

ANCO FAX News

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Vol. 4, No. 1

January 7th, 2005

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 sent to physician member practices and corporate member contacts. The next regular *ANCO FAX News* will be published on January 21st.

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; ExecDir@anco-online.org.

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.]

ANCO and ASCO continue to work towards ensuring that people with cancer have access to quality cancer care in the community. Here is the latest with regard to the *Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003* (MMA):

- CMS's coding guidelines for drug administration and cancer care demonstration project G-codes are

**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 an 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, 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.

available at:

—www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pm_trans/R129OTN.pdf (on drug administration)

—www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pm_trans/R12DEMO.pdf (on demonstration project)

• **California payment rates for the 2005 G-codes** are available at:

—www.medicarehhs.com/cal_prov/fee_sched.shtml

• **CMS's payment rates for drugs effective January 1st** are available at:

—www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/drugs/asp.asp

• **ASCO's ASP Spreadsheet Tool & Guide** (available at www.anco-online.org/mma.html) allows you to analyze the impact of the 1Q05 Medicare drug allowables on your practice. Please report your actual prices to ASCO by sending a copy of your completed spreadsheet to aspspreadsheet@asco.org.

• **ASCO's audio conference entitled *Adapting to Medicare Changes*** was repeated on January 6th. Materials are available at www.anco-online.org/mma.html, including:

—*Adapting to Medicare Changes*

—*ASCO FAQs on Revised Medicare Drug Administration Codes and Cancer Care Demonstration Project*

—*ASCO Summary of Coding & Payment Changes for Medicare Drug Administration Codes*

—*Comparison of 2004 (based on 85% of AWP) and 1Q05 (based on 106% of ASP) Medicare Allowables*

Topics covered during the audio conference included:

—Medicare drug reimbursement will be updated quarterly with a two-quarter lag (i.e., 1Q05 allowables based on 3Q04 ASPs plus 6%);

—new drug administration G-codes in three categories (hydration, non-chemotherapy diagnostic/therapeutic drug administration, and chemotherapeutic drug administration)

identified, related to previous CPT codes (if available), or introduced (if new);

—definition of terms (e.g., push; initial, concurrent, and sequential infusions; add-on codes; chemotherapy versus non-chemotherapy therapeutic drugs);

—there should only be one initial G-code used per patient per date of service (with few exceptions, regardless of the number of G-codes used from the three categories);

—there should be an administration code for each drug administered;

—some drug administration codes not changing in 2005;

—irrigation of implanted venous access devices (i.e., port flushes) not paid when other physician fee schedule services are paid, but will be paid alone or in combination with clinical laboratory fee schedule services;

—comparison of coding/payments for clinical examples from 2003 through 2005;

—billing for severe drug reaction management using existing CPT codes (e.g., higher level E&M, prolonged service, and critical care service codes);

—bone marrow aspiration and biopsy add-on codes;

—new cancer care demonstration project G-codes and documentation (what they are, where they must be billed, how much to bill for, and how to document);

—a “to do” list for all medical oncology practices (e.g., translating current CPT-based coding regimens to new G-code system);

—generic and specific coding/billing examples were provided (and are included in the *Adapting to Medicare Changes* document); and,

—private payers are not required to adopt these Medicare changes. Contact your private payers to determine their plans for 2005.

A rebroadcast of this ASCO audio conference will be available through

January 14th and can be accessed by calling (888) 203-1112, confirmation number 168502.

- ASCO is developing an addendum to *Practical Tips for the Practicing Oncologist* focusing on the 2005 coding and billing changes.

Visit www.asco.org/mma, www.anco-online.org/mma.html, or call/e-mail ASCO's billing and coding hotline at (703) 299-1054/practice@asco.org for up-to-date information on changes in coding for drug administration services, as well as billing and payments for drugs.

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.]

