

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 July 20th. 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.]

At the first 2007 meeting of the *House Cancer Care Working Group*, Representative Anna Eshoo released a draft of a letter for *Members of Congress* to send to CMS Administrator Leslie Norwalk to express their concern with CMS' proposal to drastically limit coverage for erythropoietin stimulating agents (ESAs) for cancer patients. Eshoo notes that CMS' proposal

**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.

would “significantly reduce access to ESAs for cancer patients, and force cancer patients to rely on blood transfusions throughout their course of chemotherapy” and expresses concern that:

CMS’ proposal will have a broad range of unintended public health consequences. Medicare beneficiaries would have to rely on transfusions that carry risks of transmissible diseases and iron toxicity. Transfusions would also require a hospital visit, with a minimum of six to eight hours for a transfusion, instead of a brief office visit to receive an ESA. Besides the inconvenience to the patient, the change in treatment could bring a corresponding rise in costs to the taxpayer and add to the already-strained hospital service systems. Reduced access to ESA therapies could also adversely impact the nation’s blood supply, as any increase in blood transfusions to cancer patients is likely to cause blood shortages for patients with other afflictions, such as traumatic injuries.

Please contact your *Representatives* and urge them to support community cancer care by signing the Eshoo letter to CMS.

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 a Tool Kit for successful reporting, 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/pqri.

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 July 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:

- ANCO supports AB28 that would extend, until 2013, the ability of California taxpayers to designate on their tax returns that a specified amount in excess of their tax liability be contributed to the *California Breast Cancer Research Fund*. AB28 passed out of the Assembly with bi-partisan support and will next be heard in the *Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee*.

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 Form

CMS-1500 (12-90) due to reports of an incorrectly printed version of Form CMS-1500 (08-05) that was being sold by some print vendors. Providers will now be required to **begin submitting 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 *Medicare B Resource (June 2007)* is available online at www.medicarehnic.com/news/provider_news/mbr_jun07.pdf.

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

EDUCATION

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

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.

Electronic Health Records: 2007 Oncology Symposium

In recognition of the growing importance of

electronic health record (EHR) technology, ASCO is pleased to sponsor a new educational event designed to help attendees make decisions about selecting and implementing EHRs. *Electronic Health Records: 2007 Oncology Symposium* will be held on September 19-20th in Dallas. The deadline for early registration is August 24th. The symposium will help practitioners overcome the challenges of selecting and implementing an EHR product. Didactic sessions will be offered on such topics as improving office efficiency, the role of the health information technology physician champion, measuring the return on EHR investment, and workflow process redesign. Participants will also be able to explore specific EHR products during hands-on demonstrations in a controlled environment. The event will also feature an innovative *Vendor Challenge*, during which several EHR vendors will walk through a timed patient encounter in front of a live audience. Visit www.asco.org/ehr for more information and to register.

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:

July 25th

Colorectal Cancer: Report from the 2007 ASCO Annual Meeting

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

July 26th

Medical Update on Lung Cancer from the 2007 ASCO Annual Meeting

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

August 15th

Emerging Treatments for Mantle Cell Lymphoma

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

August 22nd

Communicating with Your Doctor About Adjuvant Treatment for Colorectal Cancer

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

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 Medicare resources).
- clinical and professional education meeting announcements and distributed materials.
- survey reports, publications, ListServ.
- clinical trials information.
- links to affiliated organizations.
- updated physician, nurse, manager, and patient resources.

ANCO On-Line ListServ

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. 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.

Benefits

ANCO continues to seek ways to make membership more beneficial. The *Board* 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, available to ANCO members at a reduced price. 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.

Onmark presents *Emerging Trends in Patients with MDS on 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/ancowebscast.

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.stanfordhopsital.com for more information.

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

Simply the Best: The Bonnie J. Addario A Breath Away from the Cure Foundation's Annual Dinner Gala takes place in San Francisco on November 9th. For more information, please call (415) 357-1278 or visit www.abaftc.org.

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.

UCSF's ***7th Annual UCSF Clinical Cancer Update*** takes place at Lake Tahoe on January 25-27th, 2008. Visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU08006 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
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 Members in 2007. We regret to announce that *GlaxoSmithKline*, *Matrix Oncology*, and *SuperGen* are no longer Corporate Members of ANCO.

Sanofi Aventis Oncology informs ANCO that an unplanned interim analysis of data from the CONCEPT Phase IV study indicated that calcium/magnesium (Ca/Mg) infusions, administered to reduce or prevent oxaliplatin-associated neurological adverse events, might be associated with a reduced response rate to FOLFOX/bevacizumab treatment. The study was closed. Pending more definitive information, health care providers should weight the perceived beneficial effect on neuropathy of initiating or continuing Ca/Mg infusions in patients on

oxaliplatin against the possibility of diminished benefit of chemotherapy. For more information, please contact *Sanofi Aventis* at (800) 633-1610, option 1.

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.

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.

ANCO members can obtain information about Institutional Member's clinical trials at www.anco-online.org/trials.html. A current list of UCD's active adult protocols is available at ccresources.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/csr/content/clinicaltrialspublicreport.csr?adult=1.

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.

The Patient Advocate Foundation's (PAF) Colorectal CareLine (CCL) is 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.

PhRMA has printed a directory of patient assistance programs offered by its member companies that provide free or reduced price medicine to people in need. Download this directory at www.asco.org/asco/downloads/PhRMA_Brochure.pdf.

Publications, Services, & Surveys

ANCO is conducting its biennial *Practice Staff Salary Survey* in 3Q07. Survey packets were mailed to each ANCO member practice in early June. Data collected will be compared with that collected in 2005 and earlier. Please be sure to complete and return the ANCO *Practice Staff Salary Survey* as soon as possible.

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. 6, No. 5) issue of *Hematology & Oncology News & Issues* features articles on Medicare Part B changes and their effect on oncology and off-label drug use in cancer care. The June issue of *Oncology Business Review* features articles on generic oncology products, financial and operation benchmarks in the oncology office setting, and dispensing oral cancer agents in the oncology office.

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*).