



Commission
on Cancer

Flash



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

September 2007

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NCDB to Update Benchmark, CP³R, and e-QuIP Web Reports

During the first two weeks of October, the National Cancer Data Base (NCDB) will update its Web-based benchmarking and reporting tools for programs accredited by the Commission on Cancer (CoC). These tools are accessible through CoC Datalinks, a secure database. If you do not have access to CoC Datalinks, contact a designated individual at your facility (cancer registrar, cancer liaison, cancer committee chair) for assistance.

Please review the following schedule to be sure your program is prepared:

October 1:

- The *Hospital Comparison Benchmark Reports* will be updated to include 2005 cases. Accredited programs will have access to almost six million cases diagnosed and reported to the NCDB since the year 2000. The *Public Benchmark Reports* will be updated at the same time.
- **NEW!** These new *NCDB Survival Reports* will provide programs access to AJCC stage-stratified five-year observed survival rates for all cancer sites. This reporting tool will enable users to generate survival reports filtered by geography, cancer program category, or corporate affiliation. Cancer programs can even generate program-specific results. Users can select cases diagnosed between 1994-1997 (AJCC 4th ed.) or 1998-2000 (AJCC 5th ed.), and output displays can be controlled to show overall rates and 95 percent confidence intervals. To facilitate local use and distribution, users will be able to

download reports to their computer in any one of the following file formats: Adobe Acrobat PDF, Microsoft PowerPoint, Excel, and Word.

- *Cancer Program Practice Performance Reports (CP³R)* reports will be taken off-line at 12:00pm CST in order to add 2005 colon cancer diagnoses to the reports and to recalibrate each program's estimated performance rates based on cases diagnosed through 2004.

October 5: Updated CP³R reports will be available.

October 10: Breast and Colorectal *Electronic Quality Improvement Packet (e-QulP)* reports will be taken off-line at 5:00pm CST in order to add 2005 cases and enhance user interface tools.

October 19: Breast and Colorectal e-QulP reports will be available. The updated reports will provide enhanced navigation features and case status descriptors to facilitate easier interpretation by users.

Call for Data: Act Now to Avoid Rush Later

One hundred seventy-five facilities have submitted files since the NCDB Call for Data opened. All cases requested must be submitted by November 2, 2007, for compliance with Standard 3.6. Complete information for preparing for the NCDB Call for Data is available at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/ncdb/datasubmission.html>. Why wait? Submissions sent now can be processed more quickly than those received nearer the submission deadline.

Clinical Checks

The NCDB's Edits Web page, <http://www.facs.org/cancer/ncdb/edits.html>, includes metafiles for the NCDB Call for Data (NCDB_18A) and for checking cases for clinical consistency (CLIN2007). For technical reasons, GenEDITS Plus is not properly handling the CLIN2007 metafile at present. The EDITS programmer at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working on correcting that problem. In the meantime, programs can use a comparable metafile, CLN2007, with the old DOS version of GenEDITS posted at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/ncdb/dosmetafiles.html>. A copy of the old GenEDITS program is also posted at that page, but it need not be reinstalled on computers with a working copy in place. A copy of the report generated by CLN2007 for 2006 cases is posted with the "History and Edits of Patient Level Data Submission to NCDB" in CoC Datalinks. A full description of the Clinical Checks is available in text form at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/ncdb/softwareproviders.html>. It is not necessary to use the Clinical Checks metafile for compliance with Standard 3.7, but programs can use the metafile to prepare their data for the CP³R and e-QulP quality applications and for their own quality reviews.

Welcome New State Chair

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

Robert Joseph Goulet, Jr., MD, FACS, Indiana University Breast Care & Research Center, Indianapolis, IN

2007 SAR Annual Update Period Ends

The 2007 SAR Annual Update period has now ended. Thank you for your participation in this activity. It will enable the CoC to provide summary comparison data to accredited programs, the Committee on Approvals, and other constituent groups. The "working" SAR remains open so that all other standards and tables may be updated and edited throughout the year.

