

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 member practices (via FAX) and Corporate Member contacts (via e-mail). The next regular *ANCO FAX News* will be published on January 19th. 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.]

President Bush signed legislation to stop the 5% Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) cut that was scheduled to take effect January 1st. The legislation will freeze the Medicare conversion factor for physician reimbursement at 2006 levels for one year and will give a 1.5% SGR increase to physicians who report on at least three quality measures starting July 1st. The

**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.

freeze only applies to the 5% SGR cut, and will not affect the changes to the work relative value units (RVUs) stemming from Medicare's recently completed five-year review. This means that payment rates for many services will change in 2007. The 2007 physician fee schedule was posted to Medicare carrier websites on December 31st and the carriers were ready to process claims at the new rates on January 1st.

CMS has also extended the Medicare participation enrollment period. Physicians who wish to change their Medicare participation status for 2007 have until February 14th to do so. Changes in participation status will be effective January 1st, retroactively, regardless of when the participation decision is made.

The CMS Medicare Evidence Development and Coverage Advisory Committee met in Baltimore and agreed to several proposals regarding Medicare-specific standards for coverage of clinical trials. Some of these proposals include:

- that trials be registered on the clinicaltrials.gov website;
- that protocols specify the method and timing of the public release of the findings, regardless of outcome; and,
- that protocols explicitly address the ways in which the trial will impact certain "subpopulations" affected by technology.

In addition, protocols must also contain an explicit discussion of how enrollment will ensure that a sufficient Medicare population is included and will benefit from the intervention. Panelists agreed that CMS should continue its current policy that studies be considered "deemed" to have met the definition of a good clinical study, as defined by seven "highly desirable characteristics" of good trials, if they have been reviewed, approved, and funded by a Federal agency, among similar criteria.

ANCO and ASCO continue to work towards ensuring that people with cancer have access to quality cancer care in the community. Practice resources are available at www.anco-online.org and www.asco.org/mma. Members may also 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. Specifically:

- The January 2007 quarterly update for the *Average Sales Price* (ASP) Medicare Part B drugs pricing file has been posted on the CMS website at www.cms.hhs.gov/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/01a_2007aspfiles.asp#TopofPage.

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.]

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

- February 27th; 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 entitled *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, systems will accept an existing legacy Medicare number and/or an NPI.
- Beginning May 23rd, systems will only accept an NPI.

An NPI webpage (files.medi-cal.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.

Physicians must register their *National Provider Identifiers* (NPIs) with DHS/MediCal by March 1st to ensure that their payments are not interrupted when DHS/MediCal transitions from its current provider numbering system to the NPI system on May 23rd. Providers can register their NPIs online at the DHS/MediCal website (www.medi-cal.ca.gov) or by mail. To request a paper NPI registration form, call (800) 541-5555 and select option 16, followed by option 18. If you have not already applied for your NPI, you should do so immediately. Applying for an NPI is fairly simple. Physicians can apply online at nppes.cms.hhs.gov or by calling the NPI *Enumerator* at (800) 465-3203 and requesting a paper application form.

Form CMS-1500 was revised to accommodate the reporting of the NPI effective October 1st, 2006. The new form will not be mandated for use until February 1st. 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.

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.]

Oncology Reimbursement 2007

ANCO's *Oncology Reimbursement 2007* meetings will take place on January 30th at the Fairmont Hotel, San José; January 31st at the Hyatt Regency, Sacramento; and, February 1st at the Piccadilly Inn/West Shaw, Fresno. Roberta Buell, M.B.A. will discuss *Medicare Outpatient Oncology Reimbursement 2007*. Jim Koeller, M.S., *Professor of Medicine, University of Texas*, will discuss *Making Disease Treatment Standardization Work in Community Practice*. These meetings are supported by *Pfizer Oncology*, as well as *Ortho Biotech/Tibotech Therapeutics, Pharmion*, and *Sanofi Aventis Oncology*. A meeting announcement was mailed to all members on December 22nd. Download the registration form at www.anco-online.org/medicareupdate2007.pdf.

San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Highlights 2006

ANCO's *San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Highlights 2006* will take place on Tuesday evening, January 30th at *The Claremont Resort* in Oakland. Faculty from *Stanford* (Fred 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*. Major support for this meeting is anticipated in part from *AMGEN, AstraZeneca, Genentech BioOncology*, and *Sanofi Aventis Oncology*; additional support is anticipated in part from *Cephalon Oncology, Cytogen, Genomic Health, GlaxoSmithKline, International Oncology Network/Oncology Supply, Lilly Oncology, National Oncology Alliance, Pfizer Oncology*, and possibly others. A meeting announcement was mailed to all members on December 13th.

Download the registration form at www.anco-online.org/sabcs.pdf.

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 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/e-mail Suzanne Kaufman at (415) 625-1106/kaufmans@lls.org.

Highlights of ASH

ANCO is a cosponsor of ASH's *Highlights of ASH* program taking place on February 9-10th in Marina Del Rey. The educational program will include expert analysis of groundbreaking research from abstracts presented at the *ASH 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.

