

ANCO FAX News

Association of Northern California Oncologists
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INTRODUCTION

The *ANCO FAX News* focuses on ANCO's core activities—advocacy, clinical and professional education, 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 member practices (via FAX) and Corporate Member contacts (via e-mail). The next regular *ANCO FAX News* will be published on December 15th.

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 hematology/oncology practices and people living with cancer. We continually seek input from members on agenda items for these meetings. Send your issues to the ANCO office.]

ACCC, ASCO, ASH, and National Legislative & Regulatory Issues

[*Editor's Note:* ANCO is a member of the *Association of Community Cancer Centers* (ACCC) and a state/regional affiliate of the *American Society of Clinical Oncology* (ASCO).

ANCO and the *American Society of Hematology* (ASH) share information with members. We regularly participate with these organizations on matters of national importance to cancer care.]

CMS's Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee (MCAC) will meet on December 13th to advise CMS on changes to its clinical trial policy.

Medicare has covered certain items or services provided in the context of clinical trials since 2000. CMS is seeking to update the policy to address some of the changes to the clinical research landscape that have occurred since 2000,

**There is information in the
ANCO FAX News
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.

as well as to answer some of the questions the beneficiary and provider communities have had in delivering items and services to Medicare study participants. CMS will issue a proposed decision memorandum no later than April 2007, followed by a 30-day public comment period. A final policy is expected 60 days after the close of the comment period. For more information on CMS's clinical trial policy, including details about the December meeting, please visit www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/viewtrackingsheet.asp?id=186.

CMS released the **2007 Medicare physician fee schedule** in early November. The provisions of main interest to hematologists/oncologists are as follows:

- **Annual Update.** The 2007 conversion factor will be reduced by 5.0% to \$35.98. *Congress* will have to act in order to avert this cut.
- **Demonstration Project.** CMS has stated that an extension of the 2006 oncology demonstration remains under consideration.
- **Practice Expense Relative Values.** CMS finalized its proposal to revise the methodology for setting practice expense relative values essentially in the form as proposed. Some chemotherapy codes will undergo a decrease as a result of this change in methodology. CMS is estimating that the new methodology will result in a 1% decrease for oncology payments when the change is fully implemented in 2010.
- **Physician Work Relative Values.** CMS has increased the physician work relative values for many evaluation and management codes as it proposed, including level 3-5 established patient office visits and office consultations.
- **Imaging Procedures.** CMS will implement the *Deficit Reduction Act* provision capping the payment amount for the technical component of imaging services at the hospital outpatient payment rate. CMS will maintain the reduction in the payment for the technical component of the second and subsequent imaging procedures in the same family at 25%, rather than further reducing it to 50% as it had proposed in 2005.
- **ASP Calculations.** CMS addressed several issues related to calculation of *Average Sales Price* (ASP), including how a discount should be reported for ASP purposes if the discount is contingent on the purchase of another product. CMS decided not to issue any guidance at this time on how bundled sales should be handled but instead continue its policy of allowing manufacturers to make reasonable assumptions.
- **IVIG.** CMS has decided to continue its extra payment for pre-administration services related to IVIG. The average payment amount will be about \$71 per day of IVIG administration.

ASCO will continue to analyze the fee schedule to assess the impact of changes on oncology. Questions should be directed to publicpolicy@asco.org or (703) 299-1050.

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 coordinate advocacy activities in California.]

The **California Oncology Political Action Committee** (or CalCancerPAC), formed by ANCO and MOASC in 2006, supports candidates sensitive to the needs of hematologists/oncologists and people living with cancer in California. ANCO membership dues include a contribution to CalCancerPAC starting in December.

California law (AB487) requires physicians to complete 12 hours of continuing medical education (CME) in pain management and the care of terminally ill and dying patients by the end of 2006. Doctors licensed in California after 2002 (when the law was enacted) have four years from the date of licensure to complete this CME requirement. CMA and the *University of California, San Diego*, have a unique case-based CME program entitled ***Pain Management: A***

Case-Based CME Program for Physicians on DVD that physicians can use to receive their State-mandated CME. Contact UCSD at (888) 229-6263 for more information.

