### Commission on Cancer Operative Standards

**Standard 5.3: Sentinel Node Biopsy for Breast Cancer**

#### Operation

For all nodal staging operations performed with **curative intent** for patients with breast cancers of epithelial origin.

- Remove nodes that are:
  - Radioactive
  - Dye stained
  - Present at the end of dye-filled lymphatic channel
  - Palpably suspicious
  - Clipped

All sentinel nodes must be identified, removed, and subjected to pathologic analysis.

#### Documentation

**Required elements/responses in synoptic format**

- Curative intent
- Tracer(s) used
- Upfront or neoadjuvant setting
- Removal of all sentinel nodes
- Removal of all clipped nodes *(if applicable)*

#### Timeline

- **2022**
  - Document final plan for implementation

- **2023**
  - Standard 5.3 takes full effect

- **2024**
  - Site visits begin reviewing operative reports

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*Image by Don Bliss via National Cancer Institute (NCI).*

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[ ACS CSSP Cancer Surgery Standards Program American College of Surgeons](facs.org/cssp)