

THE STATE CANCER REGISTRY DESIRES TO BECOME ACCREDITED. WHO SHOULD THEY CONTACT?

THE STATE CANCER REGISTRY DESIRES TO BECOME ACCREDITED. WHO SHOULD THEY CONTACT?

ACHIEVING ACCREDITATION IS A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE FOR ANY HEALTH DATA INSTITUTION, ESPECIALLY A STATE CANCER REGISTRY COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS OF DATA QUALITY, SECURITY, AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY. FOR A STATE CANCER REGISTRY ASPIRING TO ATTAIN ACCREDITATION, UNDERSTANDING WHOM TO CONTACT AND THE STEPS INVOLVED IS CRUCIAL. THIS ARTICLE PROVIDES AN IN-DEPTH GUIDE ON THE KEY STAKEHOLDERS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PROCESSES INVOLVED IN OBTAINING ACCREDITATION, ENSURING THE REGISTRY ALIGNS WITH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR CANCER DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING.

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCREDITATION FOR A STATE CANCER REGISTRY

WHY ACCREDITATION MATTERS

ACCREDITATION SIGNIFIES THAT A STATE CANCER REGISTRY MEETS ESTABLISHED STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE IN DATA QUALITY, PRIVACY, SECURITY, AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES. IT ENHANCES CREDIBILITY AMONG HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS, POLICYMAKERS, RESEARCHERS, AND THE PUBLIC. ACCREDITATION ALSO FOSTERS CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT, FACILITATES DATA COMPARABILITY ACROSS REGIONS, AND OFTEN IS A PREREQUISITE FOR FEDERAL FUNDING OR GRANTS.

STANDARDS AND FRAMEWORKS FOR ACCREDITATION

DIFFERENT ACCREDITATION BODIES SET VARIOUS STANDARDS, OFTEN ALIGNED WITH INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES LIKE THOSE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER (IARC) OR THE NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL CANCER REGISTRIES (NAACCR). UNDERSTANDING THESE FRAMEWORKS GUIDES THE REGISTRY IN PREPARING FOR ACCREDITATION.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO CONTACT

1. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION BODIES

THE FIRST STEP IS IDENTIFYING THE APPROPRIATE ACCREDITATION BODY THAT SETS STANDARDS RELEVANT TO CANCER REGISTRIES.

- **NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL CANCER REGISTRIES (NAACCR):** OFFERS CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS EMPHASIZING DATA QUALITY, COMPLETENESS, AND TIMELINESS. NAACCR ACCREDITATION IS HIGHLY RECOGNIZED IN NORTH AMERICA.
- **INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER (IARC):** PROVIDES GUIDELINES AND VALIDATION FOR CANCER REGISTRIES WORLDWIDE, ESPECIALLY THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL INCIDENCE DATABASE (C15).
- **NATIONAL CANCER REGISTRY ORGANIZATIONS OR MINISTRIES OF HEALTH:** IN MANY COUNTRIES, THE MINISTRY OF

HEALTH OR EQUIVALENT AGENCY DEVELOPS STANDARDS AND MAY HAVE THEIR OWN ACCREDITATION PROCESSES OR RECOGNIZE SPECIFIC BODIES.

- **OTHER SPECIALIZED ACCREDITATION BODIES:** SUCH AS THE JOINT COMMISSION OR ISO CERTIFICATIONS RELATED TO HEALTH DATA MANAGEMENT, THOUGH LESS SPECIFIC TO CANCER REGISTRIES.

2. NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES AND POLICY MAKERS

CONTACTING THE RELEVANT HEALTH DEPARTMENT OR PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY IS ESSENTIAL FOR ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL HEALTH PRIORITIES AND OBTAINING NECESSARY APPROVALS.

3. PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND EXPERT PANELS

ENGAGING WITH PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN ONCOLOGY, EPIDEMIOLOGY, AND HEALTH INFORMATICS CAN PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON BEST PRACTICES.

4. DATA SECURITY AND PRIVACY REGULATORY AGENCIES

ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH DATA PROTECTION LAWS BY CONSULTING AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR PATIENT PRIVACY, SUCH AS DATA PROTECTION AUTHORITIES OR PRIVACY COMMISSIONS.

