

Accreditation Guidelines for an Integrated Network Breast Program (INBP)

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Eligibility for Integrated Network Breast Program (INBP) Applicants

The National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC) [Integrated Network Breast Program \(INBP\)](#) accreditation model is an opportunity for breast care programs to work together on NAPBC accreditation.

To be eligible for INBP accreditation, all participating sites must:

- Be overseen by the same centralized governance structure/board and CEO
- Be wholly owned by the same single entity (ownership cannot be between the facility and a joint venture)
- Be eligible to pursue NAPBC accreditation as an individual program
- Maintain Commission on Cancer (CoC) accreditation
- Be in good standing with the NAPBC, including:
 - All deficiencies from each site's last NAPBC site visit are resolved
 - Accreditation fees due to the American College of Surgeons are current
- Maintain a current Business Associate/Data Use Agreement (BA/DUA) with the American College of Surgeons (ACS)

CoC Accreditation Requirement

All NAPBC programs participating in an INBP must be accredited by the CoC first. All CoC categories are eligible to participate in NAPBC accreditation and an INBP. To participate in an INBP, it is not required that the affiliated CoC program also participate in a CoC network.

Compliance with INBP Standards

All INBPs must comply with the requirements outlined in [Optimal Resource for Breast Care \(2027 Standards\)](#), including any network-specific modifications identified within individual standards.

Standards may be revised periodically. Programs should regularly review:

- [Cancer Program News](#)
- The NAPBC Change Log, available via the Resources section in [QPort](#)
- The 2027 Standards FAQ

Interest Survey

Organizations that meet the requirements of an INBP should review these guidelines to better understand the eligibility requirements, accreditation process, and anticipated implementation timeline. It's anticipated that the INBP application will be available in mid-2027 for programs requesting an initial INBP site visit to take place in 2028.

In the interim, please complete the [INBP Interest Survey](#). Survey responses will help NAPBC better understand the level of interest, communicate important updates, and inform ongoing development of accreditation resources and support materials.

Only those with serious intent to pursue an INBP should submit the survey.

Interim INBP Application Process

Typically, INBPs with at least one currently accredited NAPBC program will submit the INBP application through the Quality Portal (QPort) 18-24 months before the anticipated site visit date.

The QPort INBP application is currently in development and is expected to launch in mid-2027. Programs interested in forming a network may begin participating as an INBP, including compliance with the INBP standard requirements, starting January 1, 2027.

Once the QPort INBP application becomes available in mid-2027, sites that have begun implementing the network standards may request an initial INBP site visit for 2028.

Sites interested in an initial INBP site visit in 2029 will also apply through the QPort INBP application when it becomes available in mid-2027. These sites will use 2028 as their year of compliance. Additional application details will be communicated when the application is launched within QPort.

As part of the application process, the network must complete and submit the [Network Ownership Confirmation](#) form.

After the INBP application is submitted, ACS Cancer Programs Staff will:

- Review and process the application.
- Cancel any individual site visits scheduled for the upcoming year in anticipation of the site's participation in the network.
- Set an approximate due month for the anticipated network site visit.
 - If a new network is formed and begins the network January 1, 2028, the individual sites will be checked to see if any have site visits due in 2028. If needed, the individual site will be removed from the site visit scheduling process. Then, a tentative network site visit will be set for Q2 2029.
- Send a network confirmation notification to the INBP leadership indicated on the application.

After receiving the network confirmation, the INBP will:

- Receive an initial accreditation fee invoice for the INBP, which includes fees for all sites participating in the INBP.
- Receive full access to the Quality Portal which includes access to:
 - Complete the Site Profile
 - Access the Pre-Review Questionnaire (PRQ) when available
 - Submit four preferred dates for initial INBP site visit, when requested
 - Manage QPort access and roles. The [Primary Contact](#) may add, remove or update existing roles by accessing QPort/Site Contacts.

Accreditation Fees

- The INBP will receive a single invoice, representing a cumulative accreditation fee for all sites participating in the network.

- The invoice will be emailed to the designated [Billing Contact](#).
- A network invoice will be issued each year and represent all sites participating in the network.
- No refunds or credits will be issued for any funds previously paid by the individual sites.

Site Visit Scheduling and Preparation

New networks are scheduled for a site visit approximately three to six months after completing one full calendar year of activity as a network. Example: A network beginning January 1, 2027, would generally be scheduled for a site visit during the second quarter of 2028.

Within QPort, networks will submit four preferred dates for the initial site visit. When submitting preferred dates, please note the following:

- The PRQ will need to be submitted no later than 60 days before the site visit.
- All initial NAPBC network site visits will be held in-person with a NAPBC site reviewer trained in INBPs.
- At least one representative from each participating site within the INBP must attend the site visit.

Adding Sites to an Existing Network

Once an INBP is accredited, it may add accredited or non-accredited sites to its network. To be eligible, the individual site must meet all eligibility requirements outlined in these guidelines.

