

Example 3: Nominee 47	Open-Ended Response
<p>The CLP should play an essential role in upholding the Commission on Cancer Standards. Please explain in 250 words or less how your CLP has helped educate your program's Cancer Committee members about these standards, and their role if any, in meeting the standards</p>	<p>When our rural cancer center made the goal to achieve Commission on Cancer Accreditation, we knew it would be a long journey. Nominee 47, our Cancer Liaison Physician at the Facility Name Cancer Collaborative, has played a crucial role in achieving and maintaining accreditation. He has educated the organization's cancer committee members and others on the standards and why adherence is so important. Nominee 47 accomplishes this by hosting individual meetings or presentations at various committees. He discusses the standards, and how they relate to care for our patients. Nominee 47 acts as a CoC resource hub, providing our team access to the information, guidelines, and new resources related to all CoC Standards. This assists in analyzing, assessing, and planning, ensuring that our team is well-informed and can implement the standards effectively. He facilitates collaboration and promotes continuous quality improvement initiatives within the cancer committee. He encourages dialogue among committee members regarding the CoC Standards through regular meetings. This approach allows members to share best practices, identify areas for improvement, and develop action plans to meet the standards more effectively. He also plays a vital role in coordinating site visits from CoC surveyors. Before the visit, Nominee 47 ensures that committee members are prepared and aware of the specific areas to be evaluated. This preparation includes reviewing the standards, conducting internal audits, and addressing potential gaps or deficiencies. At a Critical Access Hospital, having an oncology leader who can help navigate challenges not experienced at larger metropolitan centers is vital. Nominee 47 addresses every challenge with a spirit of collaboration and willingness to find innovative solutions.</p>
<p>An outstanding CLP possesses a clear understanding of the National Cancer Database (NCDB) reporting tools and uses them effectively to assess program performance. Please explain in 250 words or less how your CLP does this.</p>	<p>Under the leadership of Nominee 47, our program has exceeded CoC EPRs for all measures every year since he joined our team. He works closely with our cancer registrar to ensure data from the NCDB is reviewed regularly at cancer committee meetings. Nominee 47 uses the data presented to facilitate discussion about current processes and ideas for programmatic improvements. He actively engages in ongoing education and training to ensure a clear understanding of NCDB reporting tools. Nominee 47 regularly attends webinars focusing on NCDB reporting and data analysis. This allows him to stay updated with the latest tools, methodologies, and best practices in utilizing the NCDB for program assessment. Using the CoC CLP meetings, Nominee 47 maintains open communication with other cancer programs and learns about regional and national benchmarking initiatives. We can then compare our program's performance with peer institutions, identify areas of excellence, and adopt successful strategies implemented elsewhere.</p>
<p>CLPs are tasked with leading Quality Improvement (QI) initiatives at their cancer programs. Please explain in 250 words or less how your CLP is a leader in this area and works with the cancer teams and program leadership to implement QI initiatives.</p>	<p>There are many quality improvement projects Nominee 47 has participated in since joining our team. Two have had the most impact on the quality of care provided in the center. During COVID, Nominee 47 implemented a multi-disciplinary huddle as we struggled to come together to provide care. The goal of this huddle was to improve communication between the disciplines. This work led to regular morning huddles and meetings that improved communication and process enhancements between our nurses, pharmacists, dietitians, social workers, and physicians. Nominee 47 continued to drive these meetings in the absence of a nurse manager. In addition, he made recommendations to add a weekly component to morning huddles that focus on new patient starts. Being a rural facility, we cannot access a large informatics team to help review and adjust order sets in our EMR. Nominee 47 has taken it upon himself to regularly meet with the pharmacy and IT teams to review our oncology regimens. The system is imperfect, and we still have issues, but this work has significantly improved our pharmacy/infusion workflows and chemotherapy regimens that follow NCCN guidelines. An unexpected result was increased nursing productivity, which provided more significant patient interactions.</p>
<p>Is your CLP involved in regional cancer-related activities? Examples would include participation in local cancer consortium activities, state advocacy and regional meetings in their specialty. If yes, please provide additional details in 250 words or less.</p>	<p>Nominee 47 regularly participates in Commission on Cancer CLP meetings, allowing him to act as a CoC resource hub, providing our team access to the information, guidelines, and new resources related to all CoC Standards. This assists in analyzing, assessing, and planning, ensuring that our team is well-informed and can implement the standards effectively.</p>
<p>Please provide an example of how the nominee identifies and brings forward specific issues to the Cancer Committee that have resulted in changes that improved patient care (250 words or less).</p>	<p>Genetic testing and counseling have been a challenge in our rural community. Nominee 47 identified this issue soon after he arrived at our center. He contacted Facility Name leadership, the large academic medical center in State name, to inform them of this gap and lead the charge between Facility Name and our team in City name to improve the process for referring patients to genetic testing and counseling at Facility Name. In 2022 he spearheaded a project to ensure all stage IV prostate cancer patients were referred for testing. We have been 100% compliant since this new process was initiated. These are just a few examples of how Nominee 47 reviews our center-specific data and facilitates positive change to ensure compliance with evidence-based guidelines.</p>
<p>Please provide a specific example of how the nominee fosters a strong relationship with the American Cancer Society (250 words or less).</p>	<p>ACS has significantly reduced its presence in our rural community during the pandemic. Unfortunately, we no longer have their representation at our cancer committee meetings. Nominee 47 has continued to encourage our work with ACS, and we have received transportation and lodging grants that enable a funding source to help patients get to/from our center and hotel accommodations for those traveling throughout our large geographic area.</p>
<p>Is there any other information you would like to add that demonstrates ways in which your program's CLP has excelled in the role?</p>	<p>Access to specialized healthcare services, such as oncology, is limited in rural areas. This scarcity of resources and healthcare professionals underscores the significance of an exceptional oncologist who can make a substantial difference in the lives of individuals battling cancer. Not only is Nominee 47 a fantastic oncologist who brings expertise and specialized knowledge to our small community, but he also serves as a valuable source of support and guidance for patients and their families—offering compassionate care, taking the time to listen to patient's concerns, answering their questions, and alleviating their fears. In our community, where healthcare options are limited, having a knowledgeable and empathetic oncologist provides a sense of reassurance and comfort during the arduous journey of cancer treatment. Nominee 47 was disheartened when our newer infusion nurses did not know our patients' names or our patients theirs. He implemented a warm handoff process. Providers walk patients from the med onc clinic to the patient's infusion nurse, which facilitates communication and provides a moment between them and nurses to discuss the treatment plan, lab indices, or how the patient is feeling. Patients feel welcomed and have greater trust. His ability and desire to collaborate with primary care providers, nurses, radiologists, and other healthcare professionals create an integrated approach to cancer care. This coordination is particularly critical in rural areas where patients may need to travel long distances for treatment or have limited access to ancillary services. Nominee 47 also gets out into the community to promote prevention and screening by being interviewed on local radio spots and physically participating in the events. He was responsible for purchasing an inflatable colon used at the first parade/health fair since COVID started. He stood inside that colon for four hours and met with hundreds of people in our community to ensure they were aware of new colorectal screening guidelines. Nominee 47 is not your standard CLP. He cares about our community and works hard to drive our program forward. We feel fortunate to have him leading our team and strongly recommend him for this honor.</p>