

# ANCO FAX News

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Vol. 10, No. 1

January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011

## INTRODUCTION

The *ANCO FAX News* focuses on ANCO's core activities—advocacy, clinical and professional education, membership benefits, and *Association* news. While membership mailings, FAX broadcasts, and ListServ postings continue, the *ANCO FAX News* summarizes this information in a regular forum of important news to members. Contact the ANCO office for additional information regarding any item published in the *ANCO FAX News* or to contribute items.

**The *ANCO FAX News* is FAXed to Individual Member practices, and e-mailed to Group, Institutional, and Corporate (contacts) Members.** The next regular *ANCO FAX News* will be published on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Send your comments or contributions to ANCO, P.O. Box 151109, San Rafael, CA 94915-1109; Voice: (415) 472-3960; FAX: (415) 472-3961; execdir@anco-online.org.

**The *ANCO FAX News* has information for every member of your practice or organization. Pass it along!**

- Physician Members
- Nurses & Office Managers
- Office Staff
- Colleagues & Representatives

## ADVOCACY

*[Editor's Note: ANCO meets regularly with national, regional, and statewide organizations to discuss issues of importance to hematology/oncology practices and people living with cancer. We continually seek input from*

*members on agenda items for these meetings. Send your issues to the ANCO office.]*

**ACCC, ASCO, ASH, and National Legislative & Regulatory Issues**

*[Editor's Note: ANCO is a member of the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) and a state/regional affiliate of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO).*

*ANCO and the American Society of Hematology (ASH) share information with members. We regularly participate with these organizations on matters of national importance to cancer care.]*

**Congress passed HR4994 that will delay for one year scheduled cuts to physicians' Medicare payments, blocking a 25% payment cut that would have taken effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>.** The bill extends 2010 Medicare reimbursement rates until 2012. On December 29<sup>th</sup>, CMS released the final conversion factor for 2011 and implementing instructions for the 12-month SGR "fix" enacted

The *Association of Northern California Oncologists* (ANCO) is an association of hematologists/oncologists dedicated to promoting high professional standards of cancer care by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas, data, and knowledge. The material contained in the *ANCO FAX News* is intended as general information for ANCO members. Because diagnostic, treatment, contracting, coding, and billing decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis, any such information contained in the *ANCO FAX News* may not apply in any given situation. Members are encouraged to contact their own consultants or advisors to obtain specific advice on matters relating to contracting, coding, and billing. The information contained in the *ANCO FAX News* should not be used as a substitute for such advice.

in the *Medicare and Medicaid Extenders Act of 2010* (MMEA). The final conversion factor for 2011 of \$33.9764 is not the same as the 2010 conversion factor to maintain budget neutrality due to the re-basing of the *Medicare Economic Index*. However, revaluation of RVUs results in an approximate 1% increase in the reimbursement of medical oncology services and neither an increase/decrease in radiation oncology services.

**The 2011 HCPCS codes took effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>.** Some chemotherapy drug codes have been added; some have been eliminated; and, some have been changed. The following codes have been deleted from HCPCS: J9062, J9080, J9090, J9091, J9092, J9093, J9094, J9095, J9096, J9097, J9110, J9140, J9290, J9291, J9350, J9375, J9380. Many of these deleted codes represent multiple dosages for the same drug and you will notice that now there is generally only one J-code for each drug. There are also several new codes for 2011: J9302, ofatumumab, 10mg; J9307, pralatrexate, 1mg; J9315, romidepsin, 1mg; J9351, topotecan, 0.1 mg (note new J-code dosage for this medication). Visit [www.cms.gov/HCPCSReleaseCodeSets/ANHCPCS/list.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.cms.gov/HCPCSReleaseCodeSets/ANHCPCS/list.asp#TopOfPage) for more information.

**CMS has introduced a webpage focused on providing information and resources related to the upcoming transition from ICD-9 to ICD-10.** The webpage also includes information on CMS Version 5010, as well as a calendar of CMS-sponsored calls designed to help keep all affected parties up-to-date as the transition moves forward heading into 2012 (Version 5010) and 2013 (ICD-10). More information can be found at [www.cms.gov/ICD10/01\\_Overview.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.cms.gov/ICD10/01_Overview.asp#TopOfPage). **CMS will host a national provider teleconference entitled *Preparing for ICD-10 Implementation in 2011*** on Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM PT. The teleconference will focus on the transition to ICD-10, implementation planning, and preparation strategies. You must register for the call by January 11<sup>th</sup> at [www.cms.gov/ICD10/Tel10/itemdetail.asp?filterType=none&filterByDID=0&sortByDID=1&sortOrder=descending&itemID=CMS1242831&intNumPerPage=10](http://www.cms.gov/ICD10/Tel10/itemdetail.asp?filterType=none&filterByDID=0&sortByDID=1&sortOrder=descending&itemID=CMS1242831&intNumPerPage=10). A series of webinars on 5010 preparedness is being offered at

[www.getready5010.org](http://www.getready5010.org).

