



CoC Flash

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



Special Edition
April 16, 2003

Commission on Cancer Releases Online Hospital Comparison Benchmark Reports

The CoC is pleased to announce the release of its Web-based Hospital Comparison Benchmark Reports. This online reporting tool is available only to select cancer program staff at CoC-Approved Cancer Programs and offers a number of value-added features when compared to the previously released National Benchmark Reports available to the general public through our Web site.

The Hospital Comparison Benchmark Reports can be used to conduct clinical analysis of patient diagnosis and treatment which are necessary to ensure that quality care is administered to cancer patients. Physicians and cancer registrars can use the reports for quality improvement by identifying patterns of care in their own facility that differ significantly from patterns of care in similar facilities, or differ from state, regional, or national norms. These reports may also be used for planning and marketing purposes.

These reports include data specific to patient demographics, tumor characteristics, and treatment for all cancer sites from over 894,000 cases submitted to the NCDB by more than 1,400 hospital cancer registries for the diagnosis year 2000. This reporting tool is designed to allow authorized users from CoC- Approved Cancer Programs to compare data reported from their cancer registry with that of aggregated data from other pre-selected facilities. Three types of reports are available: Single Hospital Reports, Aggregate Reports, and Comparison Reports. **Confidentiality is a priority.** Therefore, *all* patient identifying information has been removed from the data accessed by this comparative benchmarking tool. In addition, to limit the possibility of hospital identification, reports showing aggregated results for five or fewer facilities are not available, and users are invited to redefine their request. Useful "Help"screens are available to assist users in navigating the application.

Technical assistance is also available from NCDB staff at ncdb@facs.org. To access the Hospital Comparison Benchmark Reports go to our Web site, click on the "CoC DataLinks" button, and login to the secured Web-based application. From the Activities Menu, select "NCDB Hospital Comparison Benchmark Reports" and the interactive display will appear.

To go to our Web site to view the Hospital Comparison Benchmark Reports, click here: <http://www.facs.org/dept/cancer/index.html>

Thank you.

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