

ANCO FAX News

Association of Northern California Oncologists
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IN THIS ISSUE

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 routinely sent to physician member practices and corporate member contacts. The next regular *ANCO FAX News* will be published Friday, February 13th.

Comments on and contributions to the *ANCO FAX News* are always welcome and encouraged at ANCO, P.O. Box 151109, San Rafael, CA 94915-1109; Voice: (415) 472-3960; FAX: (415) 472-3961; jlgonzalez@aol.com.

ADVOCACY

[*Editor's Note:* ANCO meets regularly with national, regional, and statewide organizations to discuss issues of importance to oncology practices and people with cancer.

We continually seek input from members on agenda items for these meetings. Send your issues to the ANCO office.]

ACCC, ASCO, 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). We regularly participate with these organizations on matters of

national importance to oncology practices.]

ASCO has posted a list of *Frequently Asked Questions* (and their answers) regarding the *Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act* (originally known as DIMA, and now referred to as MMA, for *Medicare Modernization Act*) on its web site (www.asco.org/medicare). Topics include:

- Billing 99211.
- Coding multiple pushes per day.

**There is information in the
ANCO FAX News
for every member of your practice
or organization.
Pass it along!**

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

The *Association of Northern California Oncologists* (ANCO) is a professional association of medical oncologists and hematologists dedicated to promoting high professional standards of oncology 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, 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 billing, contracting, and coding. The information contained in the *ANCO FAX News* should not be used as a substitute for such advice.

- E&M services on the same day as chemotherapy administration.
- Using modifier -25.
- Drug reimbursement/allowable adjustments.

ANCO will keep its members informed of developments as they happen with regard to this very important issue. In the meantime, please share how your practice plans on accommodating to the new Medicare reimbursement environment via e-mail to jlgonzalez@aol.com.

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) House of Delegates and Council on Legislation. ANCO and MOASC cooperate on several joint ventures and coordinate activities in the advocacy and membership benefit arenas. Each is represented at the Board meeting of the other.]

ASCO and MOASC are organizing the *1st Annual Symposium on Genomics in Clinical Oncology* in La Quinta on February 27-28th. David Botstein, Ph.D., Princeton University will receive the *First Annual Sebastian George Memorial Award*. Additional faculty include David B. Agus, M.D., Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Darell Bigner, M.D., Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center, Paul Bunn, M.D., University of Colorado, Robert B. Diasio, M.D., University of Alabama, Brian J. Druker, M.D., Oregon Health and Science University, and Edith Perez, M.D., The Mayo Clinic. Registration forms are available from the ANCO office.

NHIC/Medicare & DHS/MediCal

[Editor's Note: ANCO meets with National Heritage Insurance Company (NHIC) that administers Medicare in California and the Department of Health Services (DHS) that administers MediCal in California.]

The 2004 *Medicare Physician Fee Schedule* (including drug pricing) is now available at the NHIC/Medicare website (www.medicarenhic.com/cal_prov/fee_sched.shtml).

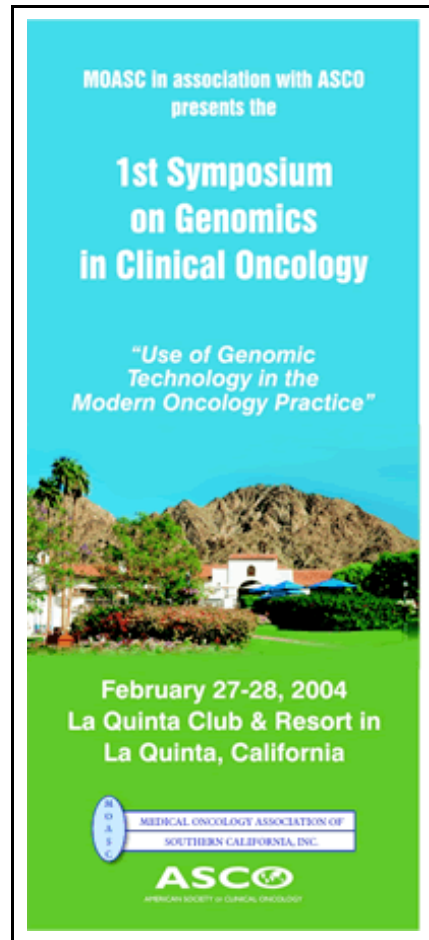
Effective January 1st, laboratories should add the **GY modifier** to the CPT procedure codes for any service where the appropriate diagnosis for that service is on the list of diagnoses that are not covered by Medicare.

The most recent *NHIC/Medicare Medicare Advisory Forum* (MAF) meeting took place via teleconference on January 20th. Among the topics discussed were:

- Educational Outreach will provide general updates and billing tips (from Medical Review), as well as discuss the NHIC/Medicare website redesign, CERT program, and a "day in the life" of a Medicare claim during the 2004 workshop tour during March and April.
- No new biller sessions will be included in this year's Educational

Outreach tour. NHIC/Medicare will entertain proposals for Association-sponsored new biller sessions after the tour's conclusion.

