

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 June 29th. 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.]

The *Access to Medicare Imaging Act of 2007* (HR1293/S1338) seeks a two-year moratorium on the substantial Medicare reductions to in-office imaging included in the *Deficit Reduction Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 2005* (DRA) by delaying the DRA imaging cuts for two years while the *Government Accountability Office* (GAO) conducts a study on the effects of the cuts

**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.

on Medicare beneficiaries. The *Access to Medical Imaging Coalition* (ACCC, ASCO, *American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology*, *DMS Imaging*, *US Oncology*) recently released a report from *The Moran Company* analyzing the impact of the DRA imaging cuts and concluding that the DRA imaging reductions would cause total reimbursement for imaging services in physician offices and imaging centers to fall 18-19% below total reimbursement for similar services provided in hospital outpatient departments.

The *Comprehensive Cancer Care Improvement Act of 2007 (HR1078)* addresses the need for a comprehensive summary of a patient's treatment history to help physicians and patients in their transition from treatment to survivorship and to provide physicians with the resources needed to treat patients with quality cancer care. It would establish a new Medicare service for comprehensive cancer planning through the continuum of care. ASCO is developing disease-specific templates for treatment care summaries and survivor care plans. A template for colon cancer is available on ASCO's website at www.asco.org (Quality Care & Guidelines > Quality Measurement & Improvement > Chemotherapy Treatment Summary). Please contact your *Representatives* and urge them to support HR1078.

CMS's proposed national coverage policy for erythropoiesis stimulating agents (ESAs) for non-renal applications would preempt current local (i.e., NHIC/Medicare) coverage policies. ASCO's comments covered the following issues:

- legal considerations.
- MDS.
- erythropoietin receptors.
- treatment regimens.
- initiation levels.
- dosing and duration.
- limiting coverage of ESAs to clinical studies.

ASCO concluded:

The proposed decision memorandum must be withdrawn and coverage restrictions for ESAs held in abeyance

pending FDA revisions, if any, to the product labeling. Medicare law does not permit coverage limits that are more restrictive than the science- and evidence-based decisions of FDA regarding the usage of marketed drugs or biologic products. CMS coverage decisions with respect to ESAs, as with other cancer therapies, must be based on FDA-approved labeling and supporting references in the statutorily recognized medical compendia.

Visit www.anco-online.org to read ASCO's full comments. Physicians should note that *THE NOTICE PUBLISHED BY CMS IS A PROPOSAL. IT IS NOT CURRENT POLICY. THE USE OF ESAs SHOULD NOT BE GUIDED BY CMS'S PROPOSALS.*

CMS's proposed revised clinical trial coverage policy is available at www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/viewdraftdecisionmemo.asp?id=186. Among the proposed changes is a reversal of its earlier decision to cover trials that the FDA has found to be exempt from investigational new drug (IND) review. According to ASCO, this decision has the potential to cause serious dislocation, not only to cancer providers and patients who participate in IND-exempt trials in substantial numbers, but also to the FDA and its staff, as there will be many more requests for INDs despite FDA's decision that such submissions are unnecessary. In its comments, ACCC shares CMS's interest in developing better evidence for use by patients, physicians, and policymakers, and strongly supports efforts to increase the coverage of trials that may help in the treatment of cancer and other diseases. In addition, ACCC:

- Supports the decision to have all research studies subject to the clinical trial policy posted on a central website.
- Supports the proposal that sponsors consider the potential benefits to Medicare populations and other subpopulations in designing a research study. However, ACCC stresses that this requirement should be applied in a manner that reflects the broad range of research studies that may be covered by the policy and should not limit any

Medicare beneficiary from participation in a research study.

- Urges CMS to continue to work closely with the FDA to resolve the many remaining questions regarding IND-exempt trials. ACCC disagrees with the decision by CMS to no longer automatically cover IND-exempt trials as “deemed” to meet the standards of the policy, since this type of research study has been critical to the development of innovative treatments, particularly in the area of oncology.

