

Dear Cancer Liaison Physicians:

Happy New Year! We hope 2023 is off to a good start for all of you.

The Commission on Cancer (CoC) is planning two Cancer Liaison Physician (CLP) meetings this year, on April 19 and October 17. Please keep an eye out for emails with more information, including a registration link. If you have suggested agenda topics for these meetings, please send them to ACS Cancer Programs Communications and External Relations Manager Melissa Leeb at mleeb@facs.org. In the meantime, the following are a few recent CoC updates that I hope you'll find useful in your role as the CLP for your program.

Don't Miss the 2023 ACS Cancer Conference

Register today for the [ACS Cancer Conference: Where Cancer Care Comes Together](#), March 2-4 in Atlanta, GA. This conference will feature content designed to assist you in your CLP role on the cancer care team, with sessions focusing on:

- Quality Improvement basics and how-to examples for cancer programs
- Implementation of operative standards and synoptic reporting
- The latest updates on NCDB data and quality measures
- Strategies for successful site review preparation
- What's in store for ACS Cancer Programs and cancer care in 2024

A CoC State Chair/CLP luncheon is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 2.

The conference has been approved for 17.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. In addition, the March 1 National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC) Workshop has been approved for 7.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™, which will apply to the NAPBC educational requirement. Visit the conference [web page](#) to view the [agenda](#) and [register](#) for the conference.

The CoC Needs Your Input for New CLP Best Practices Guide

The CoC will be assembling a new CLP Best Practices Guide after hearing from several CLPs seeking to learn more about their roles.

This will be an opportunity for CLPs to share their expertise regarding the [Optimal Resources for Cancer Care \(2020 Standards\)](#) and/or any of the following areas listed below:

- Standard 2.2: Cancer Liaison Physician
- Standard 7.1: Accountability and Quality Improvement Measures
- Standard 7.3: Quality Improvement Initiative
- Required Synoptic Elements/Responses for CoC Standards 5.3-5.6
- Working with the American Cancer Society
- Other

If you are interested in contributing to the CLP Best Practices Guide, please answer the questions of your choice at this [link](#). Best practice submissions close on February 20, 2023, at 11:59 pm CT. Please note, this is a volunteer opportunity and does not require CLP participants to contribute to every area and standard listed above. Please email Melissa Leeb at mleeb@facs.org or Rebecca Medina at rmedina@facs.org if you have any questions.

CoC Updates 2023 Templates

CoC templates have been [updated](#) for clarity and improved use based on program and site reviewer feedback. Programs are required to complete and submit the templates with their Pre-Review

Questionnaire (PRQ) for site visits. Because there are enhancements to the templates, it is recommended that programs start using the revised templates with 2023 activity.

It is acceptable if programs have already entered 2021 and 2022 activities on the initial template version. Programs can either submit two templates for standards with 2023 activity on the newest version or combine the versions into one Excel file with multiple tabs. If the latter is used, ensure the tabs are labeled with the year.

The 2023 templates are located within the PRQ and on the Resources page in the [Quality Portal \(QPort\)](#).

Changes to Pathology Review Requirements Impact CoC Site Visits in 2023

Standard 5.1: College of American Pathology (CAP) Synoptic Reporting will be revised with substantive updates for 2023. Starting January 1, 2023, the current version of Standard 5.1 will be retired. An updated standards manual will be released in early 2023 that includes the following changes:

- The review of pathology reports during the site visit to evaluate that the required CAP elements are present in synoptic format will be removed starting with 2023 site visits.
- Standard 5.1's current measure of compliance will be replaced with a requirement to perform an internal audit of pathology reports to evaluate whether the report includes all required elements and is in synoptic format. Programs will be expected to comply with the updated standard by January 1, 2024.
- Standard 3.2: Evaluation and Treatment Services will be revised to require accreditation for anatomic pathology by a recognized organization. Programs will be expected to comply with the addition to Standard 3.2 by January 1, 2024.

Additional details and the specifics of the revised requirements will be included in the forthcoming updated version of *Optimal Resources for Cancer Care (2020 Standards)*.

