



A QUALITY PROGRAM
of the AMERICAN COLLEGE
OF SURGEONS

CoC Membership Fact Sheet

The following information summarizes the mission, history, membership, structure, and committees of the Commission on Cancer (CoC). More information can be found on the [CoC Website](#).

Mission

The Commission on Cancer (CoC) 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.

History

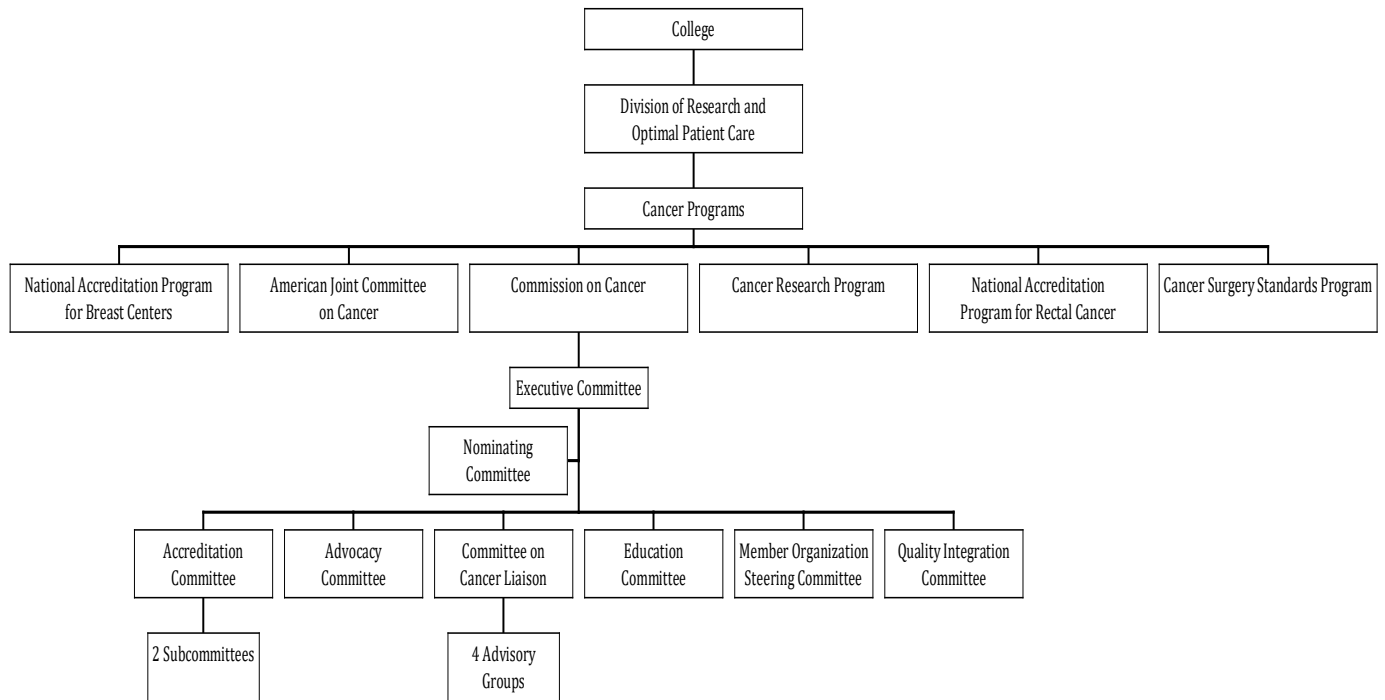
Established by the American College of Surgeons (ACoS) in 1922, the multidisciplinary CoC establishes standards to ensure quality, multidisciplinary, and comprehensive cancer care delivery in health care settings; conducts surveys in health care settings to assess compliance with those standards; collects standardized data from CoC-accredited health care settings to measure cancer care quality; uses data to monitor treatment patterns and outcomes and enhance cancer control and clinical surveillance activities; and develops effective educational interventions to improve cancer prevention, early detection, cancer care delivery, and outcomes in health care settings. The CoC will be celebrating its 100-year anniversary in 2022 with many exciting activities planned.

