



Dear Cancer Liaison Physicians,

With the new year comes the introduction of new standards for accreditation from the Commission on Cancer (CoC). Please download the [Optimal Resources for Cancer Care: 2020 Standards](#) and reviewed Standards 2.2 and 7.3 which are specific to you and your role. These standards require you as the Cancer Liaison Physician (CLP) to:

Standard 2.2 – Cancer Liaison Physician

1. Identify, analyze, and present National Cancer Database (NCDB) data specific to the cancer program, with preference for areas of concern and/or where benchmarks are not met, to the cancer committee at a minimum of **two meetings each calendar year**. This is a decrease from the 4 times previously required.
2. Be present during the CoC site visit and meet with the site visit reviewer to discuss your activities and responsibilities.

Standard 7.3 – Quality Improvement Initiative. This is new for the CLP to guide a quality improvement initiative.

Under the guidance of the Cancer Liaison Physician (CLP), the Quality Improvement Coordinator, and the cancer committee, the cancer program must measure, evaluate, and improve its performance through at least one cancer-specific quality improvement initiative each year.

1. The CLP or the Quality Improvement Coordinator must provide updates to the cancer committee on the QI initiative's status at least **twice each calendar year**.

Implementation of these new standards began January 1st and programs will be surveyed on them beginning in 2021.

As the physician quality leader of the cancer committee, you are provided access to NCDB reporting tools that include survival reports, benchmarking reports, and other cancer program performance reports. Data from the NCDB must be used as the basis of your reports. This is unchanged from past years.

In addition, you should:

- Be familiar with CoC Standard 7.1 - Accountability and Quality Improvement Measures which requires the cancer committee to monitor the program's expected Estimated Performance Rates for accountability and quality improvement measures selected by the CoC.
- Serve as a liaison with the local American Cancer Society staff and facilitate their participation on the cancer committee. If needed, please contact us or your ACS regional director for the name of the field staff representative assigned to your facility.
- Communicate with, and respond to communications from your [CoC State Chair](#).
- Review descriptions of the [National Cancer Database Reporting Tools](#) and log in to CoC Datalinks to access and review your facility's data. Please contact coc@facs.org if you need assistance with your username and password.

The Cancer Liaison Physician [web page](#) includes resources to assist you with accessing CoC Datalinks, navigating select NCDB reporting tools, and preparing reports for the cancer committee to support compliance with Standard 2.2. Additional resources will be added as developed. You may want to schedule time to meet with your cancer registrar for an orientation and review of the NCDB reporting tools.

The State Chair Education Advisory Group is working to expand these resources and tools to support you in your role. These include a webinar that will be posted to the Cancer Liaison Physician web page by the end of February that reviews each of the NCDB tools. We will notify you when this webinar is posted for viewing. We will also be offering additional webinars throughout the year along with Cancer Liaison Physician Town Hall calls to share information, hear about issues and concerns, and allow you to share best practices. Over the next year we will also be convening regional meetings across the country for Cancer Liaison Physicians and American Cancer Society staff to learn about the new standards and will be re-instating the annual Cancer Liaison Physician Meeting held at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress.

Please feel free to reach out to me, the Cancer Liaison Program Vice-Chair, your State Chair, or the program staff who are here to assist you and ensure your success. We truly value the time and contributions you make in this important volunteer role and recognize your commitment to improving the quality of care delivered by your cancer program.

Thank you for making this world a better place.

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