TO: <leadership or decision-maker>

**Sample letter from radiation oncology professional for APEx® participation**



FROM: <interested radiation oncology professionals>

RE: Accreditation through ASTRO’s APEx - Accreditation Program for Excellence®

The American Society for Radiation Oncology’s (ASTRO) APEx - Accreditation Program for Excellence evaluates radiation oncology facilities in areas that contribute to the delivery of high-quality, safe patient care. APEx supports quality improvement with an emphasis on a team-based approach and each team members’ role in the patient care process.

ASTRO created APEx in response to the Target Safely campaign, to serve as an impartial, third party, peer review and evaluation program for U.S. radiation oncology practices. ASTRO leveraged the insights from *Safety is No Accident,* ASTRO white papers, consensus statements and AAPM Task Group reports to create the Program Standards that govern APEx today. The Program Standards and associated evidence indicators make APEx a unique program in that it provides a rigorous, yet transparent, clearly defined roadmap to accreditation. We believe that APEx is a powerful tool, and we would like to pursue this accreditation to measure and drive quality improvement in our practice.

APEx accreditation would provide us with the building blocks for a robust quality management system, allowing our practice to assess performance against an objective external standard and improve our collaborative culture. The APEx program is unique in that it provides practices, like ours, with the opportunity to complete a self-study on current compliance prior to the facility visit. Using a modern, radiation oncology-specific quality tool such as APEx will provide the foundation to increase our patient safety, team collaboration and build a sustainable method for continuous quality improvement using our own practice’s data.

APEx provides many benefits in addition to the formal accreditation process, including a Self-Assessment Practice Quality Improvement (PQI) template that outlines how radiation oncologists and medical physicists can use APEx towards fulfilling the Part IV PQI Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements from the American Board of Radiology (ABR).

Three-quarters of APEx-accredited practices are community-based, with the remaining quarter academic, highlighting that the program is relevant to our setting. Gopal Bajaj, MD, MBA, FASTRO President of Radiation Oncology Associates stated "In an ever-advancing landscape of radiation therapy delivery, contemporary practices need an accreditation process that facilitates implementing these advances in the safest, most streamlined and highest quality manner. APEx provides the tools and framework to do this seamlessly."

I/We believe that APEx accreditation would show our community, patients and competitors that we are committed to a strong, ongoing safety culture and provide the highest quality of care. I/We trust that our practice already espouses these characteristics and APEx recognition would let others know. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,   
<NAME>