



CoC Flash

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



November/December 2004

(Note: The November /December issue is the final CoC Flash for 2004.)

The Commission of Cancer Staff Wishes You a **Happy, Healthy, and Safe Holiday Season.**

Highlights for the Month:

- New Resources Available on the Web
- Establishing Survey Dates
- Have You Submitted Your NCDB Data Yet?
- SEER Registry Resource Available
- Coding Hint: Is This Class of Case 0 or 1?
- CoC-Trained Speakers Available for State and Regional Registry Meetings
- Have You Seen Your State Cancer Plan?
- CoC Welcomes New State Chair
- Final CLP Web Conference of 2004 to be Held in December
- AJCC Web Site Redesigned
- AJCC Series of Cancer Staging Articles in ACS Journal Continues
- Patient-Oriented Titles Published by American Cancer Society
- The U.S. Surgeon General's Family History Initiative
- Spotlight on CoC Member Organization: American Society of Breast Surgeons (ASBS)

New Resources Available on the Web

In an effort to help approved programs keep abreast of changes and revisions to the CoC's *Cancer Program Standards 2004*, a summary of the changes is being posted in two locations on our Web site, <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/standards.html> and <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/programstandards.html>. This summary will contain all announcements previously published in *CoC Flash*.

Also, in response to requests, the CoC is posting an abridged version of the CAP Protocol Document on our Approvals Program Web page at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/approval.html>. This document contains condensed versions of the CAP surgical cancer summary checklists.

Establishing Survey Dates

Programs due for survey in 2005 will negotiate the exact date of the survey with their surveyor once they receive surveyor contact information in December 2004. For the month the survey is due, the date of the "1st" is simply a generic date given to work with. Also, when scheduling the survey, please keep in mind that surveyors are required to attend a cancer conference/tumor board, whenever possible.

Have You Submitted Your NCDB Data Yet?

The deadline for submitting NCDB cancer data is Friday, December 3. As of November 29, 460 facilities have submitted cases for 2003 (32%), 412 facilities have submitted cases for 1998 (29% of approved facilities whose reference date is 1998 or earlier), 332 facilities have submitted cases for 1993 (30% of facilities with a reference date in 1993 or earlier), and 207 facilities have submitted cases for 1988 (32% of facilities with a reference date in 1988 or earlier).

All analytic cases for the four Call for Data years (1988, 1993, 1998 and 2003) must be submitted on or before December 3 for *compliance* with Standard 3.6. Rejected records and records with data quality problems for 2003 cases (cases diagnosed in 2003 and first seen by your facility in 2003 or 2004, or cases diagnosed prior to 2003 and first seen in 2003) must be corrected and resubmitted to the NCDB by September 1, 2005, for *compliance* with Standard 3.7. The NCDB encourages registries to

correct edit problems within 30 days, and to work with software providers, if necessary, to resolve any persistent problems in their historic data.

SEER Registry Resource Available

The new SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual 2004 (Fourth Edition) was posted online recently and can be downloaded without charge from the SEER Web site at <http://seer.cancer.gov/>.

Coding Hint: Is This Class of Case 0 or 1?

A Class of Case 0 is assigned if the diagnosis is provided by the accessioning facility and all treatment is provided at another facility, or the decision not to treat is made at another facility. However, not all cases that are "diagnosed only" by a facility are Class of Case 0. For any tumor diagnosed at your facility:

- If a decision not to treat is made at your facility, this cancer is Class of Case 1.
- If the diagnosis was made by an excisional biopsy of the primary site, this cancer is Class of Case 1.
- If any procedure coded as treatment according to *FORDS* was provided at your facility, this is Class of Case 1 (See *FORDS Revised for 2004*, pages 28-28I).
- If your facility provided palliative care as part of or in lieu of first course treatment, this is Class of Case 1.
- If the treatment plan was "watchful waiting," this is Class of Case 1.
- If all or part of first course treatment was provided in a staff physician's office, this is Class of Case 1.
- If it is unknown whether any treatment was recommended or provided, this is Class of Case 1.

For the expanded description of Class of Case assignment, see *FORDS Revised for 2004*, pages 5-7.

CoC-Trained Speakers Available for State and Regional Registry Meetings

The CoC Speakers Bureau has individuals available for state and regional cancer registry meetings to discuss a variety of topics. Please see the list on our Web site at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/presrequests.html>. If your group is hosting a meeting between January and May 2005, please review the presentation options and submit a Speaker Request Form as soon as possible. No later than December 6 for January 2005 meetings, please.

Have You Seen Your State Cancer Plan?

Phase II of the Comprehensive Cancer Control Leadership Institutes, which involves all 50 states in the US with a focus on implementation of state cancer plans, has just been completed. Phase II followed the Phase I series held during 2001 and 2002 which focused on the development of state

cancer plans.

Four regional Institutes were held during 2004, and included 971 participants from all 50 states; 33 of whom were CoC State Chairs. Thirty-two states have completed plans and are involved in, or gearing up for, implementation. The remaining states are nearing completion of their plans. Planning Assistance Team visits will be held in 2005, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Cancer Institute, and the CoC, with six states that would benefit from further assistance and direction for implementation of their state cancer plans.

The CoC is currently developing a guidance document for use by its 65 State Chairs and 1,600 Cancer Liaison Physicians that will describe their role in comprehensive cancer control planning. This information will provide our volunteer physician network with the tools necessary to become engaged in the implementation activities of their respective state cancer plans.