CMA and county medical societies are cohosting a series of seminars to help physician practices assess payor contracts and prepare for contract negotiations. These *Taking Charge* seminars are scheduled as follows:

- December 7, Humboldt
- February 27, San Ramon

Attendees will learn how to evaluate current and proposed payor contracts; target payors for contract termination, negotiation, or renegotiation; monitor payor compliance with contract terms; and, determine a payor's value to their practice. Participants will also receive a copy of CMA's payor contracting guide *Taking Charge: Steps to Evaluating Relationships and Preparing for Negotiations*. Visit www.calphys.org/html/cc270.asp or call/e-mail Jewel Thompson at (916) 551-2061/jthompson@cmanet.org for more information.

NHIC/Medicare, DHS/MediCal, & Private Payers

[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.]

Health care providers are required by law to apply for a National Provider Identifier (NPI). For complete information, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand. Physicians who are covered by HIPAA will need these standard unique identifiers to submit HIPAA-compliant claims; physicians who are not covered by HIPAA do not have to obtain NPIs, but may do so if they wish. NPIs will replace health care provider identifiers in use today in standard health care transactions. NPI's are being implemented as follows:

- Through May 22nd, 2007, systems will accept an existing legacy Medicare number and/or an NPI.
- Beginning May 23rd, 2007, systems will only accept an NPI.

An NPI webpage (files.medical.ca.gov/pubsdoco/npi/npi.asp) has been created on the DHS/MediCal website that serves as a centralized area for all NPI information. This webpage includes access to the online NPI registration tool and NPI updates are posted as information becomes available. There is also a section for FAQs.

Form CMS-1500 was revised to accommodate the reporting of the NPI effective October 1st. The new form will not be mandated for use until February 1st, 2007. There is a dual acceptability period of the old and the revised forms. To learn more about the revised form, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R899CP.pdf.

The *Medicare B Resource (December 2006)* is available online at www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider_news/mbr_dec06.pdf. Among the items most relevant to hematology/oncology are:

- October 2006 and revisions to January, April, and July 2006 ASPs.
- Additions to approved CAP vendor's drug list effective October 1st, 2006.
- Clarification of requirements for the CAP.
- **Care plan oversight (CPO)** and related services.
- Quarterly update to CCI edits.
- Non-application of deductible for colorectal cancer screening.
- Part B versus Part D **drug coverage determinations**.
- Annual update to HCPCS cods for SNF consolidated billing.
- October update to the 2006 **Medicare physician fee schedule**.

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

EDUCATION

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

Newer Approaches in the Treatment of Multiple Myeloma: Do Emerging Therapies Offer an Advantage?

ANCO is helping the *Leukemia & Lymphoma Society* announce *Newer Approaches in the Treatment of Multiple Myeloma: Do Emerging Therapies Offer an Advantage?* with Ann Mohrbacher, M.D., *Associate Professor of Medicine, USC Keck School of Medicine*. This program will take place on Wednesday, December 6th, in Vallejo. Contact the ANCO office for additional information or visit www.dlnrequest.com/registration to register. This program is supported by *Celgene*.

Move the Ball! Golf Tournament

ANCO is a member of the *National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship* (NCCS) and NCCS is hosting the *Move the Ball! Golf Tournament* on December 5th at *Pebble Beach Golf Resort*. This event is a highly unique networking opportunity for individuals and companies with an interest in "moving the ball" in the treatment of cancer. The *Tournament* will target health care venture capitalists, biotechnology and pharmaceutical firms, and cancer researchers vested in advancing cancer treatment. Off-the-course discussions will be held during an intimate dinner after the tournament at *The Inn at Spanish Bay* and will include an expert panel discussion focused on new generation therapies. For additional information, please visit cem.powersgolf.com/cgi/detailsframe.cgi?id=688.

San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Highlights 2006

ANCO's annual *San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Highlights 2006* will take place on Tuesday evening, January 30th, 2007 at *The Claremont Resort* in Oakland. Faculty from *Stanford* (Frederick M. Dirbas, M.D.), *UC Davis* (Helen K. Chew, M.D.), and *UC San Francisco* (Alison Bevan, M.D., Ph.D.) will review the clinically most important research results

presented at December's *Symposium*. This meeting will be moderated by Robert W. Carlson, M.D., *Stanford*, and accredited by *Indiana University*. Watch for a meeting announcement and registration form in December.

