

ANCO FAX News

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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 February 4th.

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 updated some ASPs** on January 13th. These updates are available at www.asco.org/ascodownloads/

**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.

Revision_to_January_2005_Quarterly_ASP_Medicare.pdf. 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.

- **California payment rates for the 2005 G-codes** are available at www.medicarenhic.com/cal_prov/fee_sched.shtml

- CMS's **coding guidelines for drug administration and cancer care demonstration project G-codes** are available at www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pm_trans/R129OTN.pdf (on drug administration) and www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pm_trans/R12DEMO.pdf (on demonstration project)

- **Materials from ASCO's audio conference entitled *Adapting to Medicare Changes*** (accessible via telephone at (888) 203-1112, confirmation code 168502, through January 28th) 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*

- ASCO's **sample cancer care demonstration project documentation form** is available at www.anco-online.org/mma.html

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.

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.]

ANCO endorses the *California Tobacco Control Alliance's* public action campaign entitled *Smoking Cessation Benefits Everyone* and encourages all its members to support this campaign by signing the letter at www.cessationbenefitseveryone.org.

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 *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).

The most recent *NHIC/Medicare Carrier Advisory Committee* (CAC) **meeting** took place in Oakland on January 19th. The agenda item most relevant to oncology was:

- **Draft Local Coverage Determination** (LCD) for virtual colonoscopy (CT colonography) proposing limited coverage where optical colonoscopy was indicated, but failed. View the draft LCD at www.medicarenhic.com/cal_prov/lmrp/draft/virtualcolon_draftlcd.htm and send comments to CANHICLMRPFeedback@exwe01.exch.eds.com by March 5th.

The next *NHIC/Medicare Carrier Advisory Committee (CAC)* meeting takes place in Los Angeles in April.

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 at the Hotel Nikko, San Francisco. ASCO has accredited this meeting for 3 CEUs. Sponsors and exhibitors for this meeting include *Aventis Oncology, Berlex Laboratories, Genentech BioOncology, Genomic Health, International Oncology Network/Oncology Supply, MGI Pharma, Novartis Oncology, Pfizer Oncology, and US Oncology*. 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 at the Hotel Nikko, San Francisco. ASCO has accredited this meeting for 3 CEUs. Sponsors and exhibitors for this meeting include *AMGEN, Berlex Laboratories, biogenIDEC, Cell Therapeutics, Genentech BioOncology, MGI Pharma, Millennium, Novartis Oncology, OSI*

Pharmaceuticals, and Wyeth BioPharma. Meeting announcements were mailed in late December.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of interest to ANCO member practices are:

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 15th

Medical Update on Mesothelioma

CancerCare and Alliance for Lung Cancer
Advocacy, Support, and Education
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

ANCO thanks

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

for supporting clinical and professional education.

Center for Mind-Body Medicine
Oakland

March 26th

Each One Reach One: Working Together to Make a Change

Northern California Cancer Center
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 at www.anco-online.org features:

- 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 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 two ListSers for the exchange of general/administrative and clinical information and has a group purchasing organization (GPO).

ListSers. The COC operates two e-mail based communications systems called ListSers. 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 ListSers 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.

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, Tennessee, and Virginia. As an ANCO member, you may enroll in HOLN and benefit from discounted pricing from 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

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
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*

Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology reports that Abraxane, a breast cancer medication for women in advanced stages of the disease who have not responded to chemotherapy, has been approved by the FDA for women with breast cancer who relapse within six months of initial surgery and chemotherapy. Abraxane will be marketed by APP/Abraxis Oncology.

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 at www.anco-online.org/trials.html. Learn more about **California's law requiring the coverage of routine care costs for patients enrolled in clinical trials** at www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cancer/clinical_trials/bigc/ where you can download ANCO's patient education brochure on SB37. The NCI also has a *Clinical Trials Education Series* to help recruit patients available from (800) 4-CANCER or www.cancer.gov/publications.

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 *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.

UCSF's *Cancer Imaging Update* takes place in San Francisco on March 6-11th. Visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber= RAD05029 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 Management 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. The AMA also offers a 12-hour **online CME course in pain management** at www.ama-cmeonline.com.

Membership Dues for 2005

Membership renewal notices for 2005, a membership benefits guide, and 2004 Annual Report were mailed to all members last 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 office and/or 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 did not receive or misplaced 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!