

Medical Oncology Quality Agenda Themes and Corresponding Society Activities*

ABMS Standard 18, Development of a Quality Agenda: In collaboration with stakeholder organizations, Member Boards must facilitate the process for developing an agenda for improving the quality of care in their specialties. One area of emphasis must involve eliminating healthcare disparities.

- Member Boards are expected to support a quality agenda in alignment with their specialty-at-large.
- Member Boards must collaborate with key organizations, including specialty societies and other quality organizations, to identify areas in which patient care can be improved, review the areas and define strategies to improve care.

Problem	Drivers	Relevant Society Strategies
AIM 1: Addressing health equity/access to care.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a lack of consistency in the quality of oncology care provided for various populations due to factors such as socioeconomic issues, geographic region, and cultural and systemic factors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure more diversity in Clinical Trial Enrollment by reducing geographic barriers and addressing potential distrust of enrollment process. • Conduct food insecurity assessments as they impact overall health of patients. • Increase access to all preventive screening opportunities in underserved/rural locations. • Address transportation challenges for lower income patients. • Improve patient access to germline and somatic testing. • Develop strategies to overcome language barriers for oncology patients. • Lessen the restrictions for caregivers currently in place regarding coverage and responsibilities, making care more cost-effective and accessible for all patients. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education delivered at ASCO Annual Meeting. Examples from 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cancer Care in Times of Crisis and in Immigrant and Displaced Populations ○ Geriatric Oncology: The Coming of Age of a Specialty – Its Distinct Principles, Practice and Science in a Global Context ○ The Forgotten Symptom: Assessment and Management of Cognitive Impairment Across the Age Spectrum in Cancer Care ○ Global Access to Quality Oncology Practice: The Role and Impact of Best Practices Model • Education delivered at Quality Care Symposium Example from 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When Disaster Strikes: Maintaining Cancer Care During Catastrophic Events • ASCO two-year learning collaborative (June 2025 – May 2027) on improving clinical trial enrollment • ASCO updated the ASCO/Community Oncology Alliance (COA) Oncology Medical Home Standards to include geriatric assessment and management; ASCO developing a quality measure for geriatric assessment and evaluating inclusion within its ASCO Certified practice certification standards.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASCO conducting a two-year learning collaborative (June 2026 – May 2028) on improving patient access to germline and somatic testing. • ASCO publishes multiple guideline adaptations for resource-constrained areas: ASCO Global Guidelines: Methods and Opportunities
Problem	Drivers	Relevant Society Strategies
AIM 2: Improve communication with patients.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor communication with patients can lead to a multitude of issues including delayed diagnoses, incorrect treatments, increased patient anxiety and mistrust in clinicians, and can negatively impact overall health outcomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure overall patient education materials are appropriate for patient population, including health literacy and numeracy, as well as language preference. • Create appropriate opportunities for patient-centered Goals of Care Discussions. • Engage early in both Palliative and End-of-Life Discussions. • Educate patients on Survivorship Care Programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education delivered at ASCO Annual Meeting. Example from 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What Matters Most to Patients: Reframing Clinical Trial Endpoints • Education delivered at Quality Care Symposium. Example from 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Palliative Care in Oncology Version 2.0: Innovative Models in Action • Goals of Care, Palliative Care and Survivorship Care included in the ASCO/COA Oncology Medical Home Standards and evaluated within ASCO Certified. • ASCO recently updated its End-of-Life measure set, used within federal, commercial and ASCO programs. • ASCO published a guideline in this area: Patient-Clinician Communication: American Society of Clinical Oncology Consensus Guideline • ACS and ASCO: Celebrating a Year of Bringing High-Quality Cancer Information to Patients
Problem	Drivers	Relevant Society Strategies
AIM 3: Improve understanding of medication and treatment options.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar to communication challenges, patients are often overwhelmed and unclear on the variety of medication and treatment options available to treat specific cancers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure a multidisciplinary approach for oral oncolytic therapy medication management. • Highlight the importance of oncology treatment pathways for patients. • Document chemotherapy safety protocols. • Educate on the importance of ED/hospitalization avoidance. • Develop triage pathway processes to rapidly address patient issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education delivered at Quality Care Symposium. Example from 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partners in Care: Building Bridges Through Shared Decisions • Oncology treatment pathways, chemotherapy safety protocols, ED/hospitalization avoidance and triage pathways are included in the ASCO/COA Oncology Medical Home Standards and evaluated within ASCO Certified.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disseminate the importance of DPYD testing before administration of fluoropyrimidine.• Investigate the use of AI in providing additional understanding of treatment and medication options.• Provide communications in multi-faceted ways including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Initial conversation○ Handouts/tutorials○ Follow up conversation soon after to reconfirm understanding.○ If pharmacists or other APPs are part of the care team, connect patient with them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ASCO Guidelines include detailed information about treatment options that also include considerations when decision-making is shared with patients, including cost and quality-of-life impacts: ASCO Guidelines Highlights the Importance of Shared Decision-Making Regarding the Use of Adjuvant Therapy in Stage II Colon Cancer; ASCO Clinical Notice: Reaffirming the Necessity for DPYD Genotyping in Fluoropyrimidine Therapy
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**Please submit any comments or questions you may have to StrategicAlliances@abim.org. Thank you!*