Information reported through the SAR Annual Update process will be analyzed and the experiences will be reported through the CoC Flash and other resources in early 2008.

NCIP SAR Training Guide Now Online

A new SAR Training Guide created specifically for programs in the NCI-designated

comprehensive cancer program (NCIP) category is now available online. It was written to correspond with the 2007 Survey Application Record (SAR) for NCIP cancer programs.

“Special Instructions” are included throughout the training guide for programs that are preparing for survey in both 2007 and 2008. The CoC highly recommends that all programs in the NCIP category review this document before accessing the SAR to report survey information or when updating the SAR to track program activity between survey years. The SAR is open at all times for updates.

The NCIP SAR Training Guide can be found at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/surveyresources.html>. It is also available through the CoC Datalinks Activity Menu and the SAR Menu (password-protected sections). Click on the 'SAR Training Guide' link and select from the training guide list.

For questions, contact SAR@facs.org.

Standard 4.7 Compliance Tip

Rehabilitation services are provided on site or by referral. Compliance is evaluated on an annual basis.

It is expected that, on an annual basis, the cancer committee evaluates the needs of its cancer patient mix and the rehabilitation services offered that can be used by a majority of the cancer patient population, as well as the services targeting special populations. Based on the annual cancer committee review of patient needs, an annual evaluation of services may be performed by rehabilitation services, shared with the cancer committee, and documented in cancer committee minutes. The CoC is specifically looking for (in addition to any policy and procedure related to rehabilitation services and referrals) documentation showing the appropriateness and activity of the rehabilitation program in the approved facility. As a tip to meet Compliance, we recommend that programs consider adding a representative from Rehabilitation Services to the cancer committee as either a member or ad-hoc member.

2007 CoC Web Conference Series Wraps Up

The CoC will host a new program in November that will be open to all audiences. See our Web site at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/coceduc.html> for the most up-to-date course objectives and participant information. The Web conference can accommodate an unlimited number of participants.

- Please note that dial-in information may change. Plan to consult the CoC Web site the day of the Web conference to confirm the information.
- The CoC, or 'Moderator,' will connect to the program 10 minutes prior to the start time listed. It is not necessary for you to dial-in more than 15 minutes before the program is to begin.
- A printable handout copy of the presentation is made available online the day before each Web conference.

Survey Pitfalls—Preventing Common Program Deficiencies

Date: November 16, 2007

Time: 11:00 am (EST); 10:00 am (CST); 9:00 am (MST); 8:00 am (PST)

CLP Web Conferences to be Held

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.

Role of the Cancer Liaison Physician

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

5:00 pm (EST); 4:00 pm (CST); 3:00 pm (MST); 2:00 pm (PST)
Facilitator: Terry Sarantou, MD, FACS – North Carolina State Chair

Thursday, December 6, 2007

10:00 am (EST); 9:00 am (CST); 8:00 am (MST); 7:00 am (PST)
Facilitator: David Sheldon, MD, FACS – Pennsylvania State Chair

See our Web site at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/clpwebconferences.html> for participation instructions. If you have questions, please contact Carolyn Jones at (312) 202-5183 or cjones@facs.org.

CoC and AJCC to Conduct Special Study on Staging

The CoC and AJCC will be conducting a special study on the “Impact of Neoadjuvant Therapy on Staging for Rectal and Breast Cancer Cases.” The study will focus on the collection of clinical stage prior to neoadjuvant therapy, and the extent of disease after neoadjuvant therapy/surgery to assess the degree of response. A small number of cases will be selected for both rectum and breast cancers diagnosed in 2004 and 2005, and will be provided to registrars for completion in a format similar to the e-QulP or CP[®]R reports.

Participation in this study is required for programs that are selected by the CoC based on the study criteria, and it will fulfill the requirements for meeting Standard 3.8 related to CoC special studies. As with past studies, information about the number of cases identified for the program, the submission date, and the program’s response will appear in the Survey Application Record (SAR) for evaluation during the next survey.