5. TECHNICAL AND CERTIFICATION CONSULTANTS

SPECIALIZED CONSULTANTS CAN ASSIST WITH GAP ANALYSIS, DOCUMENTATION, AND PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS NECESSARY FOR ACCREDITATION.

STEPS TO CONTACT THE RIGHT ENTITIES

ASSESS INTERNAL READINESS

BEFORE REACHING OUT, THE REGISTRY SHOULD EVALUATE ITS CURRENT DATA QUALITY, INFRASTRUCTURE, STAFF EXPERTISE, AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES.

IDENTIFY TARGET ACCREDITATION BODIES

RESEARCH THE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS AND DETERMINE WHICH BODY ALIGNS WITH THE REGISTRY'S GOALS AND REGIONAL CONTEXT.

ESTABLISH INITIAL CONTACT

MOST ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDE CONTACT INFORMATION VIA THEIR OFFICIAL WEBSITES. INITIAL CONTACT CAN BE MADE THROUGH:

- OFFICIAL EMAILS

- PHONE CALLS
- ONLINE INQUIRY FORMS

REQUEST GUIDANCE AND CLARIFICATION

ENGAGE WITH REPRESENTATIVES TO UNDERSTAND REQUIREMENTS, DOCUMENTATION NEEDED, TIMELINES, AND FEES.

PARTICIPATE IN CONSULTATION OR PRE-ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS

SOME ACCREDITATION BODIES OFFER PRE-ASSESSMENT SERVICES OR WORKSHOPS TO HELP ORGANIZATIONS PREPARE.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS WHEN CHOOSING WHOM TO CONTACT

RELEVANCE TO CANCER REGISTRY OPERATIONS

ENSURE THE ACCREDITING BODY SPECIALIZES IN OR UNDERSTANDS CANCER REGISTRY OPERATIONS, DATA STANDARDS, AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RESEARCH.

RECOGNITION AND CREDIBILITY

OPT FOR BODIES THAT ARE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED OR ENDORSED BY GOVERNMENT HEALTH AGENCIES TO MAXIMIZE CREDIBILITY.

COST AND RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

UNDERSTAND THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RESOURCE COMMITMENTS INVOLVED IN THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES OFFERED

DETERMINE IF THE ORGANIZATION PROVIDES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, TRAINING, OR DOCUMENTATION SUPPORT DURING THE PROCESS.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND SUPPORT NETWORKS

NATIONAL CANCER CONTROL PROGRAMS

OFTEN, THESE PROGRAMS COLLABORATE WITH OR ENDORSE ACCREDITATION EFFORTS AND CAN PROVIDE GUIDANCE.

PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS AND CONFERENCES

PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES RELATED TO CANCER REGISTRATION AND EPIDEMIOLOGY CAN FACILITATE CONNECTIONS WITH ACCREDITATION EXPERTS.

ONLINE PLATFORMS AND COMMUNITIES

WEBSITES AND FORUMS DEDICATED TO CANCER REGISTRY PROFESSIONALS OFTEN SHARE BEST PRACTICES AND CONTACT INFORMATION.

SUMMARY OF ACTION STEPS

1. EVALUATE YOUR CURRENT REGISTRY PROCESSES AND IDENTIFY GAPS.
2. RESEARCH SUITABLE ACCREDITATION BODIES (NAACCR, IARC, NATIONAL AGENCIES).
3. GATHER CONTACT INFORMATION FROM OFFICIAL WEBSITES.
4. REACH OUT TO THE SELECTED ORGANIZATION(S) FOR GUIDANCE.
5. ENGAGE IN PRE-ASSESSMENT OR CONSULTATION PROCESSES.
6. IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS AND PREPARE DOCUMENTATION.
7. UNDERGO FORMAL ASSESSMENT FOR ACCREDITATION.
8. MAINTAIN STANDARDS AND SEEK RENEWAL AS REQUIRED.