Emerging Therapies for Blood Cancer Patients

ANCO is a community sponsor of the *Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Emerging Therapies for Blood Cancer Patients* taking place on February 3rd, 2007 at the *Renaissance Parc 55 Hotel* in San Francisco. The educational program will include local expert presentations for people living with hematological malignancies on the latest research discoveries in blood cancer. For more information or to register visit www.lls.org/sf/ash or call Suzanne Kaufman at (415) 625-1106 or e-mail kaufmans@lls.org.

Highlights of ASH

ANCO is a cosponsor of ASH's *Highlights of ASH* program taking place on February 9-10th, 2007 in Marina Del Rey. The educational program will include expert analysis of groundbreaking research from abstracts presented at the ASH 2006 *Annual Meeting*. Attendees will not only hear expert analysis, but will also have the opportunity to discuss real cases with leaders in the field, network with colleagues, and earn CME credits. For more information, visit www.hematology.org/meetings/highlights. (*Please note:* ANCO will also organize its annual *ASH Highlights* in February 2007 in the San Francisco Bay Area.)

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

December 5th
Advances in the Treatment of Lung Cancer
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

December 9-12th
48th Annual Meeting & Exposition
American Society of Hematology
Orlando, FL

December 19th
Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML): Update from the American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

December 20th
The Latest Developments Reported at the 29th Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

December 21st
Update on Lymphoma Treatment from the 2006 American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

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

MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES & BENEFITS

ANCO On-Line

ANCO's independent website at www.anco-online.org features:

- a general description and introduction to the *Association*, its activities, leadership, and membership benefits.
- advocacy information (including ANCO and ASCO MMA resources).
- clinical and professional education meeting announcements and distributed materials.
- survey reports, publications, ListServ, and WebLog.
- clinical trials information.
- links to affiliated organizations; and, updated physician, nurse, manager, and patient resources.

ANCO On-Line ListServ & WebLog

The ANCO *Online ListServ* is available to all ANCO physician members, nurses, practice managers, and Corporate Member representatives. It is a source for the latest

ANCO news and other information impacting hematology/oncology practices. These postings are digested in the ANCO *Online WebLog* at www.anco-online.org/news/index.html (see below). It is also a way for ANCO members to communicate amongst themselves. To post an item to the ANCO *Online ListServ*, send e-mail to anco@anco-online.org. (*Please note:* Only subscribers to the ANCO *Online ListServ* may post items and the ANCO *Executive Director* will review all postings for appropriate content. In addition, to communicate directly and privately with the ANCO *Executive Director*, send e-mail to execdir@anco-online.org.) All ANCO physician members and their staffs are encouraged to subscribe, participate, and use the ANCO *Online ListServ* to receive ANCO information electronically and to communicate with colleagues about issues of importance to hematology/oncology practice. To subscribe, send your e-mail address to the ANCO office at execdir@anco-online.org. The ANCO *Online ListServ* should be as interactive and open to discussion as possible. However, subscribers must bear in mind that all posts/replies to the *ListServ* are received by all the subscribers. Therefore, personal requests and replies not intended for the entire group of subscribers (e.g., meeting RSVPs) should not be posted on the *ListServ*. In addition, and in accordance with HIPAA regulations and anti-trust law, neither patient identifying information nor practice economic information should be included in any *ListServ* communication. To reply to an individual one-on-one or "off *ListServ*", address your e-mail to the intended recipient directly. For such communication in response to a *ListServ* item, subscribers need to "forward" the message "to" the intended recipient's e-mail address, or "reply" to the message and replace the "to" e-mail address with the intended recipient's e-mail address. If one inattentively "replies" to the *ListServ* posting, then the entire group of subscribers will receive the reply.

The WebLog (ANCO News On-Line) posts and archives important news for hematology/oncology practices on an almost daily basis. Among the additional news topics covered at www.anco-online.org/news/index.html are:

- ACCC Alerts
- ANCO Meeting Announcements
- ASCO's e-News and Cancer Policy Today
- ASH Practice Update
- CMA Alerts
- 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.

Benefits

ANCO continues to seek ways to make membership more beneficial. The *Board* constantly identifies, reviews, and approves of additional membership benefits. In addition to the benefits derived from its advocacy, educational, and information dissemination activities, ANCO members also benefit from group purchasing activities and value added services from a number of vendors, including:

- **California Oncology Consortium (COC) Group Purchasing Organization (GPO).** The COC GPO has preferred vendor agreements and discounted pricing with *International Oncology Network (ION)/Oncology Supply (OS)*, and *McKesson Specialty Oncology Services* (formerly *National Oncology Alliance* or NOA). Contact your local ION/OS or McKesson/NOA representatives for more information.
- **Oncology Pharmaceutical Services (OPS),** a division of *US Oncology*. Contact Sean Taylor at (415) 235-4673 or sean.taylor@usoncology.com for more information.
- **Onmark, OTN's preferred group purchasing organization.** Contact Monique Weston at (650) 871-2108 or monique.weston@onmarkservices.com for more information.