**CMS's *Physician Quality Reporting Initiative* (PQRI) is now the *Physician Quality Reporting System* (PQRS).** PQRS provides a financial incentive for eligible professionals to participate in a voluntary quality-reporting program. Eligible professionals who successfully report a designated set of quality measures on claims may earn a lump sum bonus payment of 1% of Medicare *Physician Fee Schedule* charges for 2011. This bonus decreases in 2012 through 2014 to .5% and becomes a -1.5% payment adjustment in 2015. CMS has posted updated PQRS information at [www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI). ASCO's PQRS website ([www.asco.org/ASCOv2/Public+Policy/Policy+Issues/Medicare+%26+Quality+Care/Regulations+%26+Resources/Information/Physician+Quality+Reporting+Initiative+%28PQRI%29+General+Information?cpsextcurrchannel=1](http://www.asco.org/ASCOv2/Public+Policy/Policy+Issues/Medicare+%26+Quality+Care/Regulations+%26+Resources/Information/Physician+Quality+Reporting+Initiative+%28PQRI%29+General+Information?cpsextcurrchannel=1)) includes relevant links and oncology-specific information.

**CMS's *Electronic Prescribing (eRx) Incentive Program* webpage at [www.cms.hhs.gov/ERxIncentive](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ERxIncentive) includes updated eRx educational products.** E-prescribing will pay 1% of the Medicare *Physician Fee Schedule* charges in 2011. Starting in 2012 (and based on eRx activities in 2011), physicians not using e-prescribing will be penalized. For additional oncology-specific information, visit ASCO's e-prescribing website at [www.asco.org/ASCOv2/Practice+%26+Guidelines/Practice+Management+%26+Reimbursement/Electronic+Health+Records+%28EHR%29/Understanding+the+Government+Incentive+Programs/Incentive+Program+for+E-Prescribing](http://www.asco.org/ASCOv2/Practice+%26+Guidelines/Practice+Management+%26+Reimbursement/Electronic+Health+Records+%28EHR%29/Understanding+the+Government+Incentive+Programs/Incentive+Program+for+E-Prescribing).

**CMS will be hosting a national call on the 2011 PQRS and the eRx programs** on Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30AM PT. There will be a presentation on the programs as well as an open question and answer period. You must register for the call at [www.eventsvc.com/palmettogba/011811](http://www.eventsvc.com/palmettogba/011811). Registration will close on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30AM PT.

**CMS and the *Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology* (ONC) announced the availability of registration for the Medicare and Medicaid electronic health record (EHR) incentive programs** starting January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Visit [www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/20\\_RegistrationandAttestation.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/20_RegistrationandAttestation.asp#TopOfPage). CMS's three fact sheets summarizing meaningful use of EHRs and the Medicare and Medicaid EHR incentive programs are available at the EHR incentives website ([www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms](http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms)). For additional oncology-specific information, visit ASCO's EHR website at [www.asco.org/ASCOv2/Practice+%26+Guidelines/Practice+Management+%26+Reimbursement/Electronic+Health+Records+%28EHR%29](http://www.asco.org/ASCOv2/Practice+%26+Guidelines/Practice+Management+%26+Reimbursement/Electronic+Health+Records+%28EHR%29).

**ANCO continues to work towards ensuring that people with cancer have access to quality cancer care in the community.** Practice resources are available at [www.anco-online.org/mma.html](http://www.anco-online.org/mma.html), including:

- ASCO's *Adapting to Changes in Medicare 2011 PowerPoint* presentation.
- 2011 quarterly updates to the *Average Sales Price (ASP) Medicare Part B drugs* pricing file.

Members may also submit an inquiry to ASCO's *Coding & Reimbursement Hotline* at [www.asco.org/billingcoding](http://www.asco.org/billingcoding) > member. You must enter your ASCO member ID to send your inquiry.

