

ANCO FAX News

Association of Northern California Oncologists
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INTRODUCTION

The *ANCO FAX News* focuses on ANCO's core activities—advocacy, clinical and professional education, and *Association* news. While membership mailings and e-mail or FAX broadcasts 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 October 28th. 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.

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.]

The Congressional Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (i.e., the debt super committee) has received proposals from the House Ways and Means Committee (Democratic staff) to cut Medicare drug reimbursement from ASP + 6% to ASP + 3%, a proposal that was also discussed during the debt ceiling negotiations. In addition, the Medicare Payment Advisory

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

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.

Commission (MedPAC; advisors to Congress on Medicare payments to providers) proposes freezing Medicare reimbursement to physicians performing primary care services over a 10-year period and cutting payments to specialists, including oncologists, or non-primary care physicians by 5.9% for three years (for a total of approximately 18%) and then freezing those rates for 7 years to solve the SGR problem. (Read their report at www.medpac.gov/meeting_search.cfm?SelectedDate=09/15/2011&t=m&month=2011-09.) Recall that Congress must act by December 31st if a 29% SGR-driven reduction in the Medicare *Physician Fee Schedule* is to be avoided on January 1st, 2012. ACCC, ASCO, and COA are all working diligently to advance cancer care interests in these negotiations. Read the ACCCBuzz regarding MedPAC's recommendations at acccbuzz.wordpress.com/2011/09/21/medpac's-sgr-efforts-miss-the-mark-in-important-areas/; read ASH's perspective on this at www.hematology.org/News/2011/7053.aspx. ANCO members should contact their *Congressional Representatives* and *Senators* to express their concerns with these prospective Medicare cuts. Visit grassroots.hematology.org/blood/issues/alert/?alertid=52992501 to have your voice heard about this issue. Visit www.communityoncology.org/article-ACT-NOW-to-Stop-a-Severe-Cut-to-Medicare-Payment-for-Cancer-Care.aspx for more information.

ANCO urges members to support HR2245 and S296, legislation introduced in Congress to address drug shortages by implementing some of the recommendations from the ASCO, *American Society of Anesthesiologists* (ASA), *American Society of Health-System Pharmacists* (ASHP), and *Institute for Safe Medication Practices* (ISMP) *Drug Shortages Summit*. If your practice is experiencing a shortage of a particular therapy, the ASHP has prepared guidance for purchasing drugs in short supply at www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/Policy/DrugShortages/Purchasing-Drug-Products-in-Short-Supply.aspx and guidelines on managing drug product shortages at www.ashp.org/s_ashp/docs/files/BP07/Procure_Gdl_Shortages.pdf. A patient update from the *United States Food and Drug Administration*

(FDA) is available at www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm258152.htm. An ASH update on the drug shortage situation is provided at www.hematology.org/News/2011/6758.aspx. Read ASH's recommendations to the FDA at www.anco-online.org. And, *Premier* has published a report (at www.premierinc.com/about/news/11-aug/Gray-Market/Gray-Market-Analysis-08152011.pdf) on the gray market and their recommendations for avoiding complications from potentially purchasing drugs that may not have been handled/stored correctly or, worse, are counterfeit. **Unfortunately, price gouging is a by-product of drug shortages. Price gouging falls under the authority of the *Federal Trade Commission* (FTC) and it has investigated and filed suit against pharmaceutical firms for price gouging in the past.** New complaints can be filed at www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/. The ASHP is also encouraging its members to report price gouging to the *State Attorney General's* office (oag.ca.gov/). ANCO encourages all members to contact their *Congressional Representatives* and *Senators* using ASCO's template letters (at capwiz.com/asco/issues/alert/?alertid=50821901 for the *House* and capwiz.com/asco/issues/alert/?alertid=27086626 for the *Senate*).

