

# ANCO FAX News

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The *ANCO FAX News* focuses on ANCO's core activities—advocacy, clinical and professional education, and *Association and membership news*. While membership mailings and e-mail/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*. Find the *ANCO FAX News* online at [www.anco-online.org/pubs.html](http://www.anco-online.org/pubs.html).

#### In this issue:

- ASCO principles on utilization management and patient-centered healthcare reform
- ANCO's *SABCS Highlights 2016*
- *17<sup>th</sup> Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-based Approach*—EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS JANUARY 31

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 February 10<sup>th</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](mailto: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

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.

## ADVOCACY

*[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 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 meets regularly with these and other 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, COA, and National Legislative & Regulatory Issues**

An American Medical Association (AMA)-led coalition including ASCO and 15 other health care organizations are urging health plans, benefit managers, and other stakeholders to reform utilization management policies, including prior authorization requirements, imposed on medical tests, procedures, devices, and drugs. The coalition is urging an industry-wide reassessment of utilization management programs in alignment with a set of 21 principles that aim to improve utilization management programs by applying common-sense concepts grouped into five broad categories, including clinical validity, continuity of care, transparency and fairness, timely access and administrative efficiency, and alternatives and exemptions. Read the principles at [www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/addressing-prior-authorization-issues](http://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/addressing-prior-authorization-issues).

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has established the *Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)* making oncology the first disease area to have a coordinated clinical review of drugs, biologics, and devices across the agency's three medical product centers.

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has released final guidance for industry on the *Nonproprietary Naming of Biological Products*. Under this naming convention, FDA will designate a distinguishing suffix that is devoid of meaning and composed of four lowercase letters in the nonproprietary names for originator biological products, related biological products, and biosimilar products. The suffix will be attached to each product's core name with a hyphen. Read more at [www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM459987.pdf](http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM459987.pdf).

ASCO has released *Principles for Patient-Centered Healthcare Reform*, seven recommendations

designed to ensure access to high-quality cancer care amid the changing U.S. healthcare delivery landscape. Read the *Principles* at [www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/asco-in-action/asco-releases-principles-patient-centered-healthcare-reform](http://www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/asco-in-action/asco-releases-principles-patient-centered-healthcare-reform).

The *Drug Enforcement Agency* has reversed its decision to eliminate the grace period for renewing registrations. It is retaining its current policy and procedures, with one minor change regarding registration renewals—the DEA will no longer send its second renewal notification by mail. Instead, an electronic reminder to renew will be sent to the e-mail address associated with the DEA registration.

For 2017, a new CPT procedure code (96377) was developed and published for the application of an on-body injector for timed subcutaneous injection. Unfortunately, 96377 did not originally appear in the Medicare Part B fee schedule and the January update included it with an "Inactive" rather than "Contractor Priced" code. ANCO and ASCO have contacted *Noridian/JEMAC* and CMS regarding this matter and hope for a correction in the near future. In the meantime, *Noridian/JEMAC* has informed ANCO that you may use 96372 to bill for the application of an on-body injector for timed subcutaneous injection. ACCC has compiled all the oncology coding updates for 2017 at [www.accc-cancer.org/publications/pdf/Oncology-Reimbursement-Coding-Update-2017.pdf?\\_zs=bhddd1&\\_zl=dqwU3](http://www.accc-cancer.org/publications/pdf/Oncology-Reimbursement-Coding-Update-2017.pdf?_zs=bhddd1&_zl=dqwU3).

Read CMS's Fact Sheet on the CY2017 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) at [www.cms.gov/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-sheets/2016-Fact-sheets-items/2016-11-02.html](http://www.cms.gov/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-sheets/2016-Fact-sheets-items/2016-11-02.html). In summary, physician payments will increase by .24% in 2017 compared to 2016 after factoring a .5% increase required by MACRA. There is a net 0% change in reimbursements for hematology/oncology and radiation oncology. The California fee schedules are now available at [med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb/fees-news/fee-schedules/mpfs](http://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb/fees-news/fee-schedules/mpfs). Read ASCO's summary at [www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/asco-in-action/cms-releases-final-rules-2017-medicare-physician-fee-schedule-and](http://www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/asco-in-action/cms-releases-final-rules-2017-medicare-physician-fee-schedule-and); read ACCC's *Top-Level Takeaways* at [www.accc-cancer.org/ACCCbuzz/cms-2017-opps-mpfs-final-rules-top-level-takeaways/?\\_zs=bhddd1&\\_zl=MTCQ3](http://www.accc-cancer.org/ACCCbuzz/cms-2017-opps-mpfs-final-rules-top-level-takeaways/?_zs=bhddd1&_zl=MTCQ3); and, read Bobbi Buell's summary at [www.anco-online.org/BBCY2017MPFS.pdf](http://www.anco-online.org/BBCY2017MPFS.pdf).

