

## 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**

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### 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?

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## Reasons by Medical Physicists

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



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## 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

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## Rad Onc Accreditations in the USA

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

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When was the accreditation first offered?

ACR	ACRO	ASTRO
1986	1995	2014

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### 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

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### Profession of On-site Surveyors

ACR	ACRO	ASTRO
Radiation Oncologist Medical Physicist	Administrator Medical Physicist	Radiation Oncologist Medical Physicist
	*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.	*For very large facilities, may send an additional surveyor (dosimetrist, therapist, or another physicist)

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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

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Total Number of Accredited Centers  
(as early 2018)

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

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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)

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### 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.

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### ASTRO

- 65% accredited
- 35% deferred
- no denials

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### What's next?

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

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