In comments to CMS on the 2012 proposed Medicare *Physician Fee Schedule*, ASCO is urging CMS and other stakeholders to consider policies that will harmonize national quality reporting and improvement programs. ASCO urges CMS to allow oncology providers to select among a comprehensive set of ASCO developed or approved quality measures. CMS should minimize the burden and maximize data usefulness by promoting participation in QOPI to report on these measures. Compared with *Federal* reporting options, QOPI participation offers significant added value for patients and the Medicare program. ASCO's comments are available online at www.anco-online.org/ASCO2012MPFSCComments.pdf

The *Medicare Leaning Network* (MLN) has released an article clarifying evaluation and management (E/M) payment policy at www.cms.gov/MLNMMattersArticles/Downloads/MM7405.pdf. The article (MM7405) explains the new CPT subsequent observation care codes

(99224-99226) and the use of E/M codes. New claims are subject to these changes.

CMS's webpage with information and resources related to the upcoming transition from ICD-9 to ICD-10 and CMS Version 5010 is www.cms.gov/ICD10/01_Overview.asp#TopOfPage. A series of webinars on 5010 preparedness is being offered at www.getready5010.org. All HIPAA covered entities that submit transactions electronically are required to upgrade from Version 4010/4010A to Version 5010 transaction standards by January 1st, 2012. Testing should be conducted both internally and with external business partners in advance of the deadline. **Palmetto/J1MAC's Medicare Fee-For-Service Companion Guide includes information related to transactions based on ASC X12 Implementation Guides, version 005010, for electronic files being submitted to Palmetto/J1MAC.** Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/ls/J1B-8E4NZK8877?opendocument&utm_source=J1BL&utm_campaign=J1BLs for more information.

CMS's Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) provides a financial incentive for eligible professionals to participate in a voluntary quality-reporting program. CMS has posted updated PQRS information at www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRS. The ASH website provides user-friendly information on PQRS at www.hematology.org/Practice/PQRI/2941.aspx.

CMS's Electronic Prescribing (eRx) Incentive Program webpage at www.cms.hhs.gov/ERxIncentive includes updated eRx educational products. An MLN *Matters Special Edition* article (SE1107) entitled *2011 Electronic Prescribing (eRx) Incentive Program Update: Future Payment Adjustments* is now available at www.cms.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE1107.pdf. For additional oncology-specific information, visit ASCO's e-prescribing website at www.asco.org/ASCOv2/Practice+Guidelines/Practice+Management+Reimbursement/Electronic+Health+Records+%28EHR%29/Understanding+the+Government+Incentive+Programs/Incentive+Program+for+E-Prescribing. **CMS has extended the deadline to apply for a hardship exemption**

until November 1st. Read MLN SE1107 to determine if you are subject to the 2012 eRx payment adjustment. If you determine that you may be subject to the 2012 eRx payment adjustment, then you should determine if you meet any of the hardship exemption categories.

CMS will host a National Provider Call on PQRS and eRx on October 18th. Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/ls/J1B-8M6EQG2041?opendocument&utm_source=J1BL&utm_campaign=J1BLs&utm_medium=email for more information.

The last day for health professionals to begin their 90-day reporting period to demonstrate meaningful use of EHRs in order to attest and qualify for Medicare incentives this year was October 3rd. For more information, visit www.cms.gov/ehrincentiveprograms/.

California's Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will soon begin accepting enrollments for the DHCS/MediCal EHR Incentive Program. Enrollment will begin on November 15th for groups and clinics and December 15th for individual providers. Accessing these incentives will require a two-part enrollment. Physicians must first register with CMS at ehrincentives.cms.gov and then they must enroll in the DHCS/MediCal Program at medical.ehr.ca.gov. For more information on the DHCS/MediCal EHR Incentive Program, visit medi-cal.ehr.ca.gov.

ASCO's 2011 HIT/EHR Symposium: Improving Care through Information Management takes place November 4-5th at *The Westin Peachtree Plaza* in Atlanta. Visit hit2011.asco.org to learn more and register.

The Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT) has released the first-ever certification program for oncology EHRs. The program lays out specific technical requirements that vendors must demonstrate before receiving certification. ASCO is supportive of CCHIT's efforts in this area and believes these standards will strengthen EHRs to better manage chemotherapy, facilitate communication, and enhance cancer care. ASCO members looking to select or implement an EHR are encouraged to take a look at the CCHIT's oncology criteria at

www.cchit.org/sites/all/files/CCHIT%20Certified%202011%20Oncology%20Criteria%20FINAL%2020110517.pdf.

