



A QUALITY PROGRAM
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OF SURGEONS



Guidelines for Implementation Plan for Commission on Cancer (CoC) Standards 5.3-5.6

Requirements for CoC Standards 5.3-5.6

In 2021, CoC-accredited programs were tasked with creating plans for how they will incorporate synoptic operative reporting to meet the requirements of the CoC Operative Standards (Standards 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, and 5.6) by January 1, 2023. Formal plans must be documented in the cancer committee minutes in 2022. To help provide further guidance regarding these plans for implementation, we offer the following framework and recommendations. We recommend that the cancer committee review the CoC Operative Standards as outlined in the [Optimal Resources for Cancer Care \(2020 Standards\)](#), their intent, and the requirements. We also recommend that the cancer committee begin educating and training their surgeons, pathologists, and registrars about these standards. Documentation of final plans will be reviewed at site visits in 2023.

- 5.3 Sentinel Node Biopsy for Breast Cancer
- 5.4 Axillary Lymph Node Dissection for Breast Cancer
- 5.5 Wide Local Excision for Primary Cutaneous Melanoma
- 5.6 Colon Resection

Recommended Content for Implementation Plans for CoC Standards 5.3-5.6

Site reviewers will review the plans for implementation of CoC Standards 5.3-5.6 during site reviews in 2023. We recommend that the plan be developed by the cancer committee and, at a minimum, include the following information:

1. Describe how the cancer committee reviewed the CoC Operative Standards, their intent, and the requirements, including the date of the meeting(s) at which this was discussed.
2. Describe all education and training activities conducted or planned for surgeons, pathologists, and registrars for Standards 5.3-5.6.
3. Describe any internal audit process undertaken or planned to review compliance levels prior to the site review (if applicable).
4. Describe any processes put in place or planned at your facility to facilitate synoptic operative reporting and data collection, including any coordination with IT, the surgery department, the registry, etc.
5. Outline the implemented or planned approach for synoptic reporting for Standards 5.3-5.6 and proposed timeline for complete implementation by January 1, 2023.

The [Operative Standards Toolkit](#) provides resources needed to support implementation of the operative standards. We encourage you to review the Toolkit and contact us with any questions at cssp@facs.org.