Enhancing Data Systems to Improve the Quality of Cancer Care

National Cancer Policy Board

Some individuals with cancer do not receive care known to be effective for their condition, however, the nature and extent of care-related problems are not well established. In their 1999 report, *Ensuring Quality Cancer Care*, the National Cancer Policy Board identified data systems as key to improving the quality of cancer care. The Board’s follow-up report, *Enhancing Data Systems to Improve the Quality of Cancer Care*:  

- describes attributes of an ideal cancer care data system,
- reviews the strengths and limitations of available cancer data systems to answer questions about the quality of cancer care,
- presents case studies to illustrate how current cancer data systems are meeting the needs of healthcare systems, and
- reviews methods used by health services researchers to assess quality of care using available data systems.

The board makes recommendations on steps to improve the quality of cancer care that fall into 3 areas:

1. Enhance key elements of the data system infrastructure: quality-of-care measures, cancer registries and databases, data collection technologies, and analytic capacity.
2. Expand support for analyses of quality of cancer care using existing data systems.
3. Monitor the effectiveness of data systems to promote quality improvement within health systems.

*Enhancing Data Systems to Improve the Quality of Cancer Care* will be an indispensable resource to organizations addressing quality of care issues, cancer care administrators, cancer registries, health services researchers, research sponsors, consumer organizations, professional organizations, federal and state policy makers, and academic program directors.

---

*Enhancing Data Systems to Improve the Quality of Cancer Care* is available for $30.00 for sale from the National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Box 285, Washington, DC 20055; call (800) 624-6242 or (202) 334-3313 (in the Washington metropolitan area), or visit the NAP’s on-line bookstore at www.nap.edu.

For more information about the Institute of Medicine, visit the IOM home page at www.iom.edu. The full text of *Enhancing Data Systems to Improve the Quality of Cancer Care* is available on line at www.nap.edu/readingroom.