The California Health Information Partnership & Services Organization (CalHIPSO; www.calhipso.org) is a joint venture between the California Primary Care Association, the CMA, and the California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems that has been allocated a total of \$17.3M by the United States Department of Health and Human Services for helping primary care doctors and other health providers purchase and use technology for electronic health records. CalHIPSO is enrolling doctors for services to help them buy and install EHR systems and is offering EHR technology packages to doctors at a discount. In addition, CalHIPSO is offering online education courses to help physicians understand how to achieve meaningful use in their practices. Visit www.calhipso.org for more information. **The California HealthCare Foundation (CHCF) has published a series of papers entitled *Electronic Health Record Deployment Techniques*.** The papers discuss Workflow Analysis, Training Strategies, Clinical Documentation, and Chart Abstraction. Visit www.chcf.org/publications/2010/03/ehr-deployment-techniques for more information. **CMA has launched a new resource to help physicians estimate savings and return on investment if they make the switch from traditional paper medical records to electronic health record (EHR) technology.** The resource is called the *ROI Calculator*. In addition, CMA's model EHR contract provides members with an example of a physician-friendly vendor agreement that can be used in negotiating vendor contracts. **CMA has also published an *Electronic Health Records Desk Reference* (www.cmanet.org/resource-library/detail?item=ehr-desk-reference).** For the latest information on health information technology (HIT), visit www.cmanet.org/hit/.

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. ANCO's advocacy reporting is supported by a grant from Pfizer Oncology.]

Noteware Government Relations represents ANCO (and MOASC) in Sacramento. They report:

- On Monday, October 3rd the *United States Supreme Court* heard oral arguments in a California lawsuit that will determine whether DHCS/MediCal beneficiaries can sue states that make provider cuts. The case stems from DHCS/MediCal reimbursement cuts the California *Legislature* approved in 2008 and 2009. The CMA, other health care providers, and DHCS/MediCal beneficiaries challenged the changes in court, arguing that the payment cuts violated *Federal* law that says Medicaid rates must be "sufficient to enlist enough providers" so beneficiaries can access care to the same extent as the general population in a particular area. Many analysts believe *Chief Justice* John Roberts and *Justice* Anthony Kennedy could cast the deciding votes on the case. A ruling is expected by the end of June.

Got payment delays? Feeling victimized by payers and overwhelmed by the process? Don't let the health plans mistreat you. The CMA's *Center for Economic Services* (CES) has a team of reimbursement specialists available to assist ANCO's CMA members experiencing payment problems with third-party payers. CMA's CES advocates have received numerous requests for assistance from hematologists/oncologists from ANCO (and MOASC) and been successful in facilitating the payment of hundreds of thousands of dollars from insurance plans. For membership, please call (916) 551-2042; for reimbursement assistance, please call CMA's *Reimbursement Helpline* at (888) 401-5911.

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. Please visit www.cmanet.org/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.]

The revised *Advanced Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage* (ABN; Form CMS-R-131) is now available for use by physicians, practitioners, suppliers, and independent laboratories in situations where Medicare payment is expected to be denied. The revised form must be used effective November 1st. For more information, visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/ls/J1B-8LJLXC4700?opendocument&utm_source=J1BL&utm_campaign=J1BLs&utm_medium=email.

Multiple Palmetto/J1MAC Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs; including *Flow Cytometry, Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy, Radiation Oncology: External Beam/Teletherapy*) have been revised. Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/8LXPF78015?opendocument for more information. In addition, multiple LCDs (including *Cytogenetic Studies; Filgrastim, Sargramostim, and Pegfilgrastim; Interferons*) have been retired. Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/8LXP5F0042?opendocument for more information. Finally, the comment period for several LCDs (including *ESAs, Molecular Diagnostic Tests*) opens on October 14th and ends on December 5th. Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/8M5KQ46684?opendocument for more information.

