programs offers 20 courses related to CoC standards, data, quality improvement, and cancer staging. And five of these programs are completely free! Have you seen the Online Education Center lately?

Earn credit and 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 the courses as often as you'd like. As a bonus, individuals from CoC-Approved Cancer Programs receive a 25% discount on the cost of presentations.

Go to <http://www.facs.org/cancer/webcast/index.html> for a complete list of programs and information.

CoC to Host New Web Conference Series

Beginning in June, the CoC will offer a new series of one-hour Web conferences. Topics are intended for all members of the cancer program staff including physicians, nurses, registrars, and administrators.

Included in the series will be:

- Implementing FORDS Changes for 2007 (June 26)
- Quality Improvement: Using E-QulP and CP³R to Make a Difference (July 27)
- Prepare for Survey: Understanding Standards for VA Facilities (July 11)
- What is the Pediatric Cancer Program Component Category? (September 19)
- Survey Pitfalls: Preventing Common Program Deficiencies (November 16)
- Windows: A New Environment for EDITS (August 22 & September 28)

A Web conference schedule and program information will be available online at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/coceduc.html> by June 4. Space is limited to 75 participants for each Web conference, so login early! No advance registration is necessary.

Don't Miss June 14 CLP Web Conference

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

Schedule for 2007:

Thursday, June 14, 2007

TIME: 11am (ET); 10am (CT); 9am (MT); 8am (PT)

Wednesday, August 8, 2007

TIME: 12pm (ET); 11am (CT); 10am (MT); 9am (PT)

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

TIME: 5pm (ET); 4pm (CT); 3pm (MT); 2pm (PT)

Thursday, December 6, 2007

TIME: 10am (ET); 9am (CT); 8am (MT); 7am (PT)

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.

SAR Slip Tip

When working on your Survey Application Record (SAR), if you accidentally click "Send to CoC" and receive an e-mail that we have received your application, don't panic. It *does not* mean you cannot continue to work on the application. Using this button is just a way to verify that the application is finished. Since this is a Web-based document, it is never physically sent to us. You can continue to make changes on your application up to two weeks before your survey. There is no need to notify the CoC of this premature click of the button "Send to CoC;" we will not view the application until your facility's survey is completed.

Mary Ann Marts Retires

As many of you know, Mary Ann Marts, Meetings and Training Assistant, has been an integral member of the CoC staff for the past 13 years. She's answered your calls, handled your workshop registrations, made sure you had enough coffee to keep you awake, and straightened out your hotel problems. It is with a heavy heart that we bid farewell as Mary Ann enters retirement and relocates to another city. Please join us in saying thanks for a job very well done. We'll certainly miss her.

Staff Additions

Following Mary Ann's departure, Tracy Rausch will fill the Meetings and Training Assistant position to coordinate CoC workshop registration, committee meetings, and events. She can be reached at trausch@facs.org or (312) 202-5442. Also, Kathy Mallin has joined the NCDB staff as a Quality Improvement Information Analyst. She can be reached at kmallin@facs.org and (312) 202-5286.

Visit Upcoming Exhibits

The CoC and American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) will be exhibiting during the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) meeting, June 2–4, 2007 at McCormick Place in Chicago, IL.

If you plan to attend this meeting, stop by the booths to speak with our staff and see the new materials the CoC and AJCC have to offer.

Learn About CoC Member Organizations

Did you know the CoC is made up of representatives from 44 national professional organizations in addition to the American College of Surgeons? Each year, member organizations are invited

to submit reports of the organization's cancer care initiatives. We invite you to review these reports to gain a better understanding of the multidisciplinary make up of the CoC. See our Web site at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/initiatives.html>.

8th National Conference on Comprehensive Cancer Programs and Services to Be Held

Presented by Active Communications International, this national oncology conference will focus on exploring the latest developments for managing a more competitive and comprehensive cancer program to increase patient volume, improve outcomes and excel in total patient care. The conference, which includes a site tour of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Basking Ridge, will be held June 6–8, 2007 in Iselin, NJ.

Distinguished faculty will address topics including:

- Comprehensive Cancer Centers: Obstacles to a successful business model
- Improving the delivery of cancer patient care through the streamlining and integration of medical programs, staff, and resources for more efficient and cost-effective clinical operations
- Successfully marketing your oncology services to the community to increase patient recruitment, revenue, and competitive advantage
- Structuring multidisciplinary teams to increase patient focus, provide comprehensive treatment options, and improve outcomes

Be sure to stop by the CoC exhibit at the conference to pick up informational materials on the benefits of being a CoC-Approved Cancer Program. See this [Special Invitation](#), to learn more about the conference and how you can receive a discount on the regular registration price.

ACS Releases Supplements to the 2007 Cancer Facts & Figures

Each year the Department of Epidemiology and Surveillance Research of the American Cancer Society (ACS) follows the publication of its annual *Cancer Facts & Figures* with the release of supplemental data. This additional information, detailed below, is not included in *Cancer Facts & Figures 2007* and can be used as a resource for cancer control planning, as well as in addressing questions from the local and national media or public regarding new cancer diagnoses and deaths.

The following supplements are attached as Excel spreadsheets:

The [age distribution of the estimated new cancer cases and deaths in 2007](#) for lung, prostate, female breast, and colorectal cancers—and for all cancers combined.