### **CMA, MOASC, and State Legislative & Regulatory Issues**

[*Editor's Note: ANCO and the Medical Oncology Association of Southern California (MOASC) are members of the California Medical Association's (CMA) Council on Legislation, House of Delegates, and specialty delegation. ANCO and MOASC coordinate advocacy activities in California.*]

The *California Oncology Political Action Committee* (or CalCancerPAC), formed by ANCO and MOASC, supports candidates sensitive to the needs of hematologists/oncologists and people living with cancer in California. ANCO membership dues include a contribution to CalCancerPAC.

*CMA Practice Resources (CPR)* is a monthly e-mail bulletin from CMA's *Center for Economic Services* that is full of tips and tools to help physicians and their office staff improve practice efficiency and viability. Subscribing to CPR is

free and open to anyone, but CMA membership is necessary to access the resources, toolkits, forms, and tools that are located on the members-only CMA website. Visit [www.cmanet.org/news/cpr](http://www.cmanet.org/news/cpr) to subscribe.

### **Palmetto/J1MAC, DHCS/MediCal, & Private Payers**

[*Editor's Note: ANCO communicates regularly with Palmetto/J1MAC that administers the J1MAC (Medicare) in California, and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) that administers DHCS/MediCal in California.*]

**Palmetto/J1MAC has posted the California Medicare Physician Fee Schedules** at [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/docsCat/Providers-Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B-Publications-Fee%20Schedules?open&Cat=Medicare%20Physician%20Fee%20Schedules%20and%20Updates](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/docsCat/Providers-Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B-Publications-Fee%20Schedules?open&Cat=Medicare%20Physician%20Fee%20Schedules%20and%20Updates).

**Palmetto/J1MAC has published a revised *Local Coverage Determination (LCD) for Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT; L 28272)*.** For more information, please visit [www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/8CBSNU2143?opendocument](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/8CBSNU2143?opendocument). In addition, Palmetto/J1MAC will publish a proposed LCD for *Molecular Profiling for Unknown Primary Cancers (DL31628)* on January 13<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please visit [www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/8CLTWT8785?opendocument](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/8CLTWT8785?opendocument).

**Effective January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Palmetto/J1MAC reminds Medicare fee-for-service physicians who are submitting claims to Medicare for payment, that all claims for services furnished on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, must be filed with your Medicare contractor no later than one calendar year (12 months) from the date of service or Medicare will deny them.** For more information, please visit [www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/ls/J1B-8C5UT62660?opendocument&utm\\_source=J1BL&utm\\_campaign=J1BLs](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/ls/J1B-8C5UT62660?opendocument&utm_source=J1BL&utm_campaign=J1BLs).

**CMS has not turned on the automated edits that would deny claims for services that were ordered or referred by a physician or other eligible professional simply for lack of an approved file in PECOS.** CMS is working diligently to resolve backlog and other systems

issues and will provide ample advance notice to the provider and beneficiary communities before CMS begins any such automatic denials. CMS has not announced any date (January 3<sup>rd</sup> or otherwise) as to when ordering/referring edits will be turned on. Physicians or other eligible professionals not currently enrolled in PECOS should take the initiative to enroll sooner rather than later. There are three ways to verify that you have an enrollment record in PECOS:

- Check the Ordering Referring Report on the CMS website. If you are listed on that report, you have a current enrollment record in PECOS.
- Use Internet-based PECOS to look for your PECOS enrollment record. If no record is displayed, you do not have an enrollment record in PECOS.
- Contact your designated Medicare enrollment contractor and ask if you have an enrollment record in PECOS. Visit [www.cms.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll](http://www.cms.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll) for the *Medicare Fee-For-Service Contact Information* list (in the *Downloads* section).

If you are not yet in PECOS, the best way to submit your application is through internet-based PECOS. For more information, visit [questions.cms.hhs.gov/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/10038/kw/pecos/session/L3NpZC9qeG1GdDliaw%3D%3D](http://questions.cms.hhs.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/10038/kw/pecos/session/L3NpZC9qeG1GdDliaw%3D%3D).