Palmetto/J1MAC's October Medicare Advisory is available at www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.Nsf/files/October_2011_Medicare_

[Advisory-J1B.pdf/\\$File/October_2011_Medicare_Advisory-J1B.pdf](#). Of specific relevance to oncology, the current edition features:

- Medicare Pilot Project for Electronic Submission of **Medical Documentation** (esMD)
- Medicare **Overpayments** and Immediate Offset Requests

Palmetto/J1MAC informs ANCO that all providers enrolled with Medicare prior to March 25th must revalidate their enrollment information after receiving notification from Palmetto/J1MAC. When you receive notification (between now and March 2013) you must: update your enrollment through Internet-based PECOS or complete the CMS-855; sign the certification statement on the application; and if applicable, pay your fee through pay.gov. Also, please be sure to mail your supporting documents and certification statement to Palmetto/J1MAC. Do not submit your revalidation until Palmetto/J1MAC has notified you. Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/ls/J1B-8KJH6L5080?opendocument&utm_source=J1BL&utm_campaign=J1BLs&utm_medium=email for more information. CMS will hold a *National Provider Call* on October 27th to discuss the revalidation of Medicare provider enrollment information. For more information, visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/ls/J1B-8M6EYP6178?opendocument&utm_source=J1BL&utm_campaign=J1BLs&utm_medium=email. Read the revalidation FAQs at [www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B-Resources-FAQs-Provider%20Enrollment-Revalidation%20Initiative%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20\(FAQs\)?open&cat=events](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B-Resources-FAQs-Provider%20Enrollment-Revalidation%20Initiative%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20(FAQs)?open&cat=events).

DHCS/MediCal's fiscal intermediary is now *Affiliated Computer Services* (ACS), a Xerox Company. Providers should not notice changes in the claims submission, processing, or payment process.

DHCS/MediCal has released the 5010 Companion Guide for X12 transactions (8371/P, 835, 270, and 276). Visit files.medical.ca.gov/pubsdoco/newsroom/newsroom_20023.asp for more information.

On October 3rd, Blue Shield of California posted a statement on its website (www.blueshieldca.com/bsc/newsroom/pr/avastin100311.jhtml) **regarding changes to its coverage policy for Avastin.** Their statement reads:

Blue Shield of California has announced that our coverage policy for Avastin for advanced breast cancer will be changed, effective October 17, 2011. We have changed the review process for new treatment requests for covered members. A panel of oncology experts will now review each request individually and Avastin will be covered if the panel determines it to be medically necessary. We will continue to cover Avastin for advanced breast cancer for any covered member currently under treatment with Avastin. *Blue Shield's* decision follows an FDA advisory panel's unanimous determination in June that Avastin is ineffective and unsafe for advanced breast cancer.

The *United States Food and Drug Administration* has yet to make a final decision on rescinding approval of Avastin to treat breast cancer.

EDUCATION

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

7th Annual Oncology Congress



ANCO is proud to be a *Supporting Partner* of the 7th Annual Oncology Congress taking place October 13-15th at the *Hyatt Regency San Francisco*. The *Oncology Congress* is an interactive conference providing practicing oncologists with the latest clinical data, best practices, and new technologies that are directly applicable to the practice of oncology today. ANCO's partnership with the *Oncology Congress* offers members a great opportunity to earn up to 19 CME/CE credits

during the span of 2.5 days. Discounted ANCO physician member and nurse registration (\$100) is available by using priority code OCP11 at oncologycongress.com/Register/. Visit www.oncologycongress.com for more information.

53rd ASH Annual Meeting

The 53rd ASH Annual takes place December 10-13th in San Diego. Visit www.hematology.org/2011PreliminaryProgram to view the preliminary program.

ASCO's Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium

ASCO's 2012 *Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium: Science and Multidisciplinary Management of GI Malignancies* takes place at *The Moscone West Building* in San Francisco on January 19th-21st, 2012. Visit www.gicasymposium.org for more information.

ASCO's Genitourinary Cancers Symposium

ASCO's 2012 *Genitourinary Cancers Symposium: An Evidence-based Multidisciplinary Approach* takes place at the *San Francisco Marriott Marquis* on February 2nd-4th, 2012. Visit gucasymposium.org for more information.