The [2007 estimated new cancer cases and deaths by state](#) for additional cancer sites not included in *Cancer Facts & Figures 2007*, such as kidney, stomach, esophagus, and others.

The [lifetime probability of developing and dying from cancer](#) for additional cancer sites not included in *Cancer Facts & Figures 2007*, such as thyroid, liver, pancreas, and others.

The [relative and observed probabilities of surviving cancer at one to five years](#) following diagnosis and 2007 estimates on the number of one-to-five year survivors for each state.

ACS Launches Cancer Prevention Study– 3

The American Cancer Society estimates that more than 1.4 million people living in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer in 2007 and that 559,650 will die from the disease.

Scientific evidence suggests that about one-third of cancer deaths are related to nutrition, physical inactivity, and being overweight or obese. Researchers at the ACS are embarking on a new, historic study—the Cancer Prevention Study–3 (CPS–3)—that will help the Society better understand the lifestyle, environmental, and genetic factors that cause or prevent cancer—ultimately helping to eliminate cancer as a major health concern for future generations.

The Cancer Prevention Study–3 will build on three previous studies dating back to the 1950's that together have played a major role in understanding cancer prevention and that have contributed significantly to the scientific literature, as well as to the development of public health guidelines and recommendations. These three landmark studies—Hammond–Horn, CPS–I, and CPS–II—were among the first to show the link between cigarette smoking and lung cancer, the significant impact of obesity on risk of dying from cancer, the link between aspirin use and a lower risk of colon cancer, and much more.

The Society's Department of Epidemiology & Surveillance Research will recruit 500,000 adults between the ages of 30 and 65 who have no personal history of cancer to participate in CPS–3. Enrollment will take place at select Relay For Life® events across the United States and Puerto Rico beginning in 2007 and continuing through 2011. A complete list of CPS-3 enrollment locations for 2007 can be found at <http://www.cancer.org/cps3>.

With its extensive volunteer infrastructure, world-class research capabilities, and historical commitment to cancer prevention through research, the American Cancer Society is uniquely positioned to undertake this ambitious endeavor.

NAACCR Webinars Available

The subscription period for the 2007-2008 NAACCR Webinar series began on May 1, 2007 and ends on August 15, 2007. The series includes eight four-hour sessions with the video presented via an Internet connection and the audio portion through the telephone. Each session covers cancer data collection topics and includes a presentation, quizzes, and didactic exercises. The answers with rationale are given for the quizzes and exercises. We anticipate receiving four CE hours from NCRA for each Webinar for a total of 32 CE hours for the series. The schedule and topics for the 2007-2008 Webinar series can be accessed on the Education and Training page on the NAACCR Web site at <http://www.naacr.org>.

The remaining 2006-2007 Webinars (below) have been approved by NCRA for four continuing education (CE) hours.

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

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

CTR Exam Readiness Webinar

The NAACCR CTR Exam Readiness Webinar series prior to the September 2007 CTR exam is full. However, there is a waiting list. If the waiting list reaches 10 names, a second CTR Exam Readiness Webinar series will be opened. The course includes seven two-hour sessions carefully prepared to reflect the changes to the 2007 CTR Exam, a one-hour review session, and a short follow-up post-exam session. Sessions will be held weekly beginning July 25, 2007. For additional information including a syllabus and registration form, visit the Education and Training page on the NAACCR Web site <http://www.naacr.org>.

For additional information on these or other NAACCR training activities, please visit the Education and Training page on the NAACCR Web site or contact Shannon Vann at svann@naacr.org or Jim Hofferkamp at jhofferkamp@naacr.org.

New NCI Training Module Available

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) in collaboration with the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University is pleased to announce that coding of cancer treatment has been added to the exercises of the site-specific Web-based training modules located at <http://www.training.seer.cancer.gov>.

Currently, treatment exercises have been added for the four major cancers: breast, prostate, lung and colorectum. Over the next few weeks, treatment exercises will be added to each of the remaining site-specific modules. The exercises are designed to help registrars learn how to appropriately record and code the first course of cancer directed therapy.

Spotlight on CoC Member Organization: National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project (NSABP)

The National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project (NSABP) has been a member organization of the CoC since 1996. The current representative is Mark S. Roh, MD, FACS with Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA.

The mission of the NSABP is to conduct clinical trials in breast and colorectal cancer research. It is the oldest, largest, and arguably best known breast and colorectal cancer research group in the world. The group conducts large scale clinical trials designed to improve the treatment and prevention of both breast and bowel cancers. The organization, established in 1958, and funded since that date by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), has its headquarters in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The NSABP membership includes nearly 200 nucleus institutions and an additional 300 satellite centers located throughout the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.

Many of these member institutions are university hospitals or large comprehensive cancer centers but the majority are community based institutions. This allows patients to have access to state-of-the-art cancer research studies without the burdens or costs of travel to large hospitals. They are able to receive their care closer to home with the support of family and friends. More than 3,000 physicians, nurses and other medical professionals in the member institutions and their satellites conduct NSABP treatment and prevention studies.

We invite you to learn more about the NSABP and its institutes and programs by visiting their Web site at <http://www.nsabp.pitt.edu>.

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. 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 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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633 N Saint Clair St, Chicago, IL 60611-3211