Additional details regarding the study will be released in early November. Questions may be directed to the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) at AJCC@facs.org.

Visit October Meeting Exhibits

The CoC, AJCC, and the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC) will be exhibiting at the following meetings in October:

American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)
AJCC Booth (# 110)
CoC Booth (# 112)
Staff attending: Vicki Chiappetta, Karen Pollitt, and Karen Stachon
October 6–11, 2007
Pennsylvania Convention Center; Philadelphia, PA

American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress
CoC, AJCC, and NAPBC
ACoS Resource Center in Exhibit Hall
October 7–11, 2007
Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, LA

American Society for Therapeutic Radiology & Oncology (ASTRO)
AJCC Booth (# 203)
NAPBC Booth (# 201)
Staff attending: Cindy Burgin and Donna Gress
October 28–November 1, 2007
Los Angeles Convention Center; Los Angeles, CA

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

American Cancer Society Offers New TrialCheck[®] Database

Although cancer clinical trials offer access to state-of-the-art care—and the potential for the development of more effective cancer treatments—the vast majority of cancer patients are

unaware that clinical trials are a treatment option. TrialCheck®, the nation's premier searchable database for cancer clinical trials, is now available through the American Cancer Society (ACS) Web site (<http://www.cancer.org>) and its 24-hour National Cancer Information Center (1-800-ACS-2345), giving millions of cancer patients quick access to clinical trial matches for their diagnosis and locale.

Developed by the Coalition of Cancer Cooperative Groups in 2001, TrialCheck® uses a patient-centered approach to online clinical trials matching. TrialCheck® guides users through a short query on a patient's type of cancer, treatment history, and current condition and displays the search results by proximity to the user's zip code. As a result, patients and physicians have tailored information on the thousands of nationally registered cancer clinical trials open and seeking patients.

All users receive an information packet from the ACS which includes summaries of protocols returned in search results. Patients can also save their searches and send them via e-mail to themselves or others for their personal use. These combined features allow users to continue to bridge the gap between patients seeking treatment options through clinical trials and the researchers who provide those clinical trials.

For questions, please contact Katie Dahlquist at 512-997-3900 or katie.dahlquist@cancer.org.

News from the CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control

Cancer Conference Is a Success

The 2007 Cancer Conference, Meeting Future Challenges, was held August 13–16 in Atlanta. There were 944 participants from 19 countries. Materials from the conference are now available on the Cancer Conference Web site at <http://www.cdccancerconference.net/conferencePPs.cfm>.

New States Cancer Facts Application

The state cancer burden data fact sheets have been replaced with a new, interactive State Cancer Facts application. It provides state-specific data on lung, colorectal, breast, and prostate cancers, including the estimated number of new cancer cases, cancer deaths, and the age-adjusted mortality rates for cancer deaths by race for each state. The sheets can be found at http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/StateCancerFacts/?s_cid=q307Cancer_FactsApp.

NCI Leads Wellness Program for African American Churches

Body & Soul is a wellness program of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) that is designed for African American churches. It is a proven program that empowers church members to eat healthier and be more physically active as a way to reduce their risk for diet-related chronic diseases. The Body & Soul program is particularly important to this population because African Americans are at a higher risk for some serious diseases, including cancer.

Body & Soul is based on more than 10 years of NCI-funded intervention research. It began with the Black Churches United for Better Health trial and the Eat for Life trial. Both research projects showed significant increases in fruit and vegetable consumption. The primary investigators on these intervention trials collaborated with the NCI and the American Cancer Society to translate their research into an intervention that could be delivered on a wide scale by health agencies and community-based organizations. A randomized effectiveness trial of Body & Soul showed a statistically significant increase in fruit and vegetable consumption, as well as positive changes in self-efficacy, intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, and a decrease in fat consumption. This innovative research demonstrated that interventions could be translated from research into programs that can be implemented on a wide scale.