CMS’s Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) establishes a financial incentive for eligible professionals to participate in a voluntary quality-reporting program. Eligible professionals who successfully report a designated set of quality measures on claims for dates of service from July 1st to December 31st, 2007, may earn a lump sum bonus payment in early 2008, subject to a cap, of 1.5% of total allowed charges for covered Medicare physician fee schedule services. You do not need to enroll to participate in the program. You must report the appropriate quality measure data on claims using G-codes and/or CPT codes. For complete information on PQRI, including FAQs and presentation materials from recent national provider calls, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI. ASCO will develop additional educational resources for oncologists who are interested in participating in PQRI and will continue to promote the use of measures that provide clinically meaningful data to reporting physicians. For ASCO’s resources, visit www.asco.org/juneaudiocall

CMS has designated G8300 as a test code for PQRI reporting prior to July 1st. This code can be used to test readiness as follows:

1. Add the G8300 test code as a line item on any claims for services.
2. Randomly enter “\$0.00 or “\$0.01” as the line item charge for the test code.
3. Check your Remittance Advice (RA) for these claims to assure the test code has been passed through and processed by the carrier or MAC. You should see Claim Adjustment Reason Code message 96, “Non-covered charge(s).” Also, you will

see Remittance Advice Remark Code message N365, “This procedure code is not payable. It is for reporting/information purposes only.” The RA will serve as your feedback for the test. CMS will not issue any other feedback.

4. The RA will indicate that the test code was denied.

Eligible professionals are free to test until July 1st.

CMS’s Doctor’s Office Quality Information Technology University (DOQ-IT U) supports health information technology (HIT) in physicians’ offices. DOQ-IT U is an interactive, Web-based tool designed to provide solo and small-to-medium sized physician practices with the education for successful HIT adoption. For more information, visit the DOQ-IT U website at elearning.qualitynet.org.

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, including:

- ASCO’s *Adapting to Changes in Medicare 2007* PowerPoint presentation.
- The April 2007 quarterly update for the *Average Sales Price (ASP) Medicare Part B drugs pricing file*.

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.

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.]

Noteware Government Relations represents ANCO (and MOASC) in Sacramento. They report:

- AB374, the physician-assisted suicide bill, was dealt a major blow by stalling on the *Assembly* floor. It failed to pass out of the *Assembly* before the legislative

deadline, meaning it is dead for the year and cannot be brought up again for a vote until 2008.

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

CMA's 2007 *California Physician's Legal Handbook* is even more comprehensive than prior editions and comes in two formats: (1) a print version in an easy-to-handle soft cover binding, with a separate volume containing the Table of Contents and five indices (subjects, laws, forms, websites, and court cases), or (2) a fully searchable and hyperlinked CD-ROM, which contains all the contents of the print version, as well as interactive forms and sample letters physicians can customize using their word processing programs and hyperlinks to Findlaw for access to the cited court cases. Order online via the CMA Bookstore at www.cmanet.org/bookstore/product.cfm?catid=3&productid=163.

CMA has published a new toolkit to train physician office personnel in proper billing and collections procedures. The toolkit, *Back to Basics: A Step-by-Step Guide to Maximizing Your Cash Flow*, is designed to help members become more successful in their practices by teaching physicians and their office staff how to gain greater control of the practice's bottom line, increase revenue while decreasing days in A/R, identify common pitfalls of the billing and collections process, monitor payor compliance with contract terms, develop skills to effectively and efficiently manage collections, and foster positive working relationships. To order, visit www.calphys.org/html/cc386.asp or call (800) 882-1262. This new toolkit joins two previous toolkits, *Taking Charge: Steps to Evaluating Relationships* and *Preparing for Negotiations and Getting Paid: Strategies to Maximize Reimbursement*.

NHIC/Medicare, DHS/MediCal, & Private Payors

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

On March 19th, CMS instructed NHIC/Medicare to continue to accept the Form CMS-1500 (12-90) version due to reports of an incorrectly printed version of the Form CMS-1500 (08-05) that was being sold by some print vendors. Providers will now be required to **begin submitting the Form CMS-1500 (08-05) only beginning July 2nd**. It is important to note that this requires the submission of the revised Form CMS-1500 paper claim form only, and has no bearing on the implementation of the *National Provider Identifier* (NPI) nor mandates the submission of the NPI by July 2nd.

Health care providers are required by law to apply for a *National Provider Identifier* (NPI). NPIs are being implemented as follows:

- As of May 23rd, systems will only accept an NPI.

At this point, any covered entity that is noncompliant, and has not implemented a contingency plan, is at risk for enforcement action. A tip sheet entitled *What the Guidance on Compliance with the HIPAA National Provider Identifier (NPI) Rule Means for Health Care Providers* advises the following:

1. Providers must have and use their NPI;
2. Clearinghouses must accept and use NPIs; and
3. Health plans must accept and send NPIs in claims transactions.