**Palmetto/J1MAC's January Medicare Advisory is available** at [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.Nsf/files/j1\\_medicare\\_advisory\\_January2011.pdf/\\$File/j1\\_medicare\\_advisory\\_January2011.pdf](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.Nsf/files/j1_medicare_advisory_January2011.pdf/$File/j1_medicare_advisory_January2011.pdf). Of specific relevance to oncology, the current edition features:

- Part B **Appeal** Process Made Easy
- Resubmitted or Separate **Clams** for Same Service Tips to Avoid Denials or Processing Delays
- Quarterly Update to **Correct Coding Initiative** (CCI) Edits
- January 1, 2011 **Maximum Allowed Units** (MAU) Update

**DMHC/MediCal reminds providers to use the NPI in the secondary provider fields on**

**claims. Providers are also reminded to use the NPI on POS transactions as well as in the transactions services area on the MediCal web site.** For more information, please visit [files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/npi/articles/npi\\_12042.asp](http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/npi/articles/npi_12042.asp) or [files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/npi/articles/npi\\_12041.asp](http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/npi/articles/npi_12041.asp).

**The December DMHC/MediCal *Bulletin* contains an updated coverage policy for zoledronic acid** (on page 33). Previously denied claims with ICD-9 code 198.5 will be retroactively paid without the provider having to resubmit another claim.

**The *UnitedHealthcare* (UHC) *Network Bulletin* (Volume 41, January 2011) includes the following oncology-related information:**

- Updated Information for Physicians on Avastin (bevacizumab) Use for the Treatment of Cancer
- Anemia Agents: Darbepoetin Alfa
- Sandostatin/Sandostatin LAR Depot (octreotide)
- Hyperthermic Chemotherapy
- Neutron Beam Radiation Therapy for Cancer
- Stereotactic Radiosurgery

**A message from Cindy Ehnes, *Director, California Department of Managed Health Care*:**

Recently the *Department of Managed Health Care* (DMHC) took historic action, collecting the largest fines for claims payment violations in the *Department's* history. The nearly \$5M in fines against the seven largest health plans in the *State* for violations in paying claims to health care providers statewide sends the clear and consistent message that California's hospitals and physicians must be paid fairly and on time. All seven plans were found to have violated the minimum legal threshold of paying 95% of their claims correctly. Audits found that not only did the plans not pay claims accurately, but often the second-chance appeal process of getting paid was also flawed. Five of seven plans were found to

violate provider dispute resolution procedures, which is the method that providers must use to protest an underpayment or claims denial and get a corrected payment. This unfairly puts the burden on the provider to fight for payment, either within the plan, through the DMHC, or through the courts. Providers are struggling to stay afloat in a very difficult business environment. These fines underscore the DMHC's commitment to helping providers be paid fairly. If changes are not made, the improper payment of provider claims increases the risk that our health care delivery system could grind to a halt. It is important to note that the fines themselves are merely a starting point. Plans are required to make restitution to doctors and hospitals by identifying and reprocessing claims that have been underpaid. Restitution is expected to reach tens of millions of dollars, and that is a conservative estimate. Plans are also required to make improvements to their claims payment practices, which the DMHC will be closely monitoring in the coming months. These changes include new policies and procedures to address the deficiencies identified by DMHC examiners, additional training for claim processors, and enhancement of review and monitoring of claims and provider dispute compliance. Two plans are installing new claims systems that will be implemented to provide internal monitoring of compliance to ensure the accurate and timely payments. Additionally, the public disclosure of these fines and the failure of plans to pay doctors and hospitals correctly is a great incentive for plans to make changes. With regard to restitution, DMHC is requiring the plans to identify and reprocess claims for those that are found to be underpaid; providers will not have to resubmit claims. We expect this process to begin immediately. However, if a provider does not want to wait, they can file a written dispute for a previously processed claim that the provider believes was underpaid

through the plan's provider dispute resolution process. Plans will reimburse the amount underpaid, including interest at the rate of 15% per annum beginning with the first calendar day after the 45 working days following the claim's submission plus a \$10 penalty if required. Providers can also always contact the DMHC with questions regarding restitution, report a problem regarding claims payment, or learn more about the *Independent Dispute Resolution Process*, by calling the *Provider Complaint Unit* at (877) 525-1295, or going to [www.healthhelp.ca.gov](http://www.healthhelp.ca.gov). The DMHC is also the *State* agency that oversees all California HMOs, and *Anthem Blue Cross* and *Blue Shield* PPOs. We make sure that health plans follow the law and that health plan members receive the right care at the right time.

## EDUCATION

[*Editor's Note:* ANCO organizes clinical and professional education meetings throughout the year and throughout Northern California.]