**CMS is now accepting applications for a new Clinical Practice Improvement Activities (CPIA) study, which will examine clinical workflow and data collection methods so that CMS can better understand the challenges of collecting and reporting quality data.** Clinicians and practices that participate in the CMS CPIA study will receive full credit for the CPIA performance category through the Quality Payment Program (QPP) under MACRA. Receiving full credit in the CPIA performance category will help boost participants' composite scores in the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). Participants in the study will need to complete at least three survey questionnaires during the study, participate in at least three focus groups, and submit at least three clinical quality performance measures to CMS by December 2017. Applications will be accepted through January 31<sup>st</sup>; download the application and learn more about the study at [www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Value-Based-Programs/MACRA-MIPS-and-APMs/CPIA-Study-Application.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Value-Based-Programs/MACRA-MIPS-and-APMs/CPIA-Study-Application.pdf).

**CMS has finalized the new Medicare Quality Payment Program and launched the new Quality Payment Program website** (at [qpp.cms.gov](http://qpp.cms.gov)). The Program will implement the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and the Advanced Alternative Payment Model (APM) incentive payment provisions of MACRA. For more information, go to:

- CMS's executive summary at [qpp.cms.gov/docs/QPP\\_Executive\\_Summary\\_of\\_Final\\_Rule.pdf](http://qpp.cms.gov/docs/QPP_Executive_Summary_of_Final_Rule.pdf)
- CMS's fact sheet at [qpp.cms.gov/docs/Quality\\_Payment\\_Program\\_Overview\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://qpp.cms.gov/docs/Quality_Payment_Program_Overview_Fact_Sheet.pdf).
- CMS's tool for physicians to review and select the MACRA quality measures that best fit their practice at [qpp.cms.gov/measures/quality](http://qpp.cms.gov/measures/quality)
- ASCO's analysis of and comments on the final rule at [www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/asco-in-action/asco-releases-analysis-macra-final-rule-and-quality-payment-program](http://www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/asco-in-action/asco-releases-analysis-macra-final-rule-and-quality-payment-program) and [www.asco.org/sites/new-www.asco.org/files/content-files/ASCO-2016-MACRA-Comments-Final.pdf](http://www.asco.org/sites/new-www.asco.org/files/content-files/ASCO-2016-MACRA-Comments-Final.pdf).
- ASCO's fact sheets to help oncology practices successfully participate in the QPP at [www.asco.org/macra](http://www.asco.org/macra)

- ACCC's MACRA presentation at [www.anco-online.org/ACCCMACRAPresentation.pdf](http://www.anco-online.org/ACCCMACRAPresentation.pdf).
- ASH's summary of the final rule at [www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Policy-News/2016/6755.aspx](http://www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Policy-News/2016/6755.aspx), comments on the final rule at [www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Testimony.aspx](http://www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Testimony.aspx), and MACRA 101 for Hematologists at [ashondemand.org/Areas/Redesign/Content/MACRA\\_101\\_11-15-16.pdf](http://ashondemand.org/Areas/Redesign/Content/MACRA_101_11-15-16.pdf).
- Bobbi Buell's analysis of the MACRA final rule at [www.anco-online.org/BBMacraFinalRule.pdf](http://www.anco-online.org/BBMacraFinalRule.pdf)
- The *California Medical Association's* (CMA) MACRA Resource Center at [www.cmanet.org/macra](http://www.cmanet.org/macra)

Download the presentations from ASCO's webinar entitled *MACRA Rules are Final: Time to Implement* at [www.asco.org/practice-guidelines/practice-management-issues/medicare-program/macra](http://www.asco.org/practice-guidelines/practice-management-issues/medicare-program/macra).