Providers should be:

1. Aware of contingency plans for any health plans they bill. Contingency plans may differ by health plan.
2. Aware that health plans may lift their contingency plans (and require an NPI on claims or other HIPAA transactions) any time before May 23rd, 2008.
3. Working with vendors and clearinghouses with whom they contract,

to make sure the NPI is being passed to health plans.

4. Paying close attention to how and when health plans will be testing implementation of the NPI.

5. Aware that, for those health plans that did not establish a contingency plan, providers are required to use their NPIs now. This means that if you are not using your NPI, your claim may be rejected or denied.

For complete information, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/

NationalProvIdentStand. To apply for an NPI online, visit nppes.cms.hhs.gov or call the NPI enumerator to request a paper application at (800) 465-3203.

NHIC/Medicare urges all physicians and providers to obtain their NPI and begin using it. If you wish to test your EDI transmissions with the NPI, please contact the EDI Department at (213) 593-6950 or (530) 634-7024 and they will be happy to work with you.

The brochure entitled *The Medicare Appeals Process: Five Levels to Protect Providers, Physicians and Other Suppliers* has been updated and is now available at www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/MedicareAppealsProcess.pdf. This brochure provides an overview of the Medicare Part A and Part B administrative appeals process available to providers, physicians, and other suppliers who provide services and supplies to Medicare beneficiaries.

The *Medicare B Resource (June 2007)* is available online at www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider_news/mbr_jun07.pdf.

The most recent *NHIC/Medicare Provider Outreach, Education, and Advisory Group (POEAG)* meeting/teleconference took place on June 13th. While no hematology/oncology-specific agenda items were discussed, those items discussed most relevant to hematology/oncology were:

- NHIC/Medicare website redesign.

- Form CMS-1500 timelines (old forms accepted through July 2nd; new forms required after July 2nd).
- PQRI educational resources (e.g., ACT on June 28th).
- 2007 *Medicare Coverage Convoys* in Fresno, Monterey, Sacramento, San Francisco (including sessions on oncology).

The next *NHIC/Medicare POEAG* meeting/teleconference takes place on September 13th.

Visit www.medicarenhic.com/cal_prov/updates.shtml to learn **the latest information** (updated weekly) **from NHIC/Medicare**. 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.]

Pay for Performance: Public (PQRI) & Private Payors

ANCO, with the support of *AstraZeneca* and *Lash Group Healthcare Consultants*, organized two talks for oncologists and oncology practice managers entitled *Pay for Performance: Public (PQRI) & Private Payors* with Harvey D. Bichkoff, MPH, *Chief Executive Officer, California Cancer Care*, and Gordon Hedrick, MHA, *Manager, Field Reimbursement, Lash Group Healthcare Consultants*, on Tuesday, June 12th at 1PM at the Sacramento *Hyatt Regency*, and Thursday, June 14th at 9AM at the San José *Doubletree Hotel*. Approximately 63 physicians, nurses, practice managers, and others attend these meetings. The meetings summarized the general elements of a P4P program and outlined how to participate in Medicare's *Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI)*. Download the meeting materials at www.anco-online.org/ancop4p.html.

ANCO 2007 Annual Meeting: Be Prepared!

ANCO's 2007 Annual Meeting: Be Prepared! will

take place on Friday, June 29th-Saturday, June 30th, at the *Hyatt Vineyard Creek Hotel & Spa* in Santa Rosa. This meeting will provide participants with the tools and information to take on the management, technological, and clinical challenges facing oncology practice in the years to come. A meeting announcement (including agenda/faculty, housing information, and registration form) is available at www.anco-online.org/annmtg2007.html.

Washington Update: Legislative/Regulatory Impact on Oncology Practice

ASCO's *Best of ASCO 2007* will take place on July 20th-21st at the *San Francisco Marriott*. *Best of ASCO* features premier abstracts from the ASCO *Annual Meeting* and offers CME opportunities for attendees. ANCO's *ASCO Highlights 2007* will not be organized in lieu of *Best of ASCO 2007* which we encourage all members to attend. For additional information, visit www.asco.org/boa2007. *Washington Update: Legislative/Regulatory Impact on Oncology Practice* with Joseph Bailes, M.D., will take place at *Best of ASCO* on the evening of July 19th. Plan on arriving early for *Best of ASCO* and attending the ANCO event. A meeting announcement and registration form is available at www.anco-online.org/bailes2007.html.