### *ANCO/MOASC's Business of Oncology 2010 and Beyond Webcast Series*

ANCO and MOASC hosted a series of weekly webcasts in October/November 2010 focusing on the business of oncology. Speakers addressed patient financial counseling, treatment cost analysis and reimbursement, coding, revenue incentive programs, and payer provider partnerships. These webcasts were supported by *Abraxis BioScience* and *Cephalon Oncology*. Download the presentations and/or listen to webcast recordings (through January 2011) online at [www.anco-online.org/BusinessofOncology.html](http://www.anco-online.org/BusinessofOncology.html).

### *ANCO's Chemotherapy Safety: Preventing Oncology Medication Errors*

ANCO hosted a webcast on December 1<sup>st</sup> entitled *Chemotherapy Safety: Preventing Oncology Medication Errors* with David Gammon, B.S.Pharm. Gammon discussed all aspects of chemotherapy safety and how it impacts oncology practice. The webcast was supported by *Abraxis*

*BioScience*. Download the presentation and/or listen to the webcast recording online (through January 2011) at [www.anco-online.org/chemosafety.html](http://www.anco-online.org/chemosafety.html).

### ***ASCO's Adapting to Changes in Medicare for 2011***

ASCO hosted a national audio teleconference entitled *Adapting to Changes in Medicare for 2011* on December 21<sup>st</sup>. The call discussed Medicare's 2011 *Physician Fee Schedule*, the sustainable growth rate (SGR), highlights from Medicare's 2011 *Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System*, details of the 2011 PQRS and e-prescribing programs, oncology-related coding updates, and ASCO's legislative activity. Download the presentation and/or listen to a recording of the teleconference at [www.asco.org/janaudiocall](http://www.asco.org/janaudiocall).

### ***ANCO's Oncology Reimbursement 2011***

ANCO hosted its annual *Oncology Reimbursement* programs in Sacramento, San José, and Fresno on January 4-6<sup>th</sup>. Roberta Buell, M.B.A., *onPoint Oncology*, provided a complete update of changes for Medicare reimbursement. Arthur Lurvey, M.D., *Contractor Medical Director, Palmetto/JIMAC*, provide an update from the perspective of northern California's Medicare contractor. Download the meeting materials at [www.anco-online.org/OncReimb2011.html](http://www.anco-online.org/OncReimb2011.html).

### ***ANCO's SABCS Highlights 2010***

ANCO's annual *SABCS Highlights* will take place on January 18<sup>th</sup> at the *Four Seasons Hotel* in San Francisco. Faculty from *Stanford University*, *UC Davis*, and *UC San Francisco* will present and review the clinically most relevant results presented at December's *San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium*. Meeting announcements were mailed the week of December 6<sup>th</sup>; visit [www.anco-online.org/sabcs.html](http://www.anco-online.org/sabcs.html) for more information and to download a meeting registration form.

### ***ASCO's Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium***

ASCO's *Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium*

takes place on January 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> at the *Moscone West Building* in San Francisco. Visit [gicasymposium.org](http://gicasymposium.org) for more information and to register.

### ***ASH's Highlights of ASH***

ANCO is pleased to partner with the *American Society of Hematology* (ASH) to bring the only official *Highlights of ASH* to San Francisco on January 28-29<sup>th</sup>. This exceptional educational opportunity will feature leading hematology experts who will present unbiased analysis from the 52<sup>nd</sup> *ASH Annual Meeting* abstracts and sessions, evolving therapies, and the latest treatment options and their clinical applications. ASH is accredited by the *Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education* to provide continuing medical education for physicians and has designated this educational activity for a maximum of 10 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*. ANCO members receive a special discounted registration rate to attend this meeting. Contact ANCO at [execdir@anco-online.org](mailto:execdir@anco-online.org) or ASH directly at [cme@hematology.org](mailto:cme@hematology.org) for more information about this discounted registration rate. For more information about *Highlights of ASH*, visit [www.hematology.org/Meetings/Highlights/4310.aspx](http://www.hematology.org/Meetings/Highlights/4310.aspx).

### ***ASCO Annual Meeting***

Registration and housing is now open for both ASCO members and nonmembers for the 2011 *ASCO Annual Meeting*, June 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> at *McCormick Place* in Chicago. Reserve your room for best hotel selection and to register for your first choice of ticketed sessions at [chicago2011.asco.org](http://chicago2011.asco.org).