**CMS has issued a two-year pass to physicians and group practices because of a glitch with quality reporting measures based on a recent update to the ICD-10 diagnosis and procedure codes.** The updates will impact CMS's ability to process data reported on certain quality measures for 4Q2016. CMS will not apply the 2017 or 2018 PQRS payment adjustments to any eligible professional or group practice that fails to satisfactorily report for CY2016 solely as a result of the impact of ICD-10 code updates on quality data reported for 4Q2016. Read CMS's FAQs at [www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/PQRS/Downloads/FAQs\\_ICD10CM\\_Final\\_20170109.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/PQRS/Downloads/FAQs_ICD10CM_Final_20170109.pdf).

**CMS's EHR Incentive Programs attestation system is now open for eligible professionals to attest for any 90-day continuous reporting period within CY2016.** Providers must attest by February 28<sup>th</sup> to avoid a 2018 payment adjustment. Go to [www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/2016ProgramRequirements.html](http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/2016ProgramRequirements.html) for more information.

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

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.

The *California Medical Association's* (CMA) annual publication, *New Health Laws*, contains a list of the most significant health laws of interest to physicians for 2017. Go to [www.cmanet.org/resource-library/detail/?item=significant-new-california-laws-of-interest2](http://www.cmanet.org/resource-library/detail/?item=significant-new-california-laws-of-interest2) for more information.

Sacramento can be a dangerous place for doctors. Many bills impacting medicine wind their way through the *Capitol* on their journey to the *Governor's* desk. And, many of these bills threaten the medical profession with the backing of powerful lobbyists and PACs. It's critical that **physicians have an advocate at work for them every day and who knows how to speak on their behalf. That advocate is the *California Medical Association* (CMA).** While physicians keep a close eye on their patients, CMA is keeping a close eye on those bills...and more. **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.** 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](http://www.cmanet.org/cpr) to subscribe.

### **Noridian/JEMAC, DHCS/MediCal, & Private Payers**

*Noridian Administrative Services* is the **Jurisdiction E (JE) Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC).** Jurisdiction E includes California. Regularly review postings at the *Noridian/JEMAC* website at [med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb](http://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb). Recent updates include:

- MLN Connects Provider eNews *Announcements*—EHR Incentive Program: Attest to 2016 Program Requirements by February 28; EHR Incentive Programs: Calculations for Objectives and Measures Requiring Patient Action; New Care Management Webpage; Provider Enrollment Application Fee Amount for CY2017 *Publications*—ICD-9-CM, ICD-10-CM, ICD-10-PCS, CPT, and HCPCS Code Sets Educational Tool-Reminder
- MolDX: Comprehensive Genomic Profiling to Guide Treatment in Patients with Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Draft LCD Published for Review and Comments
- MolDX: DecisionDx-UM (Uveal Melanoma) Draft LCD Published for Review and Comments
- MolDX: Prolaris Prostate Cancer Genomic Assay for Men with Favorable Intermediate Risk Disease Draft LCD Published for Review and Comments
- Self-Administered Drug Exclusion List-R11
- MolDX: Comprehensive Genomic Profiling to Guide Treatment in Patients with Metastatic Melanoma Draft LCD Published for Review and Comments
- MolDX-CDD: NSCLC, Comprehensive Genomic Profile Testing LCD-R1
- MolDX: Genetic Testing for BCR-ABL Negative Myeloproliferative Disease LCD-R3
- MolDX: Chromosome 1p/19q Deletion LCD-R1
- MolDX: Molecular Diagnostic Tests (MDT) LCD-R3

- HCPCS Codes Used for Home Health Consolidated Billing Enforcement-Annual Update-Revised CR9771
- Changes to the Laboratory NCD Edit Software for April 2017 CR9934
- ASP Medicare Part B Drug Pricing Files and Revisions to Prior Quarterly Pricing Files-April 2017 CR9945
- Radiopharmaceutical Fee Schedule 2016 Updates
- Chronic Care Management Services FAQs-Rescinded SE1516

Noridian/JEMAC's Electronic Data Interchange Support Services (EDISS) invites you to subscribe to its e-mail distribution list to receive current information at [www.edissweb.com/cgp/news/index.html](http://www.edissweb.com/cgp/news/index.html).