CONCLUSION

ACHIEVING ACCREDITATION IS A STRATEGIC GOAL THAT ENHANCES THE CREDIBILITY, RELIABILITY, AND UTILITY OF A STATE CANCER REGISTRY. THE PROCESS BEGINS WITH IDENTIFYING THE APPROPRIATE ACCREDITATION BODIES AND KEY STAKEHOLDERS—PRIMARILY ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS NAACCR, IARC, AND NATIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES. ESTABLISHING CLEAR COMMUNICATION CHANNELS WITH THESE ENTITIES ENSURES A SMOOTH PATHWAY TOWARD MEETING ACCREDITATION STANDARDS. BY ENGAGING THE RIGHT CONTACTS, LEVERAGING AVAILABLE RESOURCES, AND COMMITTING TO CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT, A STATE CANCER REGISTRY CAN SUCCESSFULLY ATTAIN ACCREDITATION AND CONTRIBUTE MORE EFFECTIVELY TO CANCER CONTROL AND RESEARCH EFFORTS.

REMEMBER: THE KEY TO SUCCESS LIES IN THOROUGH PREPARATION, UNDERSTANDING THE STANDARDS, AND ESTABLISHING STRONG COLLABORATIONS WITH THE RIGHT ORGANIZATIONS. THE JOURNEY TOWARD ACCREDITATION IS NOT MERELY A FORMAL PROCESS BUT AN ONGOING COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN CANCER DATA MANAGEMENT.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO SHOULD THE STATE CANCER REGISTRY CONTACT TO START THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS?

THEY SHOULD REACH OUT TO THE NATIONAL OR REGIONAL ACCREDITATION BODIES SPECIALIZING IN HEALTH DATA AND CANCER REGISTRY STANDARDS, SUCH AS THE NATIONAL CANCER REGISTRY PROGRAM OR RELEVANT HEALTH AUTHORITIES.

WHAT ARE THE INITIAL STEPS FOR THE STATE CANCER REGISTRY TO PURSUE ACCREDITATION?

THE INITIAL STEPS INCLUDE CONDUCTING A SELF-ASSESSMENT, REVIEWING ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS, AND ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH THE DESIGNATED ACCREDITATION AGENCY TO UNDERSTAND THE APPLICATION PROCESS.

WHICH ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDE ACCREDITATION SERVICES FOR CANCER REGISTRIES?

ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL CANCER REGISTRIES (NAACCR) AND THE INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER (IARC) OFFER ACCREDITATION PROGRAMS AND STANDARDS FOR CANCER REGISTRIES.

WHAT DOCUMENTATION IS TYPICALLY NEEDED FOR ACCREDITATION OF A CANCER REGISTRY?

DOCUMENTATION USUALLY INCLUDES DATA QUALITY REPORTS, STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES, STAFF TRAINING RECORDS, AND EVIDENCE OF DATA COMPLETENESS AND TIMELINESS.

ARE THERE SPECIFIC CRITERIA THE STATE CANCER REGISTRY MUST MEET TO ACHIEVE ACCREDITATION?

YES, CRITERIA OFTEN INCLUDE DATA ACCURACY, COMPLETENESS, TIMELINESS, STANDARDIZATION OF PROCEDURES, AND STAFF COMPETENCY, ALL OF WHICH ARE OUTLINED BY THE ACCREDITATION BODY.

CAN THE STATE CANCER REGISTRY SEEK TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DURING THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS?

ABSOLUTELY. MANY ACCREDITATION BODIES PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, TRAINING, AND RESOURCES TO HELP REGISTRIES MEET THE REQUIRED STANDARDS.

HOW LONG DOES THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS TYPICALLY TAKE FOR A CANCER REGISTRY?

THE PROCESS DURATION VARIES BUT GENERALLY TAKES SEVERAL MONTHS, DEPENDING ON THE REGISTRY'S CURRENT COMPLIANCE LEVEL AND READINESS.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF ACHIEVING ACCREDITATION FOR THE STATE CANCER REGISTRY?

ACCREDITATION ENHANCES DATA QUALITY, CREDIBILITY, AND RECOGNITION, WHICH CAN IMPROVE RESEARCH, POLICY-MAKING, AND ULTIMATELY, PATIENT CARE OUTCOMES.

WHO CAN PROVIDE ONGOING SUPPORT AFTER THE CANCER REGISTRY BECOMES ACCREDITED?