Effective January 1st, NHIC/Medicare no longer accepts **discontinued HCPCS codes for services rendered in 2005**. Use of such codes to bill services provided in 2005 will cause claims to be returned and not paid. HCPCS codes must be valid at the time the service is rendered.

The *Medicare B Resource* (December 2004) is available online at www.medicarenhic.com/providers/news/mbr_dec04.pdf.

Visit www.medicarenhic.com/whats_new/whats_new.shtml to learn **the latest information** (updated weekly) **from NHIC/Medicare**. Weekly updates are posted on ANCO's WebLog (at www.anco-online.org/news/index.html; under California News).

EDUCATION

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

San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Highlights 2004

On Wednesday, January 26th, faculty from *UC San Francisco* (Laura J. Esserman, M.D., M.B.A., Catherine C. Park, M.D., Michelle E. Melisko, M.D., and John W. Park, M.D.) will review the most clinically relevant studies presented at December 2004's meeting in San Antonio. Hope S. Rugo, M.D., will moderate this meeting that will take place at the Hotel Nikko, San Francisco. ASCO has accredited this meeting for 3 CEUs. Sponsors and exhibitors for this meeting include *Aventis Oncology*, *Berlex Oncology*, *Genentech BioOncology*, *Genomic Health*,

International Oncology Network/Oncology Supply, *Lilly Oncology*, *MGI Pharma*, *Novartis Oncology*, *Pfizer Oncology*, and *US Oncology* as of this date. Meeting announcements were mailed in early December.

ASH Highlights 2004

On Wednesday, February 9th, faculty from *Stanford University* (Steven E. Coutre, M.D., and Jason R. Gotlib, M.D.), *UC Davis* (Joseph M. Tuscano, M.D., and Theodore Wun, M.D.), and *UC San Francisco* (Thomas G. Martin, III, M.D.) will review the most clinically relevant studies presented at December 2004's meeting in San Diego. Theodore Wun, M.D., will moderate this meeting that will take place at the Hotel Nikko, San Francisco. ASCO has accredited this meeting for 3 CEUs. Sponsors and exhibitors for this meeting include *Berlex Oncology*, *biogenIDEC*, *Cell Therapeutics*, *Genentech BioOncology*, *Lilly Oncology*, *Millennium*, *Novartis Oncology*, *OSI Pharmaceuticals*, and *Wyeth BioPharma* as of this date. Meeting announcements were mailed in late December.

ANCO thanks

Aventis Oncology, Berlex Oncology, biogenIDEC, Cell Therapeutics, Genentech BioOncology, Genomic Health, International Oncology Network, Lilly Oncology, MGI Pharma, Millennium, Novartis Oncology, Oncology Supply, OSI Pharmaceuticals, Pfizer Oncology, US Oncology, & Wyeth BioPharma

for supporting clinical and professional education.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of interest to ANCO member practices are:

January 10th

Shifting the Paradigm: A Multidisciplinary Approach to the Treatment of Hormone Refractory Prostate Cancer

Postgraduate Institute for Medicine & IMPACT Satellite, Webcast, or Audio Conference

January 27-29th

Cancer 2005: Preferred Treatment and Management Options

Hoag Cancer Center
Huntington Beach

February 3rd

Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia: Update from the ASH Annual Meeting

CancerCare and Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Telephone Education Workshop

February 26-27th

Essentials of Pain Medicine: What You Need to Know on the Front Line of Medicine

American Academy of Pain Medicine
Palm Springs

February 27th-March 2nd

2005 Spring Conference & Meeting

California Hospice Foundation

Oakland

March 5th

When Taking Care Means Taking Charge: 4th Annual Alison Taylor Holbrooks Breast Cancer Conference

Alison Taylor Holbrooks Breast Cancer Research Fund (and others, including ANCO)
San Francisco

March 13-19th

CancerGuides: A Program to Train Integrative Cancer Care Counselors

Center for Mind-Body Medicine
Oakland

March 26th

Each One Reach One: Working Together to Make a Change

Northern California Cancer Center
Oakland

June 19-25th

Food As Medicine

Center for Mind-Body Medicine
Oakland

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)*.]