## EDUCATION

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

### **ANCO's SABCS Highlights 2014**

ANCO's annual *SABCS Highlights* took place on January 26<sup>th</sup> at *The Claremont Resort* in Oakland. Faculty from *UC Davis* (Candice Sauder, M.D.), and *UC San Francisco* (Hope S. Rugo, M.D., and Tracy Sherertz, M.D.) presented and reviewed the clinically most relevant results presented at December 2016's *San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium*. Download the presentations at [www.anco-online.org/education.html](http://www.anco-online.org/education.html).

### **17<sup>th</sup> Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-based Approach** **DISCOUNTED REGISTRATION** **ENDS JANUARY 31<sup>st</sup>**

The *17<sup>th</sup> Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-based Approach* returns to the *Silverado Resort and Spa* in Napa on March 17-19<sup>th</sup>. The meeting is sponsored by the *Association of Northern California Oncologists*, *Stanford Cancer Institute*, *UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center*, and the *UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center*. Go to [www.multicancers.org](http://www.multicancers.org) to register, reserve housing, and submit a case.

## **Additional Education Meetings**

January 31<sup>st</sup>  
*Updates in the Treatment of Estrogen Receptor (ER) Positive, Progesterone Receptor (PR) Positive & HER2 Positive Breast Cancer from the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium: Part II—Highlights from the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium*  
CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

February 1<sup>st</sup>  
*What Are Biosimilars? Understanding Their Role in Cancer Treatment: Current and Future Perspectives*  
CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

February 2<sup>nd</sup>  
*Treatment Update on Mantle Cell Lymphoma*  
CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

February 4<sup>th</sup>  
*Best of 17<sup>th</sup> WCLC*  
International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer  
San Francisco  
([www.eventbrite.com/e/best-of-the-17th-wclc-san-francisco-tickets-27633538658](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/best-of-the-17th-wclc-san-francisco-tickets-27633538658))

February 4<sup>th</sup>  
*Blood Cancer Conference Northern California*  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
San Francisco

February 6<sup>th</sup>  
*Advances in the Treatment of Gastric Cancer*  
CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

February 9<sup>th</sup>  
*Updates on Metastatic Breast Cancer from the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium: Part III—Highlights from the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium*  
CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

February 9-12<sup>th</sup>  
*Practical Recommendations in Immuno & Molecular Oncology (PRIMO)*  
Maui, Hawaii  
([www.primomeeting.org](http://www.primomeeting.org))

February 24<sup>th</sup>  
*Update on Thyroid Cancer*  
CancerCare Connect Education Workshop  
([www.cancercare.org/connect\\_workshops](http://www.cancercare.org/connect_workshops))

March 2<sup>nd</sup>*ASCO Oncology Practice Conference*

ASCO

Orlando

(opc.asco.org)

March 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>*ASCO Quality Care Symposium: Quality Matters*

ASCO

Orlando

(quality.asco.org)

March 6<sup>th</sup>*Managing Eye and Vision Changes Related to Cancer Treatments*

CancerCare Connect Education Workshop

(www.cancercares.org/connect\_workshops)

March 7<sup>th</sup>*Update on Small Cell Lung Cancer Treatments: Part I of Living with Small Cell Lung Cancer*

CancerCare Connect Education Workshop

(www.cancercares.org/connect\_workshops)

March 8<sup>th</sup>*Understanding the Role of Immunotherapy in Testing Cancer—Part I of Immunotherapy: A Promising New Approach to Treating Cancer*

CancerCare Connect Education Workshop

(www.cancercares.org/connect\_workshops)

March 10<sup>th</sup>*Living with Cancer Throughout the Cancer Journey*

CancerCare Connect Education Workshop

(www.cancercares.org/connect\_workshops)

March 11<sup>th</sup>*Regional Summit: GAIN—EnGaging an Interdisciplinary Team for NSCLC Diagnosis, Personalized Assessment & Treatment*

NCCN

San Francisco

(www.chestnet.org/Education/Advanced-Clinical-Training/CHEST-GAIN-NSCLC)

March 13<sup>th</sup>*9<sup>th</sup> Annual Palliative Care Summit*

Coalition for Compassionate Care of California

Sacramento

(http://cccsummit.org)

March 14<sup>th</sup>*Diagnostics in Small Cell Lung Cancer: How Diagnostics Help Inform Treatment Decisions—Part II of Living with Small Cell Lung Cancer*