THE ACCREDITATION BODY, ALONG WITH PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND HEALTH AUTHORITIES, CAN OFFER ONGOING SUPPORT, MONITORING, AND UPDATES TO MAINTAIN ACCREDITATION STATUS.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

ACCREDITATION: ELEVATING THE STATE CANCER REGISTRY'S STANDARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

IN THE REALM OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND DISEASE SURVEILLANCE, STATE CANCER REGISTRIES SERVE AS PIVOTAL REPOSITORIES OF DATA, INFORMING POLICY, GUIDING RESEARCH, AND ULTIMATELY CONTRIBUTING TO IMPROVED PATIENT OUTCOMES. AS THESE ENTITIES EVOLVE, MANY ARE AIMING FOR ACCREDITATION—AN ESTEEMED RECOGNITION THAT SIGNIFIES ADHERENCE TO RIGOROUS STANDARDS OF QUALITY, CONSISTENCY, AND INTEGRITY. FOR A STATE CANCER REGISTRY SEEKING ACCREDITATION, THE PROCESS CAN SEEM COMPLEX, BUT UNDERSTANDING THE KEY STEPS AND THE RIGHT CONTACTS CAN MAKE THE JOURNEY BOTH MANAGEABLE AND REWARDING. THIS ARTICLE PROVIDES AN IN-DEPTH EXPLORATION OF WHO TO CONTACT, THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCREDITATION, AND HOW TO NAVIGATE THE PATHWAY TOWARD ACHIEVING IT.

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCREDITATION FOR A STATE CANCER REGISTRY

BEFORE DIVING INTO CONTACTS AND PROCEDURES, IT'S VITAL TO APPRECIATE WHY ACCREDITATION MATTERS. ACCREDITATION DEMONSTRATES A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE, TRANSPARENCY, AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT, WHICH ENHANCES CREDIBILITY AMONG STAKEHOLDERS INCLUDING HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS, POLICYMAKERS, RESEARCHERS, AND THE PUBLIC.

BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION INCLUDE:

- ENHANCED DATA QUALITY: ENSURING DATA ACCURACY, COMPLETENESS, AND TIMELINESS.
- OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY: IMPLEMENTING STANDARDIZED PROCESSES TO STREAMLINE DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING.
- LEGAL AND ETHICAL COMPLIANCE: MEETING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA SECURITY.
- FUNDING AND SUPPORT: INCREASED ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES.
- PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION: ESTABLISHING THE REGISTRY AS A LEADER IN PUBLIC HEALTH DATA MANAGEMENT.

RECOGNIZED ACCREDITATION STANDARDS OFTEN ALIGN WITH ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL CANCER REGISTRIES (NAACCR) AND THE COMMISSION ON CANCER (CoC), WHICH SET BENCHMARKS FOR DATA QUALITY AND REGISTRY OPERATIONS.

KEY STEPS TOWARD ACCREDITATION: AN OVERVIEW

ACHIEVING ACCREDITATION INVOLVES A STRUCTURED PROCESS, TYPICALLY INCLUDING:

- GAP ANALYSIS: COMPARING CURRENT PRACTICES AGAINST ACCREDITATION STANDARDS.
- PLANNING AND PREPARATION: DEVELOPING POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND STAFF TRAINING.
- IMPLEMENTATION: APPLYING NEW STANDARDS ACROSS OPERATIONS.
- SELF-ASSESSMENT: CONDUCTING INTERNAL REVIEWS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE.
- APPLICATION SUBMISSION: PRESENTING DOCUMENTATION TO ACCREDITING BODIES.
- EXTERNAL REVIEW: UNDERGOING AUDITS OR SITE VISITS.

- CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT: MAINTAINING STANDARDS AND PREPARING FOR REACCREDITATION.

EACH OF THESE PHASES DEMANDS COLLABORATION, EXPERTISE, AND STRATEGIC PLANNING—HENCE THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING WHO TO CONTACT.

PRIMARY CONTACTS FOR A STATE CANCER REGISTRY SEEKING ACCREDITATION

NAVIGATING THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS REQUIRES ENGAGING WITH MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDERS, BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL. BELOW IS A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO WHOM THE REGISTRY SHOULD CONTACT AT VARIOUS STAGES.