### ***Additional Education Meetings***

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

January 13<sup>th</sup>

*The Latest Developments in the Treatment of Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML) Reported at the 2010 ASH Annual Meeting*  
CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

January 21<sup>st</sup>

*Understanding and Managing Chemotherapy Side Effects*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

January 22<sup>nd</sup>

*Emerging Therapies for Blood Cancer Patients:*

*Highlights from the ASH Meeting*

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

San Francisco

(www.lls.org/sf/ash)

January 25<sup>th</sup>

*Update on Metastatic Breast Cancer from the 33<sup>rd</sup>*

*Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

January 27<sup>th</sup>

*Caring for Your Bones When You Have Multiple Myeloma*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

February 3<sup>rd</sup>

*Treatment Update on Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

February 9<sup>th</sup>

*Cancer Treatments and the Risk of Blood Clots: What You Need to Know*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

February 10-12<sup>th</sup>

*17<sup>th</sup> Annual NOCR Meeting*

Imedex

Las Vegas

February 11<sup>th</sup>

*Caring for Your Bones When You Have Breast Cancer: What's New?*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

February 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>

*31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference: Clinical Hematology & Oncology*

Scripps Cancer Center

San Diego

February 25-26<sup>th</sup>

*6<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Oncology Conference*

Community Oncology Alliance (and others)

Las Vegas

March 2<sup>nd</sup>

*Updates on Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

March 3<sup>rd</sup>

*Current Developments in the Treatment of Colorectal Cancer*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

Please contact the ANCO office for more information about these meetings.

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### *Annual Election Results*

The ANCO membership elected the following members to the *Board of Directors* (location, for terms ending in 2013, inclusive):

Helen Chew, M.D.

(Sacramento)

Jeffrey Cronk, M.D.

(Antioch)

Robert Robles, M.D.

(Pleasant Hill)

Wei Wang, M.D.

(San Francisco)

Drs. Bohannon (San Francisco, 2012), Cohen (Oakland, 2011), Ekstrand (San Mateo, 2011), Gandara (Sacramento, 2012), Keiser (Santa Rosa, 2012), Mirda (Napa, 2011), Srinivas (Stanford, 2012), and Tempero (San Francisco, 2011) continue on the *Board*. ANCO salutes Drs. Flam and Lara for their past service to the *Association*.

### *Board of Directors*

The ANCO *Board of Directors* meets regularly by teleconference and occasionally in person to discuss issues affecting the *Association*, clinical and professional education, and ways to better serve the membership. *Board* meetings are open to individual physician members. The **next regularly scheduled ANCO *Board of Directors* meeting** will take place on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Please call José Luis González, *ANCO Executive Director*, at

(415) 472-3960 if you wish to participate in a future teleconference/meeting.

### **Payer Provider Partnerships**

Over the past several months, the ANCO *Board of Directors* has educated itself and considered its role in **payer provider partnerships**, learning about the available compliance models used by vendors in the payer provider partnership space, and exercised its due diligence with respect to the various vendors in this space. As a result, the *Board* has adopted a payer provider partnership strategy and identified *Innovent Oncology* and *Via Oncology* as preferred vendors. For full details and additional information please visit [www.anco-online.org/P3.html](http://www.anco-online.org/P3.html).

*Innovent Oncology's* presentation (slides and recording) entitled ***Realizing Pay for Performance: Moving from Fee-for-Service to Value-Based Reimbursement*** is now posted at [www.anco-online.org/P3Innovent.html](http://www.anco-online.org/P3Innovent.html).

*Via Oncology* recommends that practices study these two articles as you consider pathways:

- ***All Pathways Are Not Created Equal***, *Oncology Times* (May 25, 2010; [viaoncology.com/downloads/va\\_times.pdf](http://viaoncology.com/downloads/va_times.pdf)). In this article, Peter G. Ellis, M.D., *Deputy Director of Clinical Services, UPMC Cancer Centers and Medical Director, Via Oncology*, sets forth 12 important questions that oncology groups should ask when evaluating pathway solutions.
- ***Clinical Pathways Programs: Selecting the Appropriate Pathways Program***, *Journal of Multidisciplinary Cancer Care* (August 2010; [viaoncology.com/downloads/Via\\_JMOCC\\_Aug2010.pdf](http://viaoncology.com/downloads/Via_JMOCC_Aug2010.pdf)). Dawn Holcombe, *President of DGH Consulting* and frequent contributor to oncology publications, discusses how oncology groups should review and select a pathways program.

Please contact Kathy Lokay, *President, Via Oncology*, at [kathy.lokay@viaoncology.com](mailto:kathy.lokay@viaoncology.com) or (877) 484-2435, to answer any questions about pathways at your practice.