Membership

CoC membership is composed of more than 100 individuals who either are surgeons representing the American College of Surgeons or representatives from the [national professional organizations](#) who are member organizations affiliated with the CoC. These individuals direct and coordinate the activities of the Commission through the [Executive](#), [Nominating](#), [Accreditation](#), [Advocacy](#), [Cancer Liaison](#), [Education](#), [Member Organization Steering](#), and [Quality Integration](#) committees and related subcommittees and workgroups.

Today, there are more than 1,500 CoC-accredited cancer programs in the United States and Puerto Rico. CoC accreditation encourages hospitals, treatment centers, and other facilities to improve their quality of care through various cancer-related programs and activities. These programs are concerned with the full continuum of cancer—from prevention to survivorship and end-of-life-care—while addressing both survival and quality of life.

CoC Structure



Committees

CoC members are requested to select one of the following CoC committees to serve on. Membership terms are three years with the eligibility to be appointed to a second term based on meeting attendance and engagement.

All CoC members are eligible to serve in leadership roles. Each committee has a chair and vice-chair. Chair terms are two-years with eligibility for reappointment and vice-chair terms are one-year with eligibility for reappointment based on performance. As leader terms expire, a call for self-nominations is solicited from among the CoC membership each spring. Individuals who have demonstrated committee engagement, have a specific interest in and vision for leading a particular committee, and possess the skills and expertise to lead that particular committee are encouraged to submit a self-nomination. The CoC Nominating Committee reviews all nominations and prepares a slate of candidates for approval by the CoC Executive Committee. Leadership roles start in October.

The Accreditation Committee provides direction for the Commission on Cancer (CoC) Accreditation Program including implementing and evaluating CoC standards, overseeing and evaluating the site visit processes, and promoting accredited cancer programs. The Committee also reviews and acts on recommendations from its two subcommittees including the Program Review Subcommittee that adjudicates accreditation awards and the Field Staff Subcommittee that oversees the recruitment, training, and evaluation of the site reviewer team.

The Advocacy Committee is responsible for identifying, evaluating, and recommending positions on legislative policy and/or regulatory issues that come before the state and/or federal government that have the potential to affect the needs and/or interests of CoC-accredited cancer programs and cancer patients.

The Education Committee is responsible for the planning, promotion, conduct, and evaluation of in-person and on-line education and training to address the needs of Commission on Cancer constituents. The Committee also

contributes to the development of content for the American College of Surgeons annual Quality and Safety Conference and the Clinical Congress.

The Member Organization Steering Committee directs the activities of the member organization representatives to the Commission on Cancer(CoC), and is responsible for developing, implementing, and evaluating strategies to support enhanced collaborations and communications with CoC member organizations.

The Quality Integration Committee oversees the quality improvement initiatives of the Commission on Cancer (CoC) using the National Cancer Database. This includes defining CoC standards that address data submission, data quality, and quality improvement; development and deployment of quality measures to improve the care of patients with cancer, and development and deployment of quality reporting tools for use by CoC-accredited cancer programs to measure and improve their own quality of cancer care, including national benchmarking capabilities.

The Committee on Cancer Liaison directs the activities of the Cancer Liaison Program, which is comprised of a network of more than 1,600 volunteer cancer liaison physicians (CLPs) who provide local support for the Commission on Cancer's programs and activities. The committee also directs the activities of the 64 volunteer State Chairs in place at the state and regional levels to manage state-based cancer activities and their respective groups of CLPs. The Committee oversees the work of four Advisory Groups comprised of the Commission on Cancer State Chairs. These Advisory Groups are focused on State Chair and CLP Recognition, CLP Education, the Paper Competition and State Chair and CLP Meeting Planning. The committee also oversees the implementation of priorities established by the funding agency, the American Cancer Society.

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