- **IntrinsiQ's IntelliDose Discount Program** makes *IntelliDose*, a clinical oncology software solution, available to ANCO members at a significant discount. In addition, ancillary products/services, and maintenance fees will also be discounted for ANCO member practices. Contact Kris Beinder at *IntrinsiQ* directly at (800) 565-2279, x151 or kbeinder@intrinsiq.com for more information about *IntrinsiQ Research* and *IntelliDose* or visit www.intrinsiq.com.

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 individual physician members. The **next regularly scheduled ANCO Board of Directors teleconference** will take place in January 2007. 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 2006 was published and mailed to ANCO physician members; nurse and office manager contacts; and, Corporate Member representatives at the end of June. Additional copies are available from the ANCO office upon request. Please verify your *Directory* entry and contact the ANCO office with any corrections, additions, and/or deletions. The next *Directory* will be published in June 2007.

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

ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF PHYSICIAN MEMBERS

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DRUG REIMBURSEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Pharmion

Innohep Support Services
 (866) 742-7646

Innohep
Innohep Support Services provides reimbursement and patient assistance support.

Vidaza Support Services

(866) 742-7646;
 FAX (866) 369-4333;
 8:00AM-8:00PM Eastern Time
Vidaza
Vidaza Support Services provides reimbursement and patient assistance support.

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*

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/conferences
- www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/index.aspx?Display=Date

Stanford's *Perspectives on Pain and Palliative Care* takes place on December 8-9th in Palo Alto. Visit med.stanford.edu/seminars/details-documents.jsp?semid=8353 for more information.

Stanford's *The Immune Profile of Breast Cancer Lymph Nodes* takes place on December 12th in Palo Alto. Visit med.stanford.edu/seminars/

[details-documents.jsp?semid=10931](http://med.stanford.edu/seminars/details-documents.jsp?semid=10931) for more information.

UCSF's *6th Annual Clinical Cancer Update* takes place at Lake Tahoe on January 26-28th, 2007. Visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU07006 for more information.

UCSF's *Current Controversies in Urologic Oncology* takes place in San Francisco on February 2nd-3rd, 2007. Visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MUR07001 for more information.

Stanford's *Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-based Approach* (formerly the *Northern California Tumor Board at Silverado*) will be presented by the *Stanford University School of Medicine* on March 16-18th, 2007. Registration and case submission materials can be downloaded from cancer.stanford.edu/calendar/events/2007/ammc.html or obtained from Jennifer Schafer at (650) 724-2288 or schafer@stanford.edu.

UCSF's *2nd International Symposium on Cancer and the Lymphovascular System* takes place at the Hilton Hotel in San Francisco on May 3rd-5th, 2007. Visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU07002 for more information.

Corporate Member News

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

AMGEN • *APP/Abraxis Oncology*
AstraZeneca
Bayer Oncology/Onyx Pharmaceuticals
Berlex Laboratories • *biogenIDEC*
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology
Cephalon Oncology • *Clariant Diagnostics*
Enzon Pharmaceuticals
Genentech BioOncology

*Genitope Corporation • Genomic Health
GlaxoSmithKline
International Oncology Network
Lash Group Healthcare Consultants
Lilly Oncology • Matrix Oncology
McKesson Specialty Oncology Services
MedImmune Oncology • MGI Pharma
Millennium • Novartis Oncology
Oncology Pharmaceutical Services
Oncology Supply • Onmark
Ortho Biotech/Tibotec Therapeutics
OSI Pharmaceutical • OTN
Pfizer Oncology • Pharmion
Roche Oncology • Sanofi Aventis Oncology
Schering-Plough Oncology • SuperGen*

AMGEN informs ANCO that it is supporting the Patient Advocate Foundation's (PAF) Colorectal CareLine (CCL), a national toll free telephone hotline designed to offer assistance to all colorectal cancer patients and healthcare providers seeking educational resources, direct assistance with access to care issues, and/or financial aid for select patient needs, including lodging, transportation, childcare and other expenses associated with out-of-town treatment. The hotline can be accessed at (866) 657-8634 or patients may visit www.colorectalcareline.org.

