

Radiation Oncology Accreditation in the USA

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Definition from Wikipedia

- **Accreditation** is the process in which certification of competency, authority, or credibility is presented
- **Hospital accreditation:** A self-assessment and external peer assessment process used by health care organizations to accurately assess their level of performance in relation to **established standards** and to implement ways to **continuously improve**

Why getting accredited?

- Administrators
 - I need something to advertise our program
 - All other Rad Onc centers in town already got accredited
 - Is our staffing level appropriate?
 - How about our Policy and Procedures?
- Radiation Oncologists
 - Is our technology up to date?
 - How about the quality assurance program?

Reasons by Medical Physicists

- We need to hire more physicists
- How is my QA activity compared to national standard?
- How about the safety procedures?



My boss told me to do it

Data Gathering Process

- Information were gathered from the websites of the three accreditation organizations
- Questionnaire were then sent out by email to confirm or add the information
- Acknowledgement for their response
 - ACR: Michael Ray
 - ACRO: Shannon Sperati
 - ASTRO: Samantha Dawes

Rad Onc Accreditations in the USA

- ACR: Radiation Oncology Practice Accreditation (ROPA)
- ACRO: Practice Accreditation Program (PAP)
- ASTRO: Accreditation Program for Excellence (APEX)

When was the accreditation first offered?

ACR	ACRO	ASTRO
1986	1995	2014

Cost and Length of Accreditation

Organization	ACR	ACRO	ASTRO
Main	\$9500	\$8750	\$14000
Satellite	\$3000	\$3500	\$5000
Travel Cost of Surveyors	Included	Not included, bill separately	Included
Years	3	3	4

Profession of On-site Surveyors

ACR	ACRO	ASTRO
Radiation Oncologist Medical Physicist	Administrator Medical Physicist	Radiation Oncologist Medical Physicist
	<p>*Multiple physician (typically 8) perform the chart review. Physician are organized into disease-site specific teams. Chart reviews are performed remotely using an encrypted web interface.</p>	<p>*For very large facilities, may send an additional surveyor (dosimetrist, therapist, or another physicist)</p>

How Long is the Process (in months)?

Organization	ACR	ACRO	ASTRO
Application	3-6	1-2	6-9*
Survey and Report	2-3	3	3
Total	5-9	4-5	9-12

* Self-assessment is rigorous

Total Number of Accredited Centers (as early 2018)

ACR	ACRO	ASTRO
723	193	73 (221 in the program)

ACR in Fiscal Year 2017

- Received Applications
 - 29 initial and 183 renewals
 - 15% increase from previous year
- Decisions
 - 92 (66%) accredited
 - 43 (31%) deferred
 - 1 denied
 - 1 Mini-Audit
 - 3 Scheduled On-Site Surveys (SOSS)

ACRO in 2017

- Full: 18%
- Provisional: 79%
- Denied: 3%
- Most practices moved **from Provisional to Full** accreditation when they provide documentation of meeting the Required Corrective Actions.

ASTRO

- 65% accredited
- 35% deferred
- no denials

What's next?

- ACR: Dr. Maria Chan
- ACRO: Dr. Matthew Podgorsak
- ASTRO: Dr. Sean Zhang
- SRS/SBRT Specialty: Dr. Stan Benedict