1. INTERNAL LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

- REGISTRY DIRECTOR OR PROGRAM MANAGER: THE KEY DECISION-MAKER RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS, ALLOCATING RESOURCES, AND LIAISING WITH EXTERNAL BODIES.
- QUALITY ASSURANCE/IMPROVEMENT COORDINATOR: FOCUSES ON ALIGNING PRACTICES WITH STANDARDS, CONDUCTING SELF-ASSESSMENTS, AND IMPLEMENTING IMPROVEMENTS.
- DATA MANAGERS AND ANALYSTS: ENSURE DATA QUALITY, COMPLETENESS, AND ACCURACY—CORE COMPONENTS OF ACCREDITATION.
- IT DEPARTMENT: CRITICAL FOR ENSURING DATA SECURITY, SYSTEM INTEROPERABILITY, AND COMPLIANCE WITH TECHNICAL STANDARDS.

TIP: ESTABLISH AN INTERNAL STEERING COMMITTEE COMPRISING THESE STAKEHOLDERS TO COORDINATE EFFORTS.

2. EXTERNAL ACCREDITING BODIES

ENGAGING WITH THE RIGHT EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS IS ESSENTIAL. THE MAIN ENTITIES FOR CANCER REGISTRY ACCREDITATION INCLUDE:

A. NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL CANCER REGISTRIES (NAACCR)

- ROLE: NAACCR DEVELOPS STANDARDS, PROVIDES CERTIFICATION FOR DATA QUALITY, AND OFFERS ACCREDITATION PROGRAMS.
- CONTACTS:
 - NAACCR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM OFFICE: CERTIFICATION@NAACCR.ORG
 - NAACCR TECHNICAL SUPPORT: SUPPORT@NAACCR.ORG
 - PHONE: (919) 861-5574
- WHAT TO DISCUSS: DATA QUALITY STANDARDS, CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS, SUBMISSION PROCEDURES, AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT.

B. COMMISSION ON CANCER (CoC) OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

- ROLE: WHILE PRIMARILY FOCUSED ON HOSPITAL ACCREDITATION, CoC COLLABORATES WITH CANCER REGISTRIES FOR DATA QUALITY AND COMPLIANCE.
- CONTACTS:
 - CoC DATA QUALITY AND REGISTRY SUPPORT: REGISTRY@FACS.ORG
 - PHONE: (312) 202-5194
- WHAT TO DISCUSS: INTEGRATION OF REGISTRY DATA WITH HOSPITAL ACCREDITATION EFFORTS, DATA SUBMISSION PROTOCOLS.

C. STATE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY

- ROLE: OFTEN, THE STATE'S HEALTH DEPARTMENT OVERSEES THE CANCER REGISTRY AND MAY HAVE DESIGNATED CONTACTS FOR ACCREDITATION SUPPORT.
- CONTACTS:
 - STATE CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM DIRECTOR OR COORDINATOR
 - STATE EPIDEMIOLOGY OR SURVEILLANCE DIVISION LEAD
- WHAT TO DISCUSS: STATE-SPECIFIC STANDARDS, FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, AND ALIGNMENT WITH PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS.

D. NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE (NCI) AND OTHER FUNDING BODIES

- ROLE: SUPPORT THROUGH GRANTS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND POLICY GUIDANCE.
- CONTACTS:
 - NCI OFFICE OF CANCER CENTERS AND NETWORKS: INFO@CANCER.GOV
 - GRANT OFFICERS OR PROGRAM MANAGERS: FOUND VIA [GRANTS.GOV](https://grants.gov) OR AGENCY WEBSITES.

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS AND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT ACCREDITATION

BEYOND THE PRIMARY CONTACTS, CONSIDER ENGAGING WITH:

- PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND NETWORKS: SUCH AS THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION (APHA) OR THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANCER REGISTRIES (IACR) FOR PEER SUPPORT AND BEST PRACTICES.
- CONSULTANTS AND ACCREDITATION SPECIALISTS: EXTERNAL CONSULTANTS EXPERIENCED IN REGISTRY MANAGEMENT AND ACCREDITATION PROCESSES.
- LEGAL AND DATA SECURITY EXPERTS: TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH PRIVACY LAWS LIKE HIPAA.