Bayer Pharmaceuticals/Onyx Pharmaceuticals are offering a series of webcasts entitled *The ABCs of Part D* now through December 19th. Visit www.nexavar.com for more information, webcast dates/times, and to register.

Celgene, MGI Pharma, and Pharmion inform ANCO that the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) has established a Myelodysplastic Syndromes Resource Line as a free service for physicians. This service is available Monday-Friday, 9AM-5PM ET, by calling (888) 883-NCCN (6226) or e-mailing mds@nccn.org.

Clinical Trial News

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

BreastCancerTrials.org (BCT) is a web-based, pilot project, to match breast cancer patients with clinical trials sponsored by the National

Cancer Institute's (NCI) Center for Bioinformatics, the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Comprehensive Cancer Center, and the Center of Excellence for Breast Cancer Care. Patients looking for trials may enter detailed information about their cancer history into a completely confidential and secure online database. The patient's *Personal Health Record (PHR)* is used to match the patient with breast cancer trials that medical researchers have registered with BCT. Visit www.breastcancertrials.org for more information.

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 National Cancer Institute (NCI) also has a Clinical Trials Education Series to help recruit patients. It is available from (800) 4-CANCER or www.cancer.gov/publications.

Patient News

ASCO, in association with People Living With Cancer (PLWC), has prepared and published several *Guides to Cancer*. These *Guides* provide information for patients on breast, colorectal, lung, and prostate cancers. For more information, please contact ASCO's *Communications and Patient Information Department* at (703) 519-2927 or contactus@plwc.org.

CaringBridge is a nonprofit organization providing the most widely used free online service connecting patients to friends and families during their challenging times. For additional information for you and your patients, visit www.caringbridge.com.

The HealthWell Foundation, a non-profit, charitable organization, provides financial assistance to eligible patients to cover certain out-of-pocket health care costs, including coinsurance, copayments, and deductibles; health insurance premiums; and, the Medicare "donut hole" coverage gap. The *HealthWell Foundation* offers assistance in several disease areas, including the following that may be of interest to hematology/oncology providers and case managers:

- Chemotherapy induced anemia
- Chemotherapy induced neutropenia
- Multiple myeloma
- Myelodysplastic syndromes

Applications are available online at www.healthwellfoundation.org or by calling (800) 675-8416.

The *Patient Access Network Foundation* (PANF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving access to needed health services for insured patients who cannot afford the out-of-pocket costs associated with their treatment.

The PAF *Co-Pay Relief Program* (CPR) currently provides financial assistance to eligible patients who are being treated for brain, breast, colon, kidney, lung, pancreatic, and/or prostate cancers, lymphoma, macular degeneration, sarcoma, autoimmune disorders, and secondary issues as a result of chemotherapy treatment. Patients must financially and medically qualify to access co-payment assistance. Patients and physicians can contact the PAF CPR at (866) 512-3861 to initiate a request for assistance or request additional information, or visit www.copays.org or www.patientadvocate.org.

Publications, Services, & Surveys

The *Quality Oncology Practice Initiative* (QOPI) is a practice-based quality improvement program developed by ASCO volunteers. QOPI includes a set of quality measures, a specified chart selection methodology, a secure system for data entry, automated data analysis and reporting, and a network of resources for improvement. Twice a year, staff at participating practices conduct a retrospective review of patient charts. Following every data collection period, the QOPI system generates a report for each practice. QOPI data can be used to satisfy the new practice performance improvement requirement for *ABIM Maintenance of Certification*. Register for QOPI at www.asco.org/QOPI.

The November/December (Vol. 21, No. 6) issue of ACCC's *Oncology Issues* features articles on how one small oncology practice is surviving; and, the costs of treating cancer. Visit www.accc-cancer.org/ONIS/onis_archives.asp to view these articles.

The November (Vol. 2, Issue 6) issue of ASCO's *Journal of Oncology Practice* features articles on integrating advanced practice clinicians into oncology practices; clinical trials; and, NPIs. Visit www.jopasco.org to view these articles.

Membership Dues for 2006

Membership renewal notices for 2007 will be mailed to all members the week of December 5th, 2006. 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!