Cancer program team members in states with completed state cancer plans are encouraged to access the plan for review by the cancer committee to determine ways in which the facility could contribute to the implementation initiatives. A majority of the individual state cancer plans are available online at http://cancercontrolplanet.cancer.gov/state_plans.jsp.

For more information about the CoC's role in comprehensive cancer control and the state cancer plan initiative, contact Kate Phair at kphair@facs.org.

CoC Welcomes New State Chair

The College is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Commission on Cancer State Chair: Timothy D. Sielaff, MD, Virginia Piper Cancer Institute, Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Minneapolis, MN

Final CLP Web Conference of 2004 to be Held in December

Join us for the final Web conference of 2004 to gain a better understanding of the role of the Cancer Liaison Physician. This presentation is available for any cancer program staff interested in learning about the responsibilities of the Cancer Liaison Physician as Community Outreach Coordinator.

DATE: Tuesday, December 14, 2004 - 11:00am to 12:00pm (Central Time)

The session will last approximately 50 minutes and requires participants to have Internet and telephone access. Registration is NOT necessary. Visit our Web site at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/liaison.html> for further instructions. Please direct questions to Carolyn Jones at cjones@facs.org.

AJCC Web Site Redesigned

The American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) has released a redesigned Web site. New features include expanded information, improved navigability, and a quarterly message from the AJCC Chair.

Please visit the AJCC Web site at <http://www.cancerstaging.org> for current information on AJCC membership, products, and educational initiatives. Questions regarding the AJCC Web site can be submitted to Susan Burkhardt at sburkhardt@facs.org.

AJCC Series of Cancer Staging Articles in ACS Journal Continues

The AJCC has entered into an agreement to publish a series of articles related to the staging strategies and changes outlined in the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, 6th Edition for the American Cancer Society's publication, CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians. These articles will emphasize the importance of accurate staging in clinical care, cancer research, and cancer surveillance.

An article titled "The Staging of Colorectal Cancer: 2004 and Beyond" authored by Drs. Carolyn Compton and Frederick Greene, has been published in the November/December 2004 (Vol.54/No.6) issue. Please look for future articles on prostate, head and neck, lymphoma, breast, soft tissue/bone, and pancreatic and biliary staging.

Patient-Oriented Titles Published by American Cancer Society

American Cancer Society's Complete Guide to Prostate Cancer

Edited by David G. Bostwick, MD, MBA, et al.

This comprehensive, easy-to-read guide for men and their loved ones delivers the facts everyone should know about prostate cancer, including the latest advances in prevention, early detection, and treatment; how to cope with emotional stresses and potential physical side effects; and, how to

maintain quality of life, sexuality, and relationships after treatment. The American Cancer Society's Complete Guide to Prostate Cancer enables patients to cope, live well, and make informed choices about their care and treatment each step of the way.

When the Focus Is on Care: Palliative Care and Cancer

Edited by Kathleen M. Foley, MD, et al.

Written in a sensitive and conversational fashion, this book explains what palliative care is and how it can help people with cancer, especially those in later stages of the disease. **When the Focus Is on Care: Palliative Care and Cancer** answers the questions people with cancer and their families have about progressive illness, making informed care and treatment decisions, and managing symptoms and side effects. It provides key resources and addresses practical issues such as work, insurance, advance directives, and financial and legal matters. It also explores the emotional impact of cancer and covers coping strategies, performing a life review and leaving a legacy, talking to loved ones about cancer and dying, and coming to terms with mortality. This book is designed to help patients consider a topic many are reluctant to discuss.

Both of these resources are available in bookstores and libraries nationwide, or by ordering directly from the American Cancer Society (toll-free 1-800-ACS-2345 or <http://www.cancer.org/bookstore>).

The U.S. Surgeon General's Family History Initiative

An important new national program, The U.S. Surgeon General's Family History Initiative, got under way on November 8. Several offices and agencies within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including the Office of the Surgeon General, the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality - as well as other organizations- are coordinating efforts to increase America's awareness of the importance of family health history. Together, they have teamed up to make Thanksgiving Day the annual National Family History Day beginning with this day in 2004.

The goal of the program is to provide accessible methods for easily obtaining an accurate family health history and to increase use of the family health history in disease prevention and health promotion. The U.S. Surgeon General's Family History Initiative encourages family discussion of health history. The initiative includes an easy-to-use, downloadable, Web-based family history tool, "My Family Health Portrait," which debuted on November 8 at <http://www.hhs.gov/familyhistory>. This tool will also be available in print and in English and Spanish.

Spotlight on CoC Member Organization: American Society of Breast Surgeons (ASBS)

The CoC congratulates the American Society of Breast Surgeons (ASBS) on becoming the newest Commission on Cancer Member Organization. The selection of their current representative is pending.

The ASBS was founded in 1995, and now has more than 1900 members. The mission of the society is to encourage the study of breast surgery; to promote research and development of advanced surgery techniques; to improve standards of practice for breast surgery in the United States; and to serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas. Membership is open to surgeons with a special interest in breast disease. The ASBS has established the largest compilation of data on the use of partial breast irradiation to treat breast cancer, through the MammoSite Patient Registry. The Registry is a national data collection program designed to gather and analyze patient information on the use, complications, and outcomes in patients treated with MammoSite.

We invite you to learn more about the ASBS and its programs by visiting its Web site at <http://www.breastsurgeons.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 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 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.

The logo for CoC Flash, featuring the text "CoC Flash" in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font. The "CoC" is in a dark blue color, and "Flash" is in a lighter blue color. The logo is positioned in the top right corner of a blue horizontal bar that spans the width of the page.