ASCO's 2007 Breast Cancer Symposium: Integrating Emerging Science into Clinical Practice

Registration and housing reservations are now open for ASCO's *2007 Breast Cancer Symposium* at the *San Francisco Marriott*, September 7-8th. This groundbreaking event will include presentations about the latest multidisciplinary research and will also feature topical education sessions. The *Symposium* will provide attendees an opportunity to engage in clinically relevant, in-depth discussions of the science most likely to have a lasting effect on the treatment of breast cancer. Co-sponsored by the *American Society of Breast Disease*, *American Society of Breast Surgeons*, *ASCO*, *American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology*, and *Society of Surgical Oncology*, the *Symposium* will present oncologists with the most relevant and timely information they need to

provide high-quality care to patients with breast cancer, as well as to increase the amount of "cross talk" among practitioners and scientists in the field. Visit www.asco.org/meetings for more information and to register.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

June 19th

The 5th Annual Cancer Survivorship Series: Living With, Through, and Beyond Cancer

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

June 20th

Chemotherapy Related Anemia: Taking a Step Forward

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

June 21st

Breast Cancer Update from the ASCO 2007 Annual Meeting

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

June 24th-26th

8th Annual Patient Congress

Patient Advocate Foundation

Washington, D.C.

June 26th

Medical Update on Head and Neck Cancer from the ASCO Annual Meeting

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

June 28th

Living with Colorectal Cancer

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

June 29th

Living with Advanced Prostate Cancer: Update from the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

September 7-9th

From Research to Action: Breaking New Ground

California Breast Cancer Research Program
Los Angeles

September 27th

Role of Culture in Medical Decisions: Provider and Patient Perspectives

Northern California Cancer Center
South San Francisco

September 30th-October 3rd

27th Annual Oncology Nurses Symposium

Scripps Cancer Center
San Diego

October 3rd-6th

24th National Oncology Economics Conference: Cancer Care—The Next Frontier

Association of Community Cancer Centers
Dallas

October 3rd-4th

Perspectives in Melanoma XI

Imedex
Huntington Beach

October 27th-November 1st

SRAO Annual Conference

Society for Radiation Oncology Administrators
Los Angeles

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

MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES & BENEFITS

[Editor's Note: All ANCO members are also eligible for several tangible 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 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 e-News and Cancer Policy Today
- ASH Practice Updates
- 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 may also benefit from several tangible benefits 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)*, *McKesson Specialty Oncology Services* (formerly *National Oncology Alliance* or NOA), and OTN/Onmark. Contact your local ION/OS (Doug Storer at (650) 219-9282 or douglas.storer@iononline.com; or Paul Sullivan at (602) 391-9166 or paul.sullivan@iononline.com), McKesson/NOA (Scot Wagner at (866) 466-2462 or swagner@noainc.com; or Patrick Walsh at (415) 793-8736 or patrick.walsh@mckesson.com), or OTN/Onmark (Jennifer Semanik at (415) 497-2750 or Tony Policani at (509) 995-0280 or anthony.policoni@otnnet.com; or 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. 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.

- **Oncology Pharmaceutical Services (OPS)**, a division of *US Oncology*. Contact Sean Taylor at (415) 235-4673 or sean.taylor@usoncology.com for more information.

ANCO and *McKesson Specialty Oncology Services* have agreed to make OncoEMR, an oncology-specific Web-based electronic medical record, available to ANCO members at a significant discount. For more information about OncoEMR, please contact your McKesson/NOA representative.

Learn about the new *Onmark Regimen Profiler*, a web-based tool that helps you understand financial and clinical information for many treatment regimens, at a live instructional webcast on June 19th. Recent enhancements allow you to create customized combinations of anti-emetics, solutions and administration charge CPT codes. This enables your practice to better evaluate financial information based upon site-specific treatment protocols. Enroll for the next live instructional webcast on June 19th at onmarkevents.webex.com/onmarkevents.

Onmark presents *Emerging Trends in Patients with MDS on June 21st and July 23rd*. Expert dialog on key considerations in the treatment of MDS in the community practice setting and a case study will be discussed by Guillermo Garcia-Manero, M.D. Topics will include updates on recently approved therapies for MDS, patient evaluation plan design, MDS therapeutic algorithm, and case studies. Enroll today for this informative clinical event at onmarkevents.webex.com/onmarkevents.

A replay of the *Introduction to OPS* webcast is available at www.opspharmacist.com/ancowebcast.

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* meeting will take place on July 19th. 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 2007 will be published and mailed to ANCO physician members; nurse and office manager contacts; and, Corporate Member representatives at the end of June 2007. Additional copies will be 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 2008.