The [Site Visit Sample Agenda and Instructions](#) have been updated to reflect the changes for 2023 site visits. Specifically, only lung and rectal cancer patients who underwent surgical resections will need to be included in the accession list that is provided to the Site Reviewer. Review the Site Visit Sample Agenda and Instructions for more detailed guidance.

COVID-19 Accreditation Tracker No Longer Available in 2023

The COVID-19 Accreditation Tracker was initially created as a resource tool for programs to document their challenges in meeting standards due to COVID. The tracker can be used for activities from 2020, 2021, and 2022. However, starting with 2023 activities, the tracker will no longer be accepted in lieu of standard compliance for the Commission on Cancer (CoC), National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), or the National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer (NAPRC).

As a reminder, for 2020, 2021, and 2022 activity, documentation as to how the pandemic affected your cancer program and any corresponding compliance to standards is accepted in the tracker and/or committee minutes.

The documentation should include:

- How the pandemic affected compliance for that standard
- Issues/barriers encountered
- Whether there was partial or full noncompliance

It is recommended, but not required, that an action plan to achieve compliance with a proposed timeframe is included in the minutes. The COVID-19 Accreditation Tracker does not apply to standards that include a chart review.

Programs with an initial site visit scheduled should not be using the COVID-19 Accreditation Tracker.

NCDB Shares 2023 Updates

In the December 15, 2022 issue of [Cancer Program News](#), the CoC and National Cancer Database (NCDB) announced changes to the [NCDB quality measures](#) and the impact of these changes to the 2023 compliance requirements for CoC Standard 7.1: Quality Measures.

Effective January 14, 2023, the Rapid Cancer Reporting System (RCRS) has been updated to accept v23 and will no longer accept v21. After January 14, 2023, submissions to the RCRS platform in v21 will be rejected. If your program is still using v21 reach out to your registry's software vendor. Software vendors were informed of this change on September 26, 2022.

The [Standards for Oncology Registry Entry](#) (STORE) 2023 final version was released in December on the Call for Data webpage under Registry Manuals and is now in effect for 2023 diagnoses.

The 2023 Call for Data open time window is March 1–31, 2023 until 11:59pm CT. Visit the [NCDB website](#) for additional information.

CSSP Offers Webinar Summary Documents

The summary documents for the webinars regarding 2023 CoC Site Visit Preparation for Operative Standards 5.3-5.8 and Implementing Synoptic Requirements for CoC Operative Standards are now available in the [Operative Standards Toolkit](#). These resources can be found in the "CoC Accreditation, Compliance, and Site Review Process" tab and the "Synoptic Operative Reporting" tab, respectively, alongside the webinar recording and slide deck. The FAQ documents, with questions received during each webinar, will be posted in the coming weeks.

Those who were not able to join the live events are encouraged to review these materials and send any questions to cssp@facs.org.

Operative Standards for Cancer Surgery Volume 3 Now Available

The ACS Cancer Research Program has announced the publication of the new volume of *Operative Standards for Cancer Surgery*, a valuable resource for both surgical oncologists and general surgeons. Now available in digital and print, Volume 3 provides evidence-based recommendations for the technical conduct of cancer operations for sarcoma, adrenal, neuroendocrine, peritoneal, urothelial, and hepatobiliary cancers. For more information or to purchase a copy, visit the ACS [website](#).

American Cancer Society Releases Latest Report on Cancer Data

The American Cancer Society has released its annual report on cancer facts and trends. According to the report, data from women ages 20 to 24 who were the first to receive the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine showed a 65% reduction in cervical cancer incidence rates from 2012 through 2019. In contrast, after several years of shifts in screening guidelines about the use of prostate specific antigen (PSA) testing, data showed a 3% increase in prostate cancer incidence rate each year from 2014 through 2019, about 99,000 new cases. Major findings from the report were published in [CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians](#), alongside its consumer-friendly companion, [Cancer Facts & Figures 2023](#).

Thank you for all you do as your cancer program's CLP to improve the quality of care for cancer patients. Please contact your CoC State Chair with any questions about the CoC or your program's accreditation.