### **Individual Member News**

***The ANCO Directory of Members*** is now available online at [www.anco-online.org/pubs.html](http://www.anco-online.org/pubs.html) as a .pdf document. We urge all ANCO members to download and print their own edition of *The ANCO Directory of Members*. The online edition will be regularly updated. Therefore, please verify your *Directory* entry and contact the ANCO office with any corrections, additions, and/or deletions.

### **Group Member News**

ANCO initiated a **Group Membership** in 2008 based on a mutual set of perceived values and benefits and a mutual set of interests. The ANCO *Board* believes that the *Association* and *The Permanente Medical Group* (TPMG) will each receive value from Group Membership. ANCO thanks *The Permanente Medical Group* for joining ANCO.

ANCO initiated a **Multi Site Group Membership** in 2010 to encourage all physicians (medical and radiation oncologists) from multi-site and multidisciplinary practices to join. ANCO thanks *California Cancer Care, EastBay Partners in Cancer Care, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Redwood Regional Oncology Center, and Valley Medical Oncology Consultants* for their multi site group memberships.

### **Institutional Member News**

ANCO initiated an **Institutional Membership** in 2002. *Department(s) of Hematology and/or Oncology* of accredited, degree granting teaching universities or research institutions are eligible for institutional membership. ANCO thanks the following Institutional Members for their support:

- *Stanford University Medical Oncology*
- *University of California, Davis, Cancer Center*
- *University of California, San Francisco*

For information on **continuing medical education meetings organized by our Institutional Members**, please visit:

- [med.stanford.edu/seminars/cmecalendar.do](http://med.stanford.edu/seminars/cmecalendar.do)

- [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/conferences](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/conferences)
- [www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme](http://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme)

UCSF's *10th Annual UCSF Clinical Cancer Updates* takes place in North Lake Tahoe on January 28-29<sup>th</sup>. For more information, visit [www.lungcancermeetings.com/ucsf\\_10/index.html](http://www.lungcancermeetings.com/ucsf_10/index.html).

*Stanford's Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-based Approach* returns on Friday and Saturday, March 25-26<sup>th</sup>. Formerly the *Northern California Tumor Board at Silverado*, this meeting will now take place at the *Li Ka-Shing Center for Learning & Knowledge* on the campus of *Stanford University*. Branimir (Brandy) Sikic, M.D., and A. Dimitri Colevas, M.D., will co-direct this meeting, presented by the *Stanford Cancer Center*. For more information, visit [cancer.stanford.edu/calendar/events/2008/events2011asmc.html](http://cancer.stanford.edu/calendar/events/2008/events2011asmc.html).

UCSF's *Radiation Oncology Update: Perspectives on New Technologies, Clinical Findings, and Safety* takes place at *The St. Regis Hotel* in San Francisco on April 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>. Visit [www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MRO11001](http://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MRO11001) for more information.

For information on **Institutional Member clinical trials** (also see below), please visit:

- [cancertrials.stanford.edu/](http://cancertrials.stanford.edu/)
- [ccresources.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/csr/content/ctsactiveprotocollisting.csr](http://ccresources.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/csr/content/ctsactiveprotocollisting.csr)
- [clinical-trials.ucsf.edu:8000/trials/index.php](http://clinical-trials.ucsf.edu:8000/trials/index.php)

### Corporate Member News

ANCO thanks the following **Corporate Members** for their generous support that enables ANCO to provide services to the hematology/oncology community in Northern California, and to provide its members and their patients with substantial benefits in the areas of advocacy, education, and information dissemination:

*Abraxis BioScience • Agendia  
Alexion Pharmaceuticals • Allos Therapeutics  
AMGEN • AstraZeneca*

*Bayer Healthcare/Onyx Pharmaceuticals  
biogenIDEC • bioTheranostics  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology  
Celgene • Centocor Ortho Biotech  
Cephalon Oncology • Clariant Diagnostics  
Eisai • Genentech BioOncology  
Genomic Health • Genzyme Oncology  
GlaxoSmithKline Oncology  
Lash Group Healthcare Consultants  
Lilly Oncology • Merck • Millennium  
Myriad Genetics • Novartis Oncology  
Oncology Supply/ION • OSI Pharmaceuticals  
Onmark,  
a McKesson Specialty Care Solutions Company  
Pathwork Diagnostics • Pfizer Oncology  
Response Genetics • Sanofi Aventis Oncology  
Spectrum Pharmaceuticals  
US Oncology Physician Services • Vidacare*

Please visit [www.anco-online.org/assistance.html](http://www.anco-online.org/assistance.html) for **updated Corporate Member drug reimbursement and patient assistance program information**.