- Lupron under-reimbursed claims should have been mass adjusted by the end of December.
- There has been no policy changes (as of yet) with regard to CBCs.



- NHIC/Medicare will entertain requests to reprint and/or update coding/billing guideline articles.

The most recent *NHIC/Medicare Carrier Advisory Committee (CAC)* meeting took place in Oakland on January 21st. Among the topics discussed at the meeting were:

- Final IVIG policy effective January 15th.
- Appropriate use of modifier 25 with an article to be published in the *Medicare Resource*.
- As of April 1st, all claims must include a service site address on the claim form (e.g., Form 1500, Line 32.). Previously, physician office addresses did not need to be entered on the claim form.

NHIC/Medicare has not yet appointed a **new Medical Director**. It is expected that a new *Medical Director* will be in place in early 2004.

The next *NHIC/Medicare Advisory Forum (MAF)* teleconference takes place on March 16th; the next *NHIC/Medicare Carrier Advisory Committee (CAC)* meeting takes place in Los Angeles on April 21st; the next ANCO•MOASC meeting with NHIC/Medicare will take place at a date and location to be determined.

EDUCATION

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

Review of the 26th Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium

On Wednesday, January 21st, Helen K. Chew, M.D., F.A.C.P., *UC Davis*, reviewed the most clinically relevant studies presented at last month's meeting in San Antonio. Approximately 130 physicians, nurses, and others attended this meeting at The Claremont Resort, Oakland. *AstraZeneca*, *Genomic Health*, *Novartis Oncology*, *Ortho Biotech*, and *Pfizer Oncology* helped support this meeting. Copies of the syllabus are available from the ANCO office.

Medicare Reimbursement for Oncology 2004

On Tuesday through Thursday, January 27-29th, in Fresno, Sacramento, and San José, Roberta Buell, M.B.A., will present the latest information on the changes in Medicare reimbursement for oncology. The speaker will describe these changes as well as those planned for 2005, how to analyze their impact on your oncology practice, and possible responses to these impacts. Analytical tools will be described and illustrated. Copies of distributed materials will be available after the meetings for those unable to attend. Contact the ANCO office to request copies. *Eli Lilly and Company* and *Ortho Biotech* are sponsoring these meetings. Announcements were mailed in mid December.

Review of the American Society of Hematology (ASH) 2003 Annual Meeting

On Tuesday, March 23rd, Charles Linker, M.D., Tom Martin, M.D., and Willis Navarro, M.D., *UC San Francisco*, will review the most clinically relevant studies presented at last month's meeting in San Diego. This meeting will take place at The Claremont Resort, Oakland. *UC San Francisco* is accrediting this program for continuing education units. *Cell Therapeutics*, *Genentech BioOncology*, *Genta*, *IDEC Pharmaceuticals*, *Novartis Oncology*, *US Oncology*, and *Wyeth Oncology* are supporting this meeting. Announcements will be mailed in early February.

Other ANCO Meetings

Additional ANCO meetings (*ASCO Highlights*, an *Annual Meeting*) are in the planning stages and will be announced as they are scheduled.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of interest to ANCO member practices are:

February 7-11th
Annual Meeting on Women's Cancer
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists
San Diego

March 6th

Third Annual Conference: What's Really Going On?

Allison Taylor Holbrooks Breast Cancer Research Fund
San Francisco (see attached announcement)

March 12-14th

6th Northern California Tumor Board at Silverado
Stanford University School of Medicine
Napa

May 5-7th

2004 Spring Conference and Annual Meeting
California Hospice Foundation
San José

June 5-8th

40th Annual Meeting
American Society of Clinical Oncology
New Orleans, LA

June 10-11th

Pain and End-of-Life Care
University of California,
San Francisco
San Francisco

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

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

[*Editor's Note:* All ANCO members are eligible for benefits from the *California Oncology Consortium* (COC) and *Hematology Oncology Leadership Network* (HOLN).]

California Oncology Consortium (COC)

The COC is a cooperative venture of ANCO and MOASC. The *Consortium* maintains a web site (www.californiaoncology.org); has a ListServ for the exchange of general/administrative and clinical information; and, has a group purchasing organization (GPO).

Group Purchasing Organization. The COC GPO has preferred vendor agreements and discounted pricing with *International Oncology Network* (ION) and *Oncology Supply* (OS), and with *National Oncology Alliance* (NOA) and *Oncology Therapeutics Network* (OTN) for

oncology pharmaceuticals and a wide-range of value-added services.

ION and *Eli Lilly and Company* are organizing a series of evening meetings around the country entitled *New Medicare Reimbursement: The Good (2004), the Bad (2005), and the Ugly (2006)*. Fresno (February 9th), Sacramento (February 11th), and San Francisco (February 12th) sites are planned in Northern California. Please contact ION, your *Lilly* representative, or the ANCO office for additional information.