Body & Soul has been proven to:

- Increase consumption of fruits and vegetables among participants
- Effect change in church policies and practices related to foods served
- Increase awareness, knowledge, and self-efficacy of healthy eating among participants

- Establish collaborative relationships between community partners and churches

Implementing Body & Soul is a strategic means of fulfilling the “lifestyle change” component of a community’s comprehensive cancer control plan. The NCI’s Cancer Information Service conducts trainings for partner organizations that have an interest in working with churches to implement the Body & Soul program. To request a program guide or find out about future trainings, call 1-800-4-CANCER. To learn more about Body & Soul visit <http://www.bodyandsoul.nih.gov>.

Advanced Online Training for 2007 MP/H Rules Offered by SEER

NCI SEER is now offering advanced online training in the 2007 Multiple Primary and Histology Coding (MP/H) Rules. The sessions, Beyond the Basics, will cover general instructions and four sites: breast, colon, lung, and urinary. The sessions provide:

- Clarifications and address problems people have encountered using the 2007 MP/H Rules
- Ten new cases for each of the four sites along with the answers and rationale

Beyond the Basics sessions are now available on the SEER Web site at http://www.seer.cancer.gov/tools/mphrules/training_advanced.html. Transcripts, cases, answers and rationale are also posted on the Web site with the sessions. Continuing Education Units (CE hrs) and certificates are available.

NCRA Selling CS Manual Version 01.03.00 Printed Package

The full Collaborative Staging (CS) Manual Version 01.03.00 Part I & II is printed on 60# text paper to extend long-term use of the manual. Packaged in a deluxe three-ring binder with printed cover and spine for ease of access, and the manual includes a set of the LCRA Collaborative Staging dividers reformatted for Version 01.03.00. A set of LCRA CS Dividers consists of 50 different dividers, each of which includes anatomic drawings and other information pertinent to a particular primary site or group of sites. To order this publication visit: <http://www.ncra-usa.org/store/#pubs8>.

Sign Up for NAACCR's CSI I Workshop

This workshop provides participants with the information, skills, and tools needed to conduct cancer surveillance and address cancer surveillance problems, questions, and issues. Cancer Surveillance Institute I (CSI I): Principles and Public Health Applications will be presented January 15–18, 2008, in Charleston, SC. SEER*Stat will be presented prior to CSI I on January 14, 2008, for those who wish to participate. A course description, agenda, and registration form can be accessed from the NAACCR Web site at <http://www.naacr.org>.

CoC Staff Change

Melissa Howard has joined the Approvals and Standards team in the role of Survey Assistant. Melissa has worked for the American College of Surgeons for more than 20 years, recently transferring from the Division of Member Services to Cancer Programs in the Division of Research of Optimal Patient Care. She will work with cancer program surveyors, provide customer service to accredited programs, and assist the Approvals and Standards technical team. She can be reached at mhoward@facs.org or (312)202-5371.

Spotlight on CoC Member Organization: Society of Surgical Oncology (SSO)

The Society of Surgical Oncology (SSO) has been a member organization of the CoC since 1976. The current representative is Lisa Ann Newman, MD, FACS from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI.

The mission of the SSO is to ensure that all cancer patients receive the highest quality, comprehensive, multimodal cancer care. The Society will accomplish this by providing dynamic

leadership and a substantial commitment to excellence in the broad specialty of surgery and surgical oncology. The Society's focus on all disease sites is reflected in its comprehensive Annual Meeting, monthly scientific journal (Annals of Surgical Oncology), special projects, and committee structure. The SSO's vision is to promote the highest quality of surgical oncology care by advancing the education and training of its members and fostering oncology research needed to improve multidisciplinary cancer patient care.

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

For easy printing, a .pdf version of each issue is available online within 72 hours of the time *Flash* is distributed. Go to <http://www.facs.org/cancer/cocflash/cocflash.html>.

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The CoC's Online Education Center is available 24/7 to support your educational needs. Go to <http://www.facs.org/cancer/webcast/index.html> for more information. CE and CME credits are available.



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