

HOW DO THE NAPBC AND NQMBC WORK TOGETHER?

Both programs are wholly separate and do not exchange data or information. However, both have a similar interest in improving the care of breast cancer patients provided at breast centers. There is cross over on each organization's board of directors, and the leadership of both programs support each other's programs.

NAPBC

NAPBC created their original breast center components and some standards based on concepts of the National Consortium of Breast Centers description of comprehensive breast centers in 2005. The NAPBC allows data collected through the NQMBC™ to be used to meet standards relative to quality improvement studies but participation in NQMBC is not a requirement for NAPBC accreditation.

NQMBC™

The NQMBC™ enables sites to input their specific data and immediately receive comparative reports on specific metrics which may be used to satisfy standards in NAPBC surveys and/or provide insight on opportunities for quality improvement, real time.

In summary, the two initiatives are complementary to one another, but each has a different focus. The NAPBC focus is primarily on infrastructure and has a similar "feel" as the Commission on Cancer (CoC) survey process, while the NQMBC™ focus is on the specific metrics for quality care provided to patients by measuring a center's performance. While the NAPBC surveys once every three years, the NQMBC™ program allows frequent and immediate comparisons of their center's individual performance (their quality data points) both in aggregate and over time as well as comparisons of their performance (their quality data points) with other breast centers of similar size and demographics.

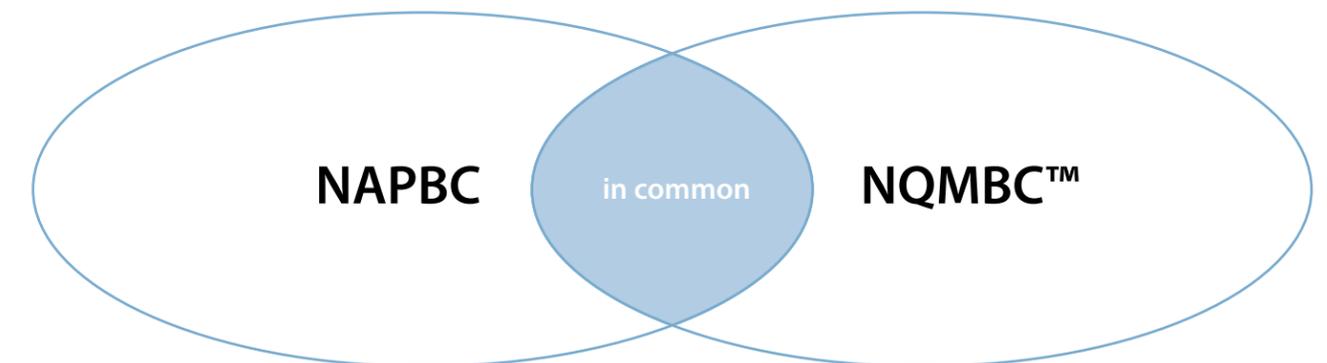


NCBC

National Consortium of Breast Centers, Inc.



Breast Center Quality Programs: Differences And Similarities



FEES AND BENEFITS TO CENTERS

	NAPBC	NQMBC™
Fees	\$5,000 annually	\$600 annually (NCBC facility membership)
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits Marketing to inform constituents about processes and services at centers • Free listing of accreditation on NAPBC web site • On-site Survey • Permission to use NAPBC logo and marketing materials in site advertising and on the sites web site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing to inform other NCBC constituents about outcomes and services provided at centers • Free listing on NCBC web site describing level of certification • Permission to use NQMBC™ logo and marketing materials in site advertising and on Centers web site. • Free receipt of the NCBC newsletter, Breast Center Bulletin • Assistance with marketing to member breast health professionals • The opportunity to advertise through the NCBC website • Access to the NCBC Information Exchange: Member resource for Breast Center Information.



BREAST CENTER QUALITY PROGRAMS: DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES

NAPBC and NQMBC™

Both NAPBC and the NCBC are dedicated to improving breast care quality. Yet there are differences between the National Consortium of Breast Centers' (NCBCs') Quality Certification Program (NQMBC), and the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers' (NAPBC) program and it is useful to clarify how they work with breast centers to drive and demonstrate quality care.