CancerCare Connect Education Workshop

(www.cancercares.org/connect\_workshops)

March 15<sup>th</sup>*Managing the Side Effects of Immunotherapy—Part**III of Immunotherapy: A Promising New Approach to Treating Cancer*

CancerCare Connect Education Workshop

(www.cancercares.org/connect\_workshops)

March 16-18<sup>th</sup>*Multidisciplinary Thoracic Cancers Symposium: Bringing Precision Medicine to Thoracic Cancer Care*

American Society Clinical Oncology

San Francisco

(http://www.thoracicsymposium.org/index.aspx)

March 23<sup>rd</sup>*Update on Glioblastoma*

CancerCare Connect Education Workshop

(www.cancercares.org/connect\_workshops)

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

## ASSOCIATION & MEMBERSHIP NEWS, RESOURCES, & BENEFITS

*[Editor's Note: All ANCO members are also eligible for several tangible benefits.]*

### **Board of Directors**

The ANCO *Board of Directors* met on January 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss and/or act upon the following:

- 2016 Annual Election results
- Election of Secretary and Treasurer
- FY2017 Budget
- 2017 meeting/teleconference schedule

Contact the ANCO office for additional information on any of these items.

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* teleconferences/meetings are open to individual physician members. The **next regularly scheduled ANCO *Board of Directors* meeting is scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup>.** 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**

A current *Directory of Members* is 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 their own edition of *The ANCO*

*Directory of Members.* Please verify your *Directory* entry and contact the ANCO office at [execdir@anco-online.org](mailto: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 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 *Diablo Valley Oncology & Hematology Medical Group, EPIC Care, Marin Cancer Care, Pacific Cancer Care, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, 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 Cancer Center*
- *University of California, Davis, Cancer Center*
- *University of California, San Francisco*

**The UCSF Radiation Oncology Update: Practical Decisions in the Era of Big Data** takes place from February 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> in San Francisco. For more information and to register, go to [www.ucsfcmec.com/2017/MMC17019/info.html](http://www.ucsfcmec.com/2017/MMC17019/info.html).

**Stanford's Hematology Review of the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual ASH Meeting** takes place on February 4<sup>th</sup> in Half Moon Bay. For more information and to register, go to [cme.stanford.edu/hematology](http://cme.stanford.edu/hematology).

**Stanford's Neuroendocrine Tumors in 2017: New Diagnostics and Therapies** takes place on March 4<sup>th</sup> at Stanford. For more information and to register, go to [cme.stanford.edu/nets](http://cme.stanford.edu/nets).

### **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:

*AbbVie • Alexion Pharmaceuticals • AMGEN  
ARIAD Pharmaceuticals • Astellas Oncology  
AstraZeneca • Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals  
bioTherapeutics  
Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology  
Cardinal Health Specialty Solutions  
Celgene • Clovis Oncology • Daiichi Sankyo  
Dendreon • Eisai • EMD Serono • Exelixis  
Foundation Medicine  
Genoptix Medical Laboratory  
GenPath Oncology • Genentech BioOncology  
Genomic Health • Gilead Sciences  
Guardant Health • Helsinn Oncology  
Heron Therapeutics • Incyte  
Infinity Pharmaceuticals  
Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals  
Janssen Oncology • Jazz Pharmaceuticals  
Lilly Oncology • Merrimack Pharmaceuticals  
Medivation • Merck  
nanoString • Novartis Oncology  
Oncology Supply/ION • Pfizer Oncology  
Pharmacyclics • Prometheus Laboratories, Inc.  
Sandoz Biopharmaceuticals • Sanofi Genzyme  
Seattle Genetics • Taiho Oncology  
Takeda Oncology • Tesaro • TEVA Oncology*

We especially wish to thank and welcome *bioTherapeutics* as new Corporate Members for 2017. Please visit [www.anco-online.org/assistance.html](http://www.anco-online.org/assistance.html) for **Corporate Member drug reimbursement and patient assistance program information**. ANCO encourages all member practices to use this resource and enroll all patients at the start of treatment in all available and appropriate patient assistance programs.

**Janssen Biotech and Pharmacyclics** inform ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has approved Imbruvica for the treatment of patients with marginal zone lymphoma (MZL) who require systemic therapy and have received at least one prior anti-CD20-based therapy.

