

Dear Cancer Liaison Physicians:

Happy New Year! I hope 2022 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 13, 2022 and in October. Please keep an eye out for emails with more information, including a registration link. 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.

CoC Working with Epic for Synoptic Operative Reporting

The CoC is working with Epic Systems Corporation to provide all Epic customers with the required elements/responses for the CoC Operative Standards (Standards 5.3-5.6 as described in the [Optimal Resources for Cancer Care \(2020 Standards\)](#)). This is the culmination of many discussions between the CoC and Epic, and we are excited to provide a simpler solution for CoC-accredited cancer programs utilizing Epic.

In the coming months Epic will build the required elements/responses into its Foundation System, allowing for direct reference by Epic customers. This functionality will allow Epic customers to easily incorporate these elements into the operative report of record and will facilitate data collection and analysis. We anticipate the elements/responses to be available within the Epic Foundation System in Q2 of 2022, which will allow time for education and training for staff at CoC-accredited cancer programs. CoC-accredited cancer programs should contact their Epic representatives with questions about the timeline and functionality.

The CoC is committed to easing the administrative burdens associated with synoptic operative reporting requirements. The CoC actively seeks and welcomes the opportunity to work with other EMRs. Questions relating to the CoC or synoptic operative reporting should be directed to cssp@facs.org.

National Cancer Database Updates

[The Rapid Cancer Reporting System \(RCRS\)](#), which has been in operation since September 2020, is the platform for CoC programs to upload their data and view their performance with quality measures. We are in the process of working with our vendor to add four new quality measures into RCRS in the coming month. Descriptions of these quality measures will be available on our website when the measures are released. These new quality measures will not be assessed for Standard 7.1 Accountability and Quality Improvement Measures compliance.

[The 2022 Call for Data will be March 1-31 2022](#). The 2022 Call for Data will include all cancer cases diagnosed in 2020 and all analytic cases added or changed since December 1, 2020 for cases diagnosed between 2006 through 2019. Please see our [website](#) for specific details.

QPort Updates

CoC-accredited cancer programs now have access to the National Cancer Database (NCDB) reporting tools through the "NCDB Reporting Tools" section in the [Quality Portal](#) (QPort). This includes the Cancer Quality Improvement Program (CQIP) report, survival reports, hospital comparison benchmark reports, the Rapid Cancer Reporting System (RCRS) and more. Access to these NCDB tools is no longer available

in CoC Datalinks. The link to RCRS will be available in the NCDB Reporting tools section of QPort and may still be accessed directly [here](#).

A useful [Frequently Asked Questions](#) resource is available to support users and answer questions associated with the transition to the new online system. The FAQs are accessible in the Resources section of QPort. Additional questions may be submitted to CoC@facs.org.

CoC Introduces 2022 Assessment of Smoking in New Cancer Patients PDSA Quality Improvement Project and Clinical Study: Just ASK

As cancer programs begin to identify their quality improvement projects for the year, the CoC has announced an upcoming national Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) quality improvement project and clinical study focused on cigarette smoking cessation in cancer patients. Following the success of the Return to Cancer Screening PDSA and Clinical Study, this Assessment of Smoking in New Cancer Patients PDSA Quality Improvement Project and Clinical Study will focus on strengthening evidence-based care across participating programs by leveraging existing resources to address cigarette smoking by ASKing all newly diagnosed cancer patients about their smoking status to increase and improve the integration of smoking assessment as a standard of care. In parallel, participating programs will be invited to attend a series of educational webinar series and be required to complete periodic assessments to track progress during the project period. This opportunity is being provided to all currently accredited CoC programs, and participation is voluntary.

For participating CoC programs this study will support compliance with the following standards for 2022:

- Quality Improvement Initiative 7.3
- Cancer Prevention Event 8.2
- Clinical Research Accrual 9.1

A webinar to introduce the project and capture constituent feedback is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 12:00pm central time**. Click [here](#) to register. Following feedback received during the webinar, the project content will be further refined and released to programs by the end of February and posted to the CoC Website. Programs will have until the end of March to determine if they plan to participate. Interested programs are encouraged to join the webinar to learn more about the project and provide feedback. The webinar will also be recorded and made available on the website. Questions can be directed to ACScancerprograms@facs.org.

Mark Your Calendars for the 2022 ACS Cancer Accreditation Programs Conference

Save the date for the [ACS Cancer Accreditation Programs: Continually Advancing Quality Cancer Care](#) conference on May 20–22, 2022. This will be a hybrid event, offered both live in Denver, CO, and virtually to our audience across the country.

The conference will include education on CoC and National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer (NAPRC) standards, implementation, and best practices. In addition, we are planning a full day of content on the new National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC) standards.

Mark your calendar and stay tuned to *Cancer Programs News* and the Cancer Programs Education and Events web page (<https://www.facs.org/quality-programs/cancer/events>) for more information as it becomes available.

Don't Miss these Webinars

Quality Improvement Basics: Knowing Where to Start: All CoC State Chairs and CLPs are encouraged to watch the webinar *Quality Improvement Basics: Knowing Where to Start*, led by **Daniel J. Boffa, MD, FACS**, chair of the CoC Quality Integration Committee. Click [here](#) to review a brief description of the webinar and register to view the session and complete the evaluation.

Synoptic Operative Reporting: We are planning a webinar in late February/early March for CLPs regarding synoptic operative reporting. More information on the time and date, registration, and content will be shared in an email communication shortly.

American Cancer Society Reports Risk of Dying from Cancer Continues to Drop

According to [Cancer Facts & Figures 2022](#), the annual statistics reported by the American Cancer Society, the risk of dying from cancer in the United States has decreased over the past 28 years. The [cancer death rate](#) for men and women combined fell 32% from its peak in 1991 to 2019, the most recent year for which data were available. Some of this drop appears to be related to an increase in the percentage of people with lung cancer who are living longer after diagnosis, partly because more people are being diagnosed at an early stage of the disease.

Cancer continues to be the second most common cause of death in the US, after heart disease. A total of 1.9 million new cancer cases and 609,360 deaths from cancer are expected to occur in the US in 2022, which is about 1,670 deaths a day.