

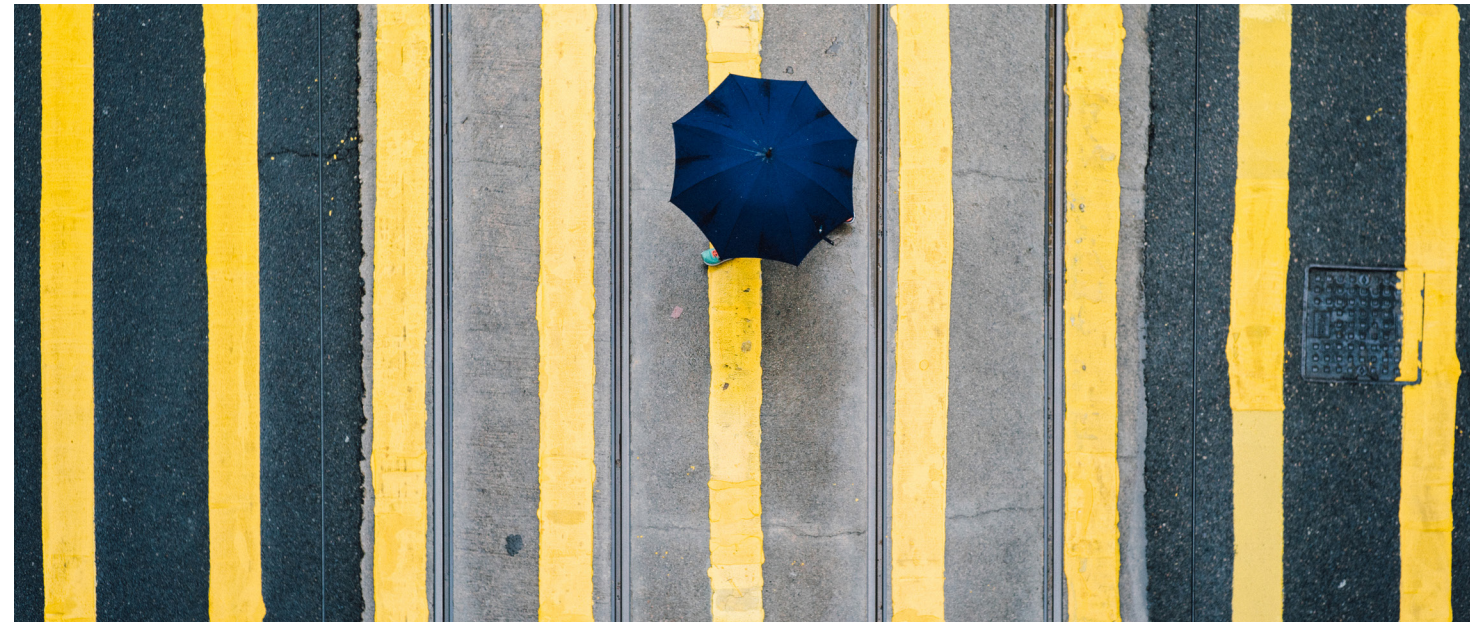
# Cancer Program Accreditations- Cross Pollination Efficiencies

## Introduction

While controversial, cancer accreditation programs, offer unique advantages that make accreditation distinctly worth the investment.<sup>1</sup> Hospital systems pursuing accreditation programs voluntarily hold themselves to higher quality and operational standards providing a foundation for a more efficient and quality oncology program. Data integrity, operational efficiency, and structure all benefit from accreditation programs that hold best practices to higher standards to achieve and maintain accreditation. The American College of Surgeons currently offers three Cancer Program accreditations. An overall program, CoC, breast specific- NAPBC, and a rectal specific- NAPRC. We will explore the efficiencies between the CoC and the NAPBC.

Hospitals often express hesitancy due to bandwidth, experience, budget, and documentation in pursuing any sort of cancer program accreditation, let alone multiple at once.<sup>2</sup> What many hospital systems are now starting to realize though is that the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC) has a significant opportunities for cross pollination/cross over with the Commission of Cancer (CoC), significantly reducing the time, energy, and investment needed to achieving and maintaining both accreditations while simultaneously enjoying the wide range of benefits they bring.

By exploring the benefits of pursuing dual accreditations with CoC and NAPBC, hospital systems can achieve both concurrently, saving time, effort, and finances down the line, by properly managing the time and process with experienced experts helping to guide them.



## Key Considerations

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standards for accreditation from the NAPBC are cross-pollinated/ cross overed from the CoC standards, which represents

**30%**  
of total standards

Only **30%**  
are standalone standards for the NAPBC

**4**  
standards are simple policy creation

## Goals

- Achieve CoC and NAPBC standards as concurrently
  - Managing and organizing time, resources, staff, and potential experts to efficiently navigate the processes for both CoC and NAPBC with relative ease
- Build a basic and standardized foundation for an excellent cancer quality program
- Incorporate the accreditation process into departmental work-flow with minimal time intrusion on clinical and administrative staff
- Organize staff duties and infrastructure to promote efficient and work that plays to strengths
- Streamline processes, reduce costs, and bolster adherence to updates in evidence-based practice

## Conclusion

CoC or NAPBC accreditations alone represent a significant source of anxiety for hospitals who are unsure if they can achieve either accreditation, let alone both as concurrently as possible. Yet, hospital systems are starting to realize that both accreditation programs provide foundations for their cancer programs to achieve higher patient quality care. Pursuing either accreditation already provides an efficient roadmap to achieving the other as standards are often cross pollinated,. High quality cancer programs can distinguish themselves as innovative and adherents to best practices by achieving and maintaining CoC and NAPCB accreditations simultaneously. Utilizing best practices the processes for both can be achieved by cross pollinating standards, respecting staff and resource bandwidth, and managing time efficiently by approaching it from an unbiased experts with deep knowledge of the processes. Achieving both provide hospital systems with foundations for concurrent case review that lends itself to overall data integrity as well as the foundation for administrative and operational efficiency.

<sup>1</sup> Merkow, Ryan, Jeanette W Chung, Jennifer L Paruch, David J Bentrem, Karl Y Bilimoria, "Relationship between cancer center accreditation and performance on publicly reported quality measures," Annals of Surgery, June 2014, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24509202/>

<sup>2</sup> Edward Walrod, q-centrix.com (Q-Centrix, n.d.), <https://www.q-centrix.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Cancer-Program-Accreditation-Case-Study-1.pdf>.