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 February 3rd-4th. For more information about *Highlights of ASH*, visit www.hematology.org/Meetings/Highlights/.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

October 10th
Biomedicine Roundtable: Safety and Innovation
UCSF, California Healthcare Institute, BayBio, BIOCUM Institute
San Francisco

October 12th
New Frontiers in Melanoma Management

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
www.oncologycarelive.com

October 12th
Entering an Era of More Personalized Treatment in Lung Cancer: Increasing Patient Survival Rates
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
www.oncologycarelive.com

October 12th
Living With T-Cell Lymphoma Part II: Update on Peripheral T-Cell Lymphoma
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

October 13th
Progress in the Treatment of Metastatic Breast Cancer
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

October 18th-21st
MACtoberfest
Palmetto/J1MAC
San Diego
(www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B-Learning%20Education-POE%20News-Registration%20Now%20Open%20for%20MACtoberfest%202011?open&cat=events)

October 19th-22nd
28th National Oncology Conference: Achieve Excellence
ACCC
Seattle
(www.accc-cancer.org/meetings/pdf/meetings-NOC2011-Brochure.pdf)

October 22nd
Metastatic Breast Cancer: Updates in Clinical Practice
MediCom Worldwide
Los Angeles

October 26th
Current Developments in the Treatment of Colorectal Cancer
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

October 28th
Current Perspectives on Early Stage Breast Cancer
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

October 29th
5th Annual Cancer Survivorship Conference: Post Treatment—What Now?
Cancer Prevention Institute of California
Stanford Cancer Institute
San Francisco
(www.cpic.org/site/c.skI0L6MKJpE/b.5730241/k.C7F8/Events.htm)

November 1st
Metastatic Prostate Cancer and Other Health Challenges
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

November 9th
Update on Hodgkin Lymphoma
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

November 10th
Caring for Your Bones When You Have Multiple Myeloma
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

November 14-15th
2nd Annual Leadership Summit on Accountable Care Organizations and Patient-Centered Medical Homes
World Congress
San Diego

November 15th
Nutrition, Physical Activity, and You: A Guide for People Living With Cancer
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

November 16th
Living With T-Cell Lymphoma Part III: Managing Treatment Side Effects
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

December 6th
Dealing with the Side Effects of Metastatic Prostate Cancer Treatments
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

December 8th
Managing the Costs of Living With Cancer
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

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

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Annual Election

Four seats on the ANCO *Board of Directors* are up for election in 2011. ANCO seeks nominations for candidates for these seats. This year's election will be conducted via mail ballot in December. Candidates with the top four vote totals will serve for three years (i.e., from 2012-2014, inclusive). Nominate an ANCO member (including yourself) to stand for election to the *Board* via e-mail/FAX to the ANCO office at execdir@anco-online.org/(415) 472-3961 no later than November 18th.

Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* meets 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* teleconference will take place on October 18th. Please call José Luis González, ANCO Executive Director, at (415) 472-3960 if you wish to participate in a future teleconference/meeting.

Individual Member News

An updated *Directory of Members* for 2011 is now available online at www.anco-online.org/pubs.html as a .pdf document. In the interest of saving resources and bring "green," the 2011 *Directory* will not be printed and mailed. We urge all ANCO members to download 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 at execdir@anco-online.org 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 *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
- www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/conferences
- www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme

For information on **Institutional Member clinical trials**, please visit:

- cancertrials.stanford.edu/
- <https://ccresources.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/csr/content/clinicaltrialspublicsearch.csr>
- 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:

*Agendia • Alexion Pharmaceuticals
Allos Therapeutics • AMGEN
The Apothecary Shop • Astellas Oncology
AstraZeneca • Baxter BioScience
Bayer Healthcare/Onyx Pharmaceuticals
Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals
biogenIDEC • bioTheranostics
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology
Cardinal Health Specialty Solutions
Celgene • Cephalon Oncology
Clariant Diagnostic Services • Dendreon • Eisai
Genentech BioOncology • Genomic Health
Genzyme Oncology • GlaxoSmithKline Oncology
Janssen Biotech
Lash Group Healthcare Consultants
Lilly Oncology
McKesson Specialty Health • Merck • Millennium
Myriad Genetics • Novartis Oncology
Oncology Supply/ION • Pathwork Diagnostics
Pfizer Oncology • Sanofi Aventis Oncology
Seattle Genetics • Spectrum Pharmaceuticals*

We especially wish to thank and welcome *The Apothecary Shop*, *Baxter BioScience*, *Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals*, *Cardinal Health Specialty Solutions*, *Dendreon*, and *Seattle Genetics* as new Corporate Members in 2011. *Response Genetics*, and *Vidacare* did not renew their Corporate Membership for 2011. Please visit www.anco-online.org/assistance.html for updated Corporate Member drug reimbursement and patient assistance program information.