HOW TO APPROACH THESE CONTACTS EFFECTIVELY

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IS CRITICAL. HERE ARE STRATEGIES TO OPTIMIZE ENGAGEMENT:

- PREPARE A CLEAR BRIEF: OUTLINE YOUR REGISTRY'S CURRENT STATUS, GOALS FOR ACCREDITATION, SPECIFIC QUESTIONS, AND TIMELINES.
- ESTABLISH CONTACT PROTOCOLS: INITIATE FORMAL COMMUNICATION VIA EMAIL, FOLLOWED BY SCHEDULED CALLS OR MEETINGS.
- PARTICIPATE IN WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS: MANY ORGANIZATIONS OFFER TRAINING SESSIONS THAT FACILITATE DIRECT INTERACTION.
- MAINTAIN DOCUMENTATION: KEEP RECORDS OF CORRESPONDENCE, DECISIONS, AND ACTION PLANS TO TRACK PROGRESS.

LEVERAGING EXISTING RESOURCES AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS

MANY ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDE RESOURCES TO STREAMLINE THE ACCREDITATION JOURNEY:

- NAACCR RESOURCES: CHECK THEIR WEBSITE FOR STANDARDS MANUALS, SUBMISSION PORTALS, AND TECHNICAL GUIDES.
- CDC AND NCI PROGRAMS: OFFER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES.
- STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: OFTEN PROVIDE TAILORED GUIDANCE AND MAY HAVE ACCREDITATION SUPPORT PROGRAMS.
- ONLINE FORUMS AND PEER NETWORKS: PLATFORMS FOR SHARING EXPERIENCES AND SOLUTIONS.

SUMMARY CHECKLIST: WHO TO CONTACT AND WHEN

STAGE	KEY CONTACTS	PURPOSE	CONTACT DETAILS
INITIAL PLANNING	REGISTRY DIRECTOR, QUALITY COORDINATOR	DEFINE GOALS, ASSESS READINESS	INTERNAL TEAM
DATA QUALITY STANDARDS	NAACCR CERTIFICATION OFFICE	UNDERSTAND STANDARDS, CERTIFICATION PROCESS	SUPPORT@NAACCR.ORG
TECHNICAL SUPPORT	NAACCR SUPPORT TEAM	DATA SUBMISSION, SOFTWARE ISSUES	SUPPORT@NAACCR.ORG
EXTERNAL REVIEW PREPARATION	STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT	COMPLIANCE WITH STATE REGULATIONS	STATE EPIDEMIOLOGY OFFICE
POST-APPLICATION	ACCREDITING BODIES (NAACCR, CoC)	SCHEDULING SITE VISITS, FEEDBACK	AS SPECIFIED IN CORRESPONDENCE

CONCLUSION: A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO ACCREDITATION

EMBARKING ON THE PATH TO ACCREDITATION IS A SIGNIFICANT STEP THAT UNDERSCORES A STATE CANCER REGISTRY'S DEDICATION TO EXCELLENCE AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT. SUCCESS HINGES ON STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT WITH THE RIGHT CONTACTS—INTERNAL LEADERS WHO CHAMPION QUALITY AND EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT SET THE STANDARDS.

BY ESTABLISHING CLEAR COMMUNICATION CHANNELS, LEVERAGING AVAILABLE RESOURCES, AND MAINTAINING A PROACTIVE APPROACH, A STATE CANCER REGISTRY CAN NAVIGATE THE COMPLEXITIES OF ACCREDITATION WITH CONFIDENCE. THE END RESULT NOT ONLY ENHANCES THE REGISTRY'S CREDIBILITY BUT ALSO CONTRIBUTES MEANINGFULLY TO THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER THROUGH IMPROVED DATA AND INFORMED DECISION-MAKING.

IN ESSENCE, THE KEY TO ACCREDITATION IS COLLABORATION. ENGAGING WITH THE RIGHT CONTACTS AT THE RIGHT TIME TRANSFORMS A CHALLENGING PROCESS INTO AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH, RECOGNITION, AND ULTIMATELY, BETTER HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR THE COMMUNITIES SERVED.

READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP? START BY REACHING OUT TO NAACCR AND YOUR STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, ASSEMBLE YOUR INTERNAL TEAM, AND SET CLEAR MILESTONES. ACCREDITATION ISN'T JUST A CERTIFICATION—IT'S A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN CANCER SURVEILLANCE.

[The State Cancer Registry Desires To Become Accredited Who Should They Contact](#)

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