Adding an Existing NAPBC-Accredited Site

An individually accredited NAPBC site may be added to an existing INBP.

- The network will retain its previously established site visit date
- The individual program must participate in the network for at least one full calendar year before the next established site visit date
- The individual program must be added to the network through QPort by July 31st of the year before it begins participating in the network.

For example: If the network's next site visit is due October 2030, the individually accredited site must be added to the network, via QPort, no later than July 31, 2028. It must begin participating in the network on January 1, 2029.

Adding a Non-Accredited Site

A new site that is not currently accredited may be added to an existing INBP.

- A non-accredited site must notify NAPBC of the intention to participate in the network 18 months before the network's next established site visit date.
- Each non-accredited site must complete the online application to have a NAPBC record established.
- The site must be able to demonstrate **compliance** with all of the [Optimal Resources for Breast Care \(2027 Standards\)](#), including network requirements.

Next Established Network Site Visit Date	Notify NAPBC (no later than)	Complete Application (no later than)	Year of Standard Compliance
2031	July 31 st 2029	January 31 st 2030	2030
2032	July 31 st 2030	January 31 st 2031	2031

Next Established Network Site Visit Date	Notify NAPBC (no later than)	Complete Application (no later than)	Year of Standard Compliance
2033	July 31 st 2031	January 31 st 2032	2032

Whether the network retains its previously established site visit date will be dependent upon what point the non-accredited site is added to the network.

- *Adding a non-accredited program at the network's next site visit*
 - A network may choose to add the new program during its regularly scheduled reaccreditation visit.
 - The new program must participate in the network for the full calendar year before the next established site visit date.
- *Adding a non-accredited program mid-cycle*
 - If the non-accredited site is added in year 1 or 2 of the network's cycle, a site visit will be required off cycle.
 - If the visit is conducted off cycle, subsequent site visits will then be based on the new site visit date and occur three years from the new site visit date.

For example: If the network's next site visit is due in July 2032 and it adds a non-accredited site effective January 1, 2030, the next network site visit must occur after the new site has participated in the network for one full calendar year. To accommodate the new program, an off-cycle site visit would be scheduled for approximately Q2 2031. Once full accreditation is awarded, the 2029 site visit date will mark the end of the shortened accreditation cycle, and the next site visit will be due in 2034.

Site Visit Outcomes for Initial INBPs

A site visit for an INBP undergoing its initial network site visit may result in three outcomes:

- **Accredited:** Assigned when there are zero non-compliant ratings during the site visit process. The INBP will be shown on the Find an Accredited Program website, and a certificate of accreditation is provided.
- **Not Accredited-Corrective Action Required:** Assigned when a new INBP, even when consisting of currently accredited programs, receives a non-compliant rating on three or fewer standards during the site visit process. The INBP does not show up on the Find an Accredited Program website until the non-compliant standards are resolved and is given one year to resolve the non-compliant standards.
- **Not Accredited:** Assigned when a new INBP receives four or more non-compliant ratings during the initial site visit process. The INBP no longer has access to the Quality Portal. It does not appear on the Find an Accredited Program website. The INBP may reapply as an initial applicant program after one calendar year of compliance with all applicable standards.

An initial site visit for INBP that results in an Accreditation Status of **Not Accredited-Corrective Action Required** or **Not Accredited** will impact all individual sites within the network, including those that were previously accredited. Please review the full definitions for all Accreditation Awards in the [Optimal Resources for Breast Care \(2027 Standards\)](#).

Definitions

Integrated Network Breast Program (INBP)

An Integrated Network Breast Program (INBP) is a group of entities that voluntarily select and participate in the National Accreditation Program for Breast Care (NAPBC) INBP category. The INBP offers integrated and comprehensive cancer care services and is overseen by a centralized governance structure/board and CEO.

All participating sites are independent, but the network is owned by a single entity (wholly owned, single owner) and the individual hospitals are working together on their NAPBC accreditation.

Quality Portal (QPort)

The Quality Portal (QPort) is a standard online system for managing accreditation program activities.

Breast Program Director

Role is assigned in the Quality Portal (QPort) and has access to all QPort sections. Requirements for the Breast Program Director are outlined in Standard 2.2.

The NAPBC Contact

Role is assigned in QPort and has access to all QPort sections.

Primary Contact

Designation is added to an existing role (BPD or NAPBC Contact) and serves as the primary liaison with the NAPBC. The role designated as Primary Contact will have access to all QPort sections, is the only role able to add and remove QPort users and must maintain contact information for the site.

Billing Contact

Role is assigned in QPort and is authorized to receive the invoice for accreditation fees.

Report Viewer

This role is authorized through the CoC program's QPort to access data submitted to the Rapid Cancer Reporting System (RCRS) by its CoC accredited program. The Report Viewer role is managed by the CoC accredited program aligned with your program and is not viewable within the INBP section of QPort. Access is granted by the CoC hospital's Primary Contact.