Alexion Pharmaceuticals informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has granted accelerated approval for the use of Soliris for the treatment of pediatric and adult patients with atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome (aHUS). Visit www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/CentersOffices/CDER/ucm273089.htm for more information.

Genomic Health informs ANCO that *Palmetto/J1MAC*, the designated national contractor for its *Oncotype DX* colon cancer test, has established a formal coverage policy for all Medicare patients. The policy covers men and

women with Stage II colon cancer. Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B-Articles-Oncology%20Hematology-Oncotype%20DX%20Colon%20Cancer%20Assay for more information.

Janssen Biotech informs ANCO that the latest *Healthcare Professional Letter* regarding *Doxil* shortages was posted at www.doxil.com on September 23rd. The modest supply of *Doxil* that was announced in early August has been fully allocated, and physicians have been notified of their patients' enrollment status. Applications for *Doxil* continue to be added to the wait list in order of receipt and verification. *Janssen Biotech* expects product supply to remain intermittent over the next several months.

Janssen Biotech will host a series of information webinars entitled *The Exceptions and Appeals Process: How to Request that a Health Plan Reconsider a Decision*. These webinars are taking place through October. For more information and to register, please call Colleen Flanders at (202) 416-5064.

Clinical Trial News

The Fall edition of *Stanford's Clinical Research* newsletter is now available at cancer.stanford.edu/documents/ClinicalTrials_Fall2011_NL_v7.pdf.

Publications, Resources, Services, & Surveys

As part of ASCO's ongoing efforts to respond to a rapidly changing oncology practice environment, a ground-breaking new practice survey will give ASCO members the opportunity to provide timely and accurate practice insight that will aid ASCO's advocacy work on legislative, regulatory, and reimbursement issues affecting community oncology practices. The *Assessment of the Evolution and State of Practices Survey* (AESOP) is a comprehensive survey designed to gain in-depth understanding of how oncology practices are faring in the current economic, legislative, and regulatory environment. AESOP will provide the most accurate picture to date of what oncology practices look like and the challenges they face in

providing quality cancer care. Learn more at ascoaction.asco.org/Home/tabid/41/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/71/ASCO-to-Launch-Ground-breaking-New-Practice-Survey.aspx. ANCO urges all members to participate in AESOP.

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.

Oncology Practice, 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 is located under the Forums tab.

The *Journal of Oncology Practice* has released its latest podcast featuring survey information from the 2011 National Practice Benchmark Report. Listen to Robert S. Miller, M.D., Thomas R. Barr, and Elaine L. Towle provide valuable insight on the highly anticipated and data rich manuscript at jop.ascopubs.org/site/podcasts/index.xhtml.

ACCC's updated ***Part B Drug Information Guide*** publication is available online at www.accc-cancer.org/druginfo and 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.

ACCC's *Reimbursement and Patient Assistance Programs: A Guide for Community Cancer Centers* helps community cancer centers meet the ongoing challenge of ensuring access to care for all patients with cancer. Available both in

print and online, the *Guide* brings together information on pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical patient assistance programs and reimbursement resources. This digital edition allows users to link directly to program information and enrollment forms. Visit www.accc-cancer.org/publications/publications-PAP.asp to access this resource.

The *Community Oncology Alliance's (COA) Administrators' Network (CAN)* website is available at can.communityoncology.org/#. Bobbi Buell is the CAN *Web Mistress*. The site includes a variety of presentations, tools, resources, and copies of her newsletter.

The October issue of the *Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network* focuses on NCCN guidelines for multiple myeloma and small cell lung cancer. Visit www.jnccn.org/content/current for more information. NCCN has updated their ***Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology and/or Drugs & Biologics Compendium*** for multiple myeloma. NCCN's on-line and live educational activities are listed at www.nccn.org/professionals/meetings/default.asp.