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 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 *GI Cancers* takes place at the *Mauna Lani Bay Resort* on the Kohala Coast, Hawaii, on October 18-20th. This three-day national conference will bring together leading experts in the fields of gastroenterology and radiation oncology to highlight advances in the diagnosis and treatment of advanced gastrointestinal cancers. Visit www.cme.stanfordhospital.com for more information.

UCD's *8th Annual Advances in Oncology* takes place at the *Hyatt Regency* in Sacramento on October 20th.

The *9th Annual UCSF/UCD Thoracic Oncology*

Conference takes place in San Francisco on November 17th. Visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU07004 for more information.

Corporate Member News

ANCO thanks the following **Corporate Members** for their generous support that enables ANCO to provide services to 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 • Abraxis Oncology
Alexion Pharmaceuticals • AstraZeneca
Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals
biogenIDEC
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology
Cephalon Oncology • Clariant Diagnostics
Enzon Pharmaceuticals
Genentech BioOncology
Genitope Corporation • Genomic Health
Genzyme Oncology • GlaxoSmithKline
International Oncology Network
Lash Group Healthcare Consultants
Lilly Oncology
McKesson Specialty Oncology Services
MedImmune Oncology • MGI Pharma
Millennium • Novartis Oncology
Oncology Pharmaceutical Services
Oncology Supply • Onmark
Ortho Biotech • OSI Pharmaceuticals • OTN
Pfizer Oncology • Pharmion
Roche Oncology • Sanofi Aventis Oncology
Schering-Plough Oncology*

We especially wish to thank and welcome *Alexion Pharmaceuticals* and *Genzyme Oncology* as new Corporate Member in 2007. We regret to announce that *GlaxoSmithKline*, *Matrix Oncology*, and *SuperGen* are no longer Corporate Members of ANCO.

Clinical Trial News

ASCO's *Clinical Trials Workshop* takes place October 26-28th at the *Grand Hyatt* in Denver, Colorado. Register by Thursday, August 23rd to take advantage of reduced registration fees. Clinical trials are crucial for developing better methods of preventing, detecting, and treating

cancer. ASCO's *Clinical Trials Workshop* helps oncologists, nurses, and other members of the research team evaluate, integrate, and conduct clinical trials in the community practice setting. This CME-certified workshop provides practical tools not currently offered in fellowship training programs or most continuing education materials. The program focuses on four themes:

- Role of the oncology team
- Clinical trials procedures
- Selection of trials
- Communicating with patients about clinical trials

Attendance is limited to enhance audience participation. For more information, visit www.asco.org/ctw.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has redesigned its clinical trials online portal making it easier to find clinical trial results by cancer type. Based on user feedback, many parts of the site have been simplified and the search feature is now easier to use. To see the new search features and other educational materials for patients, family members, and researchers, go to www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials. **NCI also has a *Clinical Trials Education Series* to help recruit patients.** It is available from (800) 4-CANCER or www.cancer.gov/publications.

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.

Thomson Healthcare's *DrugPoints* will replace the USP DI *Drug Compendium* in July. As the official successor publication to the USP DI,

DrugPoints will be recognized by the Medicare program as a reference for off-label uses of anti-cancer drugs. *DrugPoints* will include many of the same features as the USP DI. However, there are some important differences. While the current USP DI lists uses as "accepted," "acceptance not established," or "unaccepted", the revised *DrugPoints* will publish uses according to a tiered rating system. Visit www.micromedex.com/products/uspdi/v1/ or contact ASCO's *Cancer Policy & Clinical Affairs Department* at (703) 299-1050 for more information.

The May/June (Vol. 22, No. 3) issue of ACCC's *Oncology Issues* features articles on multidisciplinary teamwork as a key to improving chemotherapy reimbursement, a model integrative medicine program, and an update on the *Physician Quality Reporting Initiative*. Visit www.accc-cancer.org/ONIS/onis_archives.asp to view these articles.

The May (Vol. 3, Issue 3) issue of ASCO's *Journal of Oncology Practice* features articles on translating research into practice, the economics of cancer care, and technology in oncology practice. Visit www.jopasco.org to view these articles.

Caring4cancer.com is a portal with all the specific coding and billing information a busy oncology practice manager needs. It includes cancer-specific Medicare regulations, forms, coding education pieces, and a subscription to a free newsletter from Bobbi Buell. Visit www.caring4cancer.com and select *Practice Management*).