**Janssen Biotech** is hosting an educational program entitled *Darzalex-based Triplet Therapy for Multiple Myeloma Patients at First Relapse* with Amy Marsala, M.P., *UC San Francisco*, on March

17<sup>th</sup> at *Morimoto*, 610 Main Street, Napa. RSVP at [www.medforcereg.net/SOMP108529](http://www.medforcereg.net/SOMP108529).

### **Publications, Resources, Services, & Surveys**

ASCO's *Clinical Affairs Department* is dedicated to providing services, education, and resources to support oncology practices. It offers hands-on assistance in areas such as practice management, quality care assessment and improvement, and efficiency and business intelligence to meet the needs and demands of the current oncology landscape. Resources on the business of oncology, practice management (staffing, technology), practice transformation, and market analysis are available from the *Department*. For more information, visit [www.asco.org/asco-in-action/asco's-clinical-affairs-department-opens-new-survey-practice-operations](http://www.asco.org/asco-in-action/asco's-clinical-affairs-department-opens-new-survey-practice-operations).

ASCO's 2017 *Quality Training Program*, a six-month course in data-driven quality improvement, will now take place in two locations—Dallas and Portland. The session dates for Portland are April 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, June 28-29<sup>th</sup>, and October 18<sup>th</sup>. To learn more about and apply to participate in the Program, visit [www.asco.org/training-education/professional-development/quality-training-program](http://www.asco.org/training-education/professional-development/quality-training-program).

ASCO has issued a new small renal masses guideline. The new guideline offers evidence-based recommendations to help physicians provide the best care to patients with small renal masses. Read the guideline at [www.asco.org/practice-guidelines/quality-guidelines/guidelines/genitourinary-cancer#/15516](http://www.asco.org/practice-guidelines/quality-guidelines/guidelines/genitourinary-cancer#/15516).

ASCO's PracticeNET is a collaborative network in which practices share and receive insights to enhance their business operations and quality of care. PracticeNET is the first initiative of ASCO's *Clinical Affairs Department*. This new initiative uses existing data from your practice management system to offer customizable reports that measure practice-wide and individual performance against a national database of other PracticeNET participants. Go to [www.asco.org/PracticeNET](http://www.asco.org/PracticeNET) for more information.

ASCO has launched its 2018 Survey of Oncology Practice Operations (SOPO), an annual survey of business and operational issues in oncology practices. The *Society* aims to capture the current state of oncology management practices to help

practices navigate the evolving cancer care delivery system. Complete the survey by January 27<sup>th</sup> at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZCV5GWB](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZCV5GWB).

The January 2017 issue of ASCO's *Journal of Oncology Practice (JOP)* is available online and features articles entitled *Physician's Office and Hospital Outpatient Setting in Oncology: It's About Prices, Not Use; Unwanted Variation in Cancer Care: It Is Time to Innovate and Change; Supporting the Supporters: What Family Caregivers Need to Care for a Loved One With Cancer; Choosing Wisely: Opportunities for Improving Value in Cancer Care Deliver?; Impact of Payer Constraints on Access to Genetic Testing; Transforming Prior Authorization to Decision Support*. Visit [jop.ascopubs.org](http://jop.ascopubs.org) for more information.

A new collaboration between ASCO and the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) enables participants of ASCO's *Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI)* to receive *Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Practice Assessment points from ABIM*. For more information on ABIM MOC, eligibility and requirements, please visit [university.asco.org/practice-assessment-activities](http://university.asco.org/practice-assessment-activities).

ASCO and *Innovative Oncology Business Solutions (IOBS)* have announced a new collaboration, ASCO COME HOME—an oncology medical home program designed to transition community oncology practices from volume-based to value-based care by structuring reimbursement around the full range of services needed by patients with cancer. ASCO COME HOME will also prepare oncology practices for full implementation of the Quality Payment Program under MACRA and will be available across the country starting on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. ASCO is now recruiting practices for the fee-based 2017 ASCO COME HOME program. For more information, please contact Elaine Towle ([elaine.towle@asco.org](mailto:elaine.towle@asco.org)). Learn more about ASCO's physician payment reform efforts at [www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/policies-positions-guidance/coverage-reimbursement/physician-payment-reform](http://www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/policies-positions-guidance/coverage-reimbursement/physician-payment-reform).