NOA recently announced contract (i.e., product, rebate, and/or pricing) changes for *APP, Bedford, Nabi, Roche, and Sicor* products. It has added an *Aventis* contract for Taxotere.

Hematology Oncology Leadership Network (HOLN)

HOLN is a network of state oncology and oncology manager societies from Northern and Southern California, Connecticut, Georgia, New Jersey, Ohio/West Virginia, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia. As an ANCO member, you may enroll in HOLN and benefit

from discounted contracting with several major pharmaceutical manufacturers for medical supplies and drugs. HOLN-contracted prices are honored at several distributors, including *Oncology Supply* and *Oncology Therapeutics Network*. Finally, value-added services are also being offered to HOLN participants (e.g., professionally designed web sites for your medical practice at a substantially reduced price).

A complete current (as of December 2003) price list of HOLN contracted products is available from the ANCO office or online at www.holn.org.

ANCO thanks

AstraZeneca, Cell Therapeutics,
Eli Lilly and Company,
Genentech BioOncology, Genomic Health,
Genta, IDEC Pharmaceuticals,
Novartis Oncology, Ortho Biotech,
Pfizer Oncology, US Oncology,
&
Wyeth Oncology

for supporting clinical and professional education.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* met on January 21st. Among the issues discussed and/or acted upon were:

- Corporate Member relationships.
- Drug and practice expense reimbursement reform.
- *Legislative/Regulatory Committee* update.
- *Education Committee* update, including plans for upcoming *Review/Highlights* meetings, the *Annual Meeting*, and additional meeting proposals.
- *Practice Management Committee* update, including plans for professional education meetings and a position statement on HPV testing for cervical cancer screening.
- *Finance Committee* update, including FY2003 results and FY2004 budget.

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

The ANCO *Board of Directors* meets regularly by teleconference and occasionally in person to discuss issues affecting the *Association*, clinical and professional education meeting proposals, and ways to serve the membership. *Board* meetings are open to the membership. The **next regularly scheduled ANCO Board of Directors meeting** will take place on March 23rd. Please call José Luis González, *ANCO Executive Director*, at (415) 472-3960 if you wish to participate in a future meeting.

Individual Member News

The ANCO Directory of Members & Membership Information 2003 was published and mailed to all members in early June 2003. An updated edition will be published in June 2004. Additional copies are available from the ANCO office.

The following update(s) to the *Directory* should be inserted in the appropriate location(s):

PHYSICIAN MEMBERS

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Corporate & Institutional Member News

ANCO thanks the following **Corporate Members** for their generous support that enables ANCO to grow and expand its services for the 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:

American Pharmaceutical Partners
AMGEN • AstraZeneca • Aventis
Bayer Biologicals • Berlex Laboratories
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology
Cell Therapeutics • Chiron Corporation
Eli Lilly and Company
Genentech BioOncology • Glaxo SmithKline
IDEC Pharmaceuticals • IMPATH
International Oncology Network
LashGroup/Documedics
Ligand Pharmaceuticals
MedImmune Oncology • MGI Pharma
Millennium • National Oncology Alliance
Novartis Oncology • Oncology Supply
Oncology Therapeutics Network

*Oncotech • Ortho Biotech
Pfizer Oncology • Roche Oncology
Sanofi-Synthelabo • SuperGen
US Oncology • Wyeth Oncology*

Members are encouraged to provide the names of organizations that are not currently Corporate Members to the ANCO office.

Millennium has informed ANCO that Velcade has been assigned a new C-code (C9207) for hospital outpatient prospective coding/billing.

We thank our current roster of **Institutional Members** for their support:

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

The **6th Annual Northern California Tumor Board at Silverado** will be presented by the *Stanford University School of Medicine* from March 12-14th. Tumor boards on cancer genetics; breast, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, and thoracic cancers; hematological malignancies and lymphoma; and, supportive and palliative care will be presented by faculty from *Stanford, UC Davis, and UC San Francisco*, and the community. Registration and case submission materials can be obtained from ANCO or from Beverly Kelly at (650) 736-1454 (beverlyk@stanford.edu).

Pain and End-of-Life Care takes place in San Francisco on June 10-11th. Presented by the *University of California, San Francisco*, this course is designed for all physicians, nurses, and pharmacists who care for patients in pain or with life-threatening illness. Visit cme.ucsf.edu/calendar/CourseDetail.asp?CourseNumber=DMM04462 for more information.

Membership Dues for 2004

Membership renewal notices were mailed to all members in early December 2003. Please renew your membership for 2004 as soon as possible. Be sure to take advantage of dues discounts and provide ANCO with the name(s) of an office and nurse manager contact. Those not renewing their membership by June 1st will be deleted from the *Directory of Members* and will no

longer be eligible for participation in ANCO's discounted pharmaceutical pricing programs. Contact the ANCO office if you did not receive or have misplaced your membership dues renewal notice.

ANCO seeks new members. Please provide the ANCO office with the names and addresses of colleagues you would like invited to join ANCO.

A larger ANCO is a stronger ANCO!