ANCO On-Line

ANCO's independent website has been redesigned and re-launched at www.anco-online.org. It features the following:

- A general description of the *Association* and its activities.
- ANCO's advocacy information, educational meeting announcements and materials, publications, and WebLog.
- Links to affiliated organizations and updated physician, nurse, manager, and patient resources.

The WebLog archives important news for oncology practices posted on an almost daily basis. Among the additional news topics covered at www.anco-online.org/news/index.html since the last edition of the *ANCO FAX News* are:

- ASCO's e-News, MMA Special Alerts, and MMA Today's
- CMA Updates
- CMS/Medicare Website Updates
- NHIC/Medicare Website Updates

ANCO urges its members to bookmark www.anco-online.org/news/index.html (or subscribe to www.anco-online.org/news/rss.xml using your favorite news reader software; e.g., RssReader for Windows or NetNewsWire for Macintosh) and refer to it often. Your suggestions are welcome and encouraged.

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).

ListSerts. The COC operates two e-mail based communications systems called ListSerts. The COC-ADMIN ListServ is available to all ANCO and MOASC physician members, practice managers and nurses, and Corporate Member representatives. It is a source for the latest *Association* news, special bulletins, legislative reports, and other information impacting oncology practices. To post an item to the COC-ADMIN ListServ, send e-mail to COC-ADMIN@californiaoncology.org.

The COC-CLINICAL ListServ is open only to ANCO and MOASC physician members for the secure exchange of information and ideas between physicians. To post an item to the COC-CLINICAL ListServ, send e-mail to COC-CLINICAL@californiaoncology.org.

All members and their staffs are encouraged to subscribe, participate, and use these ListSerts to communicate with colleagues about issues of importance to oncology practices by sending their e-mail addresses to the ANCO office.

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's *Late Breaking Medicare Reform Challenges: What Your Practice Needs to Know Now* will address the challenges presented by the implementation of MMA and faced by community-based practices in 2005. This meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 19th, at The Claremont Resort, Oakland, starting at 6:30PM. Additional information is available from ION or ANCO.

NOA provides its members general HIPAA compliance support via its *HIPAA Compliance Toolkit* that addresses a practice's need to meet complicated, intricate HIPAA compliance rules and regulations. The *Toolkit* includes a set of

draft policies and procedures, templates for forms and letters, a HIPAA training section, and a CD-ROM containing custom-ready forms. NOA recently added a chapter on *Research and the Privacy Rule*. A forthcoming chapter will address the *HIPAA Security Rule*. To request a free *HIPAA Compliance Toolkit*, please contact your NOA member services representative at (866) 466-2462 or send e-mail to hipaa@noainc.com

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*. **A complete current price list of HOLN contracted products** is available from the ANCO office or online at www.holn.org.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Annual Election

The ANCO membership elected the following members to the *Board of Directors* (location, for the indicated terms):

George A. Fisher, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.
(Stanford, 2005-2007)

Stephen T. Hufford, M.D.
(San Francisco, 2005-2007)

Robert S. Miller, M.D.
(Sacramento, 2005-2007)

Peter Paul Yu, M.D.
(Sunnyvale, 2005-2007)

Roger Shiffman, M.D., (Monterey) has resigned from the *Board*.

Drs. Adler (San Mateo, 2005), Alexander (Santa Cruz, 2005), Bohannon (San Francisco, 2005-2006), Hardy (Ukiah, 2005-2006), Keech (Chico, 2005), Keiser (Santa

Rosa, 2005-2006), Kramer (San Francisco, 2005), and Patel (San Leandro, 2005-2006) continue on the *Board*.

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 the membership. The **next regularly scheduled ANCO Board of Directors meeting** will take place on January 26th. 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 2004 was published and mailed to all physician members; nurse and office manager contacts; and, Corporate Member representatives last June. Additional copies are available from the ANCO office upon request.