Free PQRS reporting is now available through ASCO's *Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI)*. All users will be able to use the QOPI system to fulfill the Oncology Measures Group set of seven measures for PQRS reporting. By completing the PQRS module by January 31<sup>st</sup>, practices can avoid a 2% reduction in Medicare



reimbursement beginning in 2018. Learn more at [www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/asco-in-action/complete-free-pqrs-reporting-through-qopi-by-december-31-2016](http://www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/asco-in-action/complete-free-pqrs-reporting-through-qopi-by-december-31-2016). QOPI is designed to promote excellence in cancer care by helping oncologists create a culture of self-examination and improvement.

**In 2017, practices will also be able to use the QOPI platform to meet the MIPS reporting requirement of one measure through manual reporting.** While one measure is the minimum requirement to avoid the 2019 penalty, ASCO encourages all practices to report on at least four measure to become fully acquainted with the system and ensure that the CMS requirements are met.

**Apply for the ASH Congressional Fellowship Program by January 31<sup>st</sup>** at

[www.hematology.org/Advocacy/6872.aspx](http://www.hematology.org/Advocacy/6872.aspx). This year-long opportunity will place a hematologist on Capitol Hill to work in a *Congressional* office and help shape health care and hematology policy.

**See what you missed at this year's ASH Annual Meeting by visiting ASH on Demand to access more than 100 hours of recorded sessions.** Go to [ashondemand.org/Meetings/Annual-Meetings](http://ashondemand.org/Meetings/Annual-Meetings) for more information.

**ACCC's 2017 Patient Assistance and Reimbursement Guide** is an essential tool for cancer program staff to use in helping patients with issues related to the cost of treatment and in meeting reimbursement challenges. The *Guide* features a list of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical patient assistance programs (PAPs), including directions on how to apply and links to enrollment forms. Visit [www.accc-cancer.org/publications/pdf/Patient-Assistance-Guide-2017.pdf](http://www.accc-cancer.org/publications/pdf/Patient-Assistance-Guide-2017.pdf) to access this resource. In addition, ACCC has developed a tool for accessing patient assistance and reimbursement programs for use on a desktop, table, or mobile device. The *Financial Advocacy Network* (FAN) app is available at [accc-fan-app.org](http://accc-fan-app.org). **ASH also has a webpage (at [www.hematology.org/Clinicians/Drugs/Programs/](http://www.hematology.org/Clinicians/Drugs/Programs/)) that provides a consolidated list of resources for hematologists and patients trying to access high cost hematologic drugs.** And, at NCCN's Reimbursement Resource Room ([www.nccn.org/reimbursement\\_resource\\_room/default.asp](http://www.nccn.org/reimbursement_resource_room/default.asp)) you can select a cancer diagnosis or supportive care indication and learn about reimbursement help and services

**available to you.** Finally, *assistPoint* is your **website for complimentary one-stop cancer Patient Assistance.** You can search by generic, brand name, manufacturer, or diagnosis for the enrollment forms you need; get enrollment form PDFs for cancer drugs; get NDC numbers for all of those drugs; find the HCPCS J-code for each drug; get coding and billing guidelines for many drugs; and, learn more about the drugs you give. Go to [www.assistpoint.com](http://www.assistpoint.com) to learn more.

**NCCN has published and/or updated their *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology* and/or *Drugs & Biologics Compendium*** for adolescent and young adult oncology (V2.2017); chronic lymphocytic leukemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma (chemotherapy order templates); chronic myeloid leukemia (V2.2017); myelodysplastic syndromes (chemotherapy order templates); non-small cell lung cancer (chemotherapy order templates, V4.2017). Go to [www.nccn.org](http://www.nccn.org) for more information. NCCN is pleased to offer pocket-sized versions of the NCCN *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology* for a number of their guidelines at [www.nccn.org/redirects/nicelines.asp?Type=general](http://www.nccn.org/redirects/nicelines.asp?Type=general).

### ***Individual Membership Dues for 2017***

Membership renewal notices for 2017 were mailed to all members in late November, along with annual election ballots and the **2016 Annual Report**. If you have not yet done so, then please return your 2017 membership dues to ANCO now to ensure your inclusion in *The ANCO Directory of Members*. 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 June 30<sup>th</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 do 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!**