*Centocor Ortho Biotech* invites ANCO members to participate in an informational teleconference entitled *Year-End Medicare Physician Payment Update*. The goal of the teleconference is to provide medical oncology practices with a concise overview of the 2011 *Final Rule* on Medicare physician office payments. The teleconference will be approximately 30 minutes in length and will be offered at a variety of times from now through January 11<sup>th</sup>. Call Colleen Flanders at (202) 416-5064 for more information and to register.

### Publications, Resources, Services, & Surveys

ASCO's *Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI)* is designed to promote excellence in cancer care by helping oncologists create a culture of self-examination and improvement. ASCO is now offering the *QOPI Certification Program* to recognize QOPI participants who achieve rigorous standards for cancer care. The *QOPI Certification* designation can be used by certified practices to demonstrate an advanced commitment to quality. For more information or to register, go to [qopi.asco.org](http://qopi.asco.org).

**Oncology Practice** ([practice.ascoexchange.org](http://practice.ascoexchange.org)), a

social networking site where practice administrators can easily connect, collaborate, and exchange information about day-to-day issues facing oncology practice, **has moved to ASCOConnection.org**. ASCOConnection merges Practice, EHR, and ASCO Connection Magazine into one site. The Practice section will be located under the “Forums” tab.

**ASCO’s *Oncology Practice Insider* is an interactive biweekly communication specifically devoted to oncology practice management issues and for practice managers.** Subscribe to the *Oncology Practice Insider* via e-mail to [practice@asco.org](mailto:practice@asco.org). The current issue features:

- National Call on 2011 PQRS and eRx Incentive Programs
- National Provider Teleconference on Preparing for ICD-10 Implementation in 2011
- Get Ready for Version 5010

The January/February issue of ACCC’s *Oncology Issues* features articles on *Expanding Multidisciplinary Care in Community Cancer Centers*, *The Role of Genetics in the Treatment of Cancer*, and *Diagnostic Imaging in Oncology—What’s the Picture?* Read the online edition of *Oncology Issues* at [www.accc-cancer.org/oncology\\_issues](http://www.accc-cancer.org/oncology_issues).

ACCC has updated *Part B Drug Information Guide*. This publication is available online at [www.accc-cancer.org/druginfo](http://www.accc-cancer.org/druginfo), is designed as an easy-to-use listing of drug information and coverage, is a compilation of oncology drugs from the nationally recognized drug compendia, and provides a method of determining whether there is evidence on the appropriateness of use of an oncology drug for a specific oncology-related condition.

The *Community Oncology Alliance’s (COA) Administrators’ Network (CAN)* website is available at [communityoncology.info](http://communityoncology.info). Bobbi Buell is the CAN *Web Mistress*. The site includes a variety of presentations, tools, resources, and copies of her newsletter. Registration is required to access this website.

*Oplinc* is a national organization that was founded with the purpose of developing a collaborative environment within the oncology

community. The bi-monthly *Oplinc Best Practices Review Newsletter*, sponsored by *Lilly Oncology* and written by Risë Cleland, provides an in-depth look at the issues and challenges facing oncology practices. This educational newsletter focuses on issues relevant to the oncology community. Download the latest edition at [www.oplinc.com/newsletter/BestPracticesReviewDec2010.htm](http://www.oplinc.com/newsletter/BestPracticesReviewDec2010.htm) focusing on patient assistance resources Enroll for a complimentary subscription at [oplinc.com/newsletter.asp](http://oplinc.com/newsletter.asp).

### *Individual Membership Dues for 2011*

**Membership renewal notices for 2011 were mailed to all members on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.** Be sure to provide ANCO with your e-mail address and the name(s) and e-mail address(es) of office and/or nurse manager contact(s). Those not renewing their membership by July 1<sup>st</sup> will be deleted from the *Directory of Members*, and will no longer be eligible for any ANCO benefits. Contact the ANCO office if you did not receive or misplaced your membership dues renewal notice.

ANCO seeks new members. **All members of a practice should join ANCO. And, ANCO seeks to enroll radiation oncologists as members**, so please send us contact information for the radiation oncologists within your practice and/or to whom you refer patients.

**Remember, a larger ANCO is a stronger ANCO!**