ASH Highlights 2006

ANCO's *ASH Highlights 2006* will take place on Wednesday evening, February 21st at the *Hotel Nikko* in San Francisco. Faculty from *Stanford* (Ranjana Advani, M.D., Steve E. Coutre, M.D.), *UC Davis* (Ted Wun, M.D.), and *UC San Francisco* (Jeffrey L. Wolf, M.D.) will review the clinically most important research results presented at December's *ASH Annual Meeting*. This meeting will be moderated by Ted Wun, M.D., *UC Davis*, and accredited by *Indiana University*. Major support for this educational activity is anticipated in part from *Genentech BioOncology*; additional support is anticipated in part from *AMGEN*, *Berlex Oncology*, *Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology*, *Cephalon Oncology*, *MGI Pharma*, *Pharmion*, and possibly others. A meeting announcement will be mailed to all members on January 5th. Download the

registration form at www.anco-online.org/ash.pdf.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

January 18th
Update on Clinical Trials for Indolent (Follicular) Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

January 19th-21st
2007 Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium
American Society of Clinical Oncology
Orlando

January 26th
Tips for Managing Treatment-Related Rash and Dry Skin
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

January 30th
Treatment Update on GIST (Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors)
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

February 7th
Medical Update on Bladder Cancer
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

February 8-9th
Maximizing a Healthy Revenue Cycle
Medical Group Management Association
Boston

February 9th
Medicare Part D for People Living with Cancer
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

February 10-11th
Implementing Best Practices of Successful Medical Groups
Medical Group Management Association
Boston

February 13th
New Diagnostic Technology in the Treatment of Breast Cancer

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

February 17th-21st*27th Annual Conference: Clinical Hematology & Oncology*Scripps Cancer Center
San DiegoFebruary 21st*Nutrition and Cancer: Beyond Calories—Building Lean Body Mass***CancerCare**

Telephone Education Workshop

February 22nd-24th*2007 Prostate Cancer Symposium*American Society of Clinical Oncology
OrlandoMarch 2nd*Dental Health During Cancer Treatments***CancerCare**

Telephone Education Workshop

March 3rd*Breast Cancer: More Questions, More Answers*

Northern California Cancer Center

San Francisco

March 9-11th*4th Annual Oncology Nursing Advanced Practice: Innovation Through Practice*

Scripps Cancer Center

San Diego

March 14-18th*12th Annual Conference: Clinical Practice Guidelines and Quality Cancer Care*National Comprehensive Cancer Network
Hollywood, FloridaMarch 21st*The Role of Targeted Therapy in the Treatment of Breast Cancer***CancerCare**

Telephone Education Workshop

March 28th-31st*33rd Annual National Meeting: Navigating Rough Waters—How to Stay the Course*Association of Community Cancer Centers
BaltimoreApril 12-13th*Achieving Efficient Practice Operations*Medical Group Management Association
New OrleansApril 12-14th*31st Annual Symposium*American Society of Breast Disease
San FranciscoApril 15-16th*Implementing Best Practices of Successful Medical Groups*Medical Group Management Association
New Orleans

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@intrinseq.com for more information about *IntrinsiQ Research* and *IntelliDose* or visit www.intrinseq.com.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

ASCO EHR Survey

ASCO will be launching a series of activities in 2007 to help oncologists evaluate, select, and implement electronic health records (EHRs). In January, ASCO will hold an EHR *Roundtable* during which stakeholders from the oncology community, government agencies, and EHR-standard setting organizations will discuss the functional elements needed to fully capture chemotherapy administration data in an EHR system. The goal of this meeting is to achieve some consensus around these elements and then communicate recommendations to vendors interested in enhancing existing EHR products for oncology or developing new EHR products for oncology. In June, ASCO will sponsor an EHR *Vendor Lab* in conjunction with the ASCO *Annual Meeting*. An EHR *Vendor Challenge* is also planned later in the year. Watch for additional details about both events during the coming months. In preparation for the *Roundtable* and other planned activities, the ASCO EHR *Workgroup* would like to gain a better sense of the functions and attributes of an electronic medical record (EMR) that oncologists find most useful. ASCO would like to request your participation in a brief online survey at qadb.asco.org/inquisite/surveys/JXSQXV/. Please complete the survey by January 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Bela Sastry or Pamela Kadlubek, ASCO staff, at (703) 299-1050.

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* meeting will take place on January 30th. Please call José Luis González, ANCO *Executive Director*, at (415) 472-3960 if you wish to participate in a future meeting.

Individual Member News

Robert S. Miller, M.D., a past *President* of ANCO and current *Board* member, is a candidate for election to the ASCO *Board of Directors*. ANCO urges all members to support Dr. Miller's candidacy by voting in the ASCO election by January 15th.

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):

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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

UCSF's **6th Annual Clinical Cancer Update** takes place at Lake Tahoe on January 26-28th. 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. Visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MUR07001 for more information.

Stanford's **9th Annual 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. Tumor boards on breast, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, and thoracic cancers; hematological malignancies and lymphoma; ethics, supportive, and palliative care; and, dilemmas in patient management will be presented by faculty from *Stanford, UC Davis, UC San Francisco*, and the community. 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. 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 • APPI/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*

Millennium informs ANCO that the United States Food and Drug Administration has approved Velcade for the treatment of patients with mantle cell lymphoma who have received at least one prior therapy. The new approval marks the first indication for Velcade in lymphoma; Velcade is also indicated for multiple myeloma for patients who have received one prior therapy.

*Onmark and Roche Oncology are offering a webcast on January 11th entitled **Evaluating Specialty Pharmacy for Patient's Oral Chemotherapy Needs**. For more information and to enroll, visit onmarkevents.webex.com/onmarkevents, select a date, and click on enroll.*

Membership Dues for 2007

Membership renewal notices for 2007, an annual election ballot, and 2006 *Annual Report* were mailed to all members on December 5th, 2006. Return your 2007 membership dues to ANCO now to ensure your inclusion in *The ANCO Directory of Members 2007*. Be sure to provide ANCO with the name(s) of office and/or nurse manager contact(s). Those not renewing their membership by June 1st, 2007 will be deleted from the *Directory of Members*, and will no longer be eligible 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!