PROGRAM COMPARISONS

NAPBC

The NAPBC accredited their first breast center in 2008. The NAPBC has established 26 standards of the internal processes, policies and procedures of the breast center. Compliance with these standards is demonstrated by completing the SAR (survey application request) on line and passing an on-site survey of the breast center program. The NAPBC on-site survey evaluates the center based on responses and information provided through the SAR and a review of direct patient care. Standards cover the existence of multidisciplinary leadership, the use of treatment guidelines, the presence of a cancer registry/database, the availability of the spectrum of breast cancer treatment disciplines, the regular meeting of an interdisciplinary breast conference, and performance of outreach and education programs. These comprise the interdisciplinary infrastructure of the breast center. Although most of the standards are structural in nature, there are several process measures as well. Standards also address quality; requiring centers to conduct at least two quality studies every year, as well as requiring that the center enroll at least 2% of newly diagnosed breast cancer patients into clinical trials every year. There are specific quality metrics required to be submitted annually, including the portion of cancers treated with breast conservation, and answers to the three NQF questions relative to timeliness of care regarding radiation, chemotherapy and endocrine therapy.

NQMBC™

The National Quality Measures for Breast Centers (NQMBC™) is a quality program sponsored by the NCBC which has gathered breast center performance data since it was established in 2005. The NQMBC is a web-based program of thirty-one performance measures that evaluate breast center performance. The NQMBC enables Centers to evaluate their specific outcomes data using 31 nationally recognized metrics for quality breast care. For any of the 31 measures, this web-based quality program allows each center to immediately compare their performance with other like centers across the country or in their geographic area. Each center is asked to examine their own data over a specific time period and then use that data to seek opportunities for quality improvement and compare their outcomes with other centers. Results can be filtered to allow comparisons between centers with like services. The performance data covers the entire journey of breast center care from appointment scheduling, to needle biopsy, to pathology and surgical treatment (including reconstruction), as well as use of chemotherapy, radiation therapy & endocrine therapy treatments and their potential side effects. The NQMBC™ looks at the outcomes delivered through quality care delivery, rather than the establishment of the structure of the program.

METHODS TO ACCREDIT / CERTIFY

NAPBC

The NAPBC is founded and standards were developed primarily by the American College of Surgeons. The NAPBC reviewers are responsible for monitoring information delivered via the SAR. Their surveyors conduct an on-site visit to the center. The surveyor will attend the sites' breast interdisciplinary conference, examine all the structural details of the center, and review 20 breast cancer patient medical records and ten benign patient records. They will interview and meet the principals of the breast center and discuss their review. The survey lasts one day and is repeated once every three years, unless more frequent visits are necessary due to deficiencies in meeting standards.

NQMBC™

The quality indicators were created, based upon research initially performed by The Health Care Advisory Board (Oncology Round Table) based in Washington DC, the NQF and a comprehensive panel of specialists from the NCBC. The NQMBC™ metric submission is centered on a web-based easy to use data submission program. The HIPAA compliant system enables centers to enter data into a 21 CFR complaint data base. An immediate comparison is available in numeric and graphic forms for all quality measures for which data is submitted. The center will immediately see how they compare a) with the aggregate of all centers that provide similar services and b) with centers that are more closely similar to theirs by location, by volume or by patient mix. Submissions for quality measures require at least one month's data to be entered and centers are required to submit data at least once a year to maintain certification.

AWARDS PROVIDED

NAPBC

The NAPBC provides a Breast Center Accreditation with an award valid for up to three years, the requirements to meet standards are the same for all applying centers. There are three levels of accreditation; three-year full accreditation, contingency accreditation (deficiencies found must be corrected within a year) or accreditation deferred. Accredited centers are listed on the NAPBC website.

NQMBC™

The NQMBC™ provides three types of certification, based on the type of breast center applying for certification. The types of centers that are eligible to apply are: Screening breast centers, Diagnostic Breast Centers, Clinical Breast Centers or Treatment breast Centers and Comprehensive breast Centers. Centers only provide data and metrics that are applicable to their center type. Once information is received from the center the following awards may be provided: a) Certified Participant (one who has completed needed documentation, demographics and answered several questions), b) Certified Quality Breast Center (one who has completed most of the quality questions for their type of breast center and performed well), and c) Certified Breast Center of Excellence (one who has completed over 90% of the quality questions and surpassed a level of quality overall). These centers are listed on the NQMBC web site along with their award category.

COSTS TO BREAST CENTERS

NAPBC

As of 2018, the NAPBC charges \$5,000 per year for each center surveyed. Although the prior price was paid once every three years, they recently changed to an annual charge. Site performance feedback occurs after the site survey verbally by the surveyor as well as in a written final report that is received after a remote panel review of the survey results.

NQMBC™

The NQMBC™ has no charge for participation in NQMBC, but the site must be a member of NCBC, which costs \$600 annually. Access to the web-based program may occur at any time day or night. It is recommended to enter data every six months for ongoing quality assessment. The site can review their data and obtain reports at any time while they are certified.