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

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Corporate 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:

*AMGEN • APP/Abraxis Oncology
AstraZeneca • Aventis • Bayer Biologicals
Berlex Laboratories • biogenIDEC
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology
Cell Therapeutics • Chiron Corporation
Genentech BioOncology
Genitope Corporation • Genomic Health
Genta • GlaxoSmithKline
International Oncology Network*

*Lash Group Healthcare Consultants
Ligand Pharmaceuticals • Lilly Oncology
Matrix Oncology • MedImmune Oncology
MGI Pharma • Millennium
National Oncology Alliance
Novartis Oncology • Oncology Supply
Oncology Therapeutics Network
Oncotech • Ortho Biotech
OSI Pharmaceuticals • Pfizer Oncology
Roche Oncology • Sanofi-Synthelabo
Schering-Plough Oncology • SuperGen
US Oncology • Wyeth Oncology*

Genentech BioOncology has informed ANCO that Avastin has been assigned J9035 (10mg) effective January 1st.

Institutional Member News

ANCO thanks the following **Institutional Members** for their support:

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

ANCO members can obtain information about our Institutional Member's clinical trials via www.anco-online.org/trials.html.

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

- med.stanford.edu/seminars/cme-all.jsp?qcme=on
- www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrnce/Confrnce.htm
- www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/index.aspx?Display=Date

UCSF's **4th Annual Clinical Cancer Update** takes place in Lake Tahoe on January 14-16th. Visit cme.ucsf.edu/calendar/CourseDetail.asp?CourseNumber=MSU05005 for more information.

UCSF's **Maximizing Outcomes in Urologic Oncology** takes place in San Francisco on February 11-12th. Visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MUR05001 for more information.

The **8th Annual Northern California Tumor Board at Silverado** will be presented by the *Stanford University School of Medicine* from March 11-13th. Tumor boards on breast, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, head and neck, and thoracic cancers; hematological malignancies and lymphoma; melanoma/sarcoma; 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 beverlyk@stanford.edu.

UCSF's **1st International Symposium on Cancer Metastasis and the Lymphovascular System** takes place in San Francisco on April 28-30th. Visit cme.ucsf.edu/calendar/CourseDetail.asp?CourseNumber=MSU05002 for more information.

UCSF's **Pain and End-of-Life Care** takes place in San Francisco on June 9-10th. This course is designed for all physicians, nurses, and pharmacists who care for patients in pain or with life-threatening illness. It meets California's requirement that physicians take 12 hours of CME in pain and palliative care. Visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?courseNumber=DMM05513 for more information.

UCD's **online CME pain management courses** are now available at www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/DistEd/WebEvents/PainEvents.htm. In addition, UCD is offering several **live pain management courses** in California and Hawaii. Visit www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrnce/Confrnce.htm for additional information. Finally, the AMA offers a 12-hour **online CME course in pain management** at www.ama-cmeonline.com.

Publications, Services, & Surveys

Members may still **enroll in ANCO's MMA Practice Preparedness Survey**, consisting of the hands-on help of two expert reimbursement and practice management consultants via a one-day practice site visit designed to assess and improve the financial health of your practice. Member practices and ANCO share the cost of the site visit. Contact the ANCO office for additional

information. A preliminary report of the *MMA Practice Preparedness Survey* and an **updated model practice statement to patients regarding MMA** are available at www.asco.org/mma.html.

Membership Dues for 2005

Membership renewal notices for 2005, a membership benefits guide, and 2004 Annual Report are being mailed to all members in early December. Please renew your membership for 2005 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(s). Those not renewing their membership by June 1st will be deleted from the *Directory of Members*, will no longer be eligible for participation in ANCO's discounted pharmaceutical pricing programs, or receive any other ANCO benefits. Contact the ANCO office if you do not receive or misplace your membership dues renewal notice.

ANCO seeks new members. **All members of a practice should join ANCO.** 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!