

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 September 28th. Comments on and contributions to the *ANCO FAX News* are always welcome and encouraged at ANCO, P.O. Box 151109, San Rafael, CA 94915-1109; Voice: (415) 472-3960; FAX: (415) 472-3961; ExecDir@anco-online.org.

ADVOCACY

[*Editor's Note:* ANCO meets regularly with national, regional, and statewide organizations to discuss issues of importance to hematology/oncology practices and people living with cancer. We continually seek input from members on agenda items for these meetings. Send your issues to the ANCO office.]

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

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

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

CMS issued a final *National Coverage Decision* (NCD) July 30th on the use of erythropoiesis stimulating agents (ESAs) in cancer and related neoplastic conditions. On August 30th, ASCO formally requested that CMS reconsider its NCD on the use of ESAs. This follows a series of letters and meetings outlining concerns with the policy. According to ASCO, the following

**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.

reasons warrant reopening the policy:

- The clinical studies supporting FDA's approval of ESAs did not include stopping administration of the ESAs when the patient's hemoglobin exceeded 10g/dL. There are no clinical studies demonstrating that the NCD rules for administering ESAs result in their safe and effective use. CMS's implied conclusion that the NCD provides for safe and effective therapy is based on a misinterpretation of the clinical evidence.
- The NCD assumed that additional blood transfusions will not be required as a consequence of the new policy, since it misinterpreted existing evidence and based its policy on evidence that is unclear. In addition, the NCD did not properly interpret evidence concerning patients with conditions that put them at increased risk.
- The NCD's policy on dose escalation and dose timing are inconsistent with FDA-approved labeling and underlying clinical studies. CMS has misinterpreted clinical data in assuming that the NCD rules on dose escalation and timing of a dose increase have been shown to be safe and effective.

ASCO also sent letters on August 28th to the medical directors of three major health insurers on the application of the NCD rules by private health plans. ASCO encouraged the companies to consider ASCO's concerns and recommendations before re-evaluating their current ESA coverage policies. ASCO also urged health plans that may be considering revisions to consult with oncology societies in those states/regions that would be affected.

CMS's ESA NCD, its FAQs, and ASCO's letters and FAQs are available at www.anco-online.org. For more information, please contact ASCO's *Cancer Policy & Clinical Affairs Department* at (704) 299-1050 or publicpolicy@asco.org.

Senator's Arlen Specter, Tom Harkin, and Frank Lautenberg Sense of the Senate Resolution regarding CMS's NCD on the treatment of anemia in cancer patients passed on September 4th. The resolution cited ASCO communications

with CMS, stating that restricting coverage when a patient's hemoglobin goes above 10g/dL is inconsistent with both the FDA-approved labeling and national guidelines. The resolution states that CMS should consult with members of the oncology community and make appropriate revisions to its policy based on the input of the community.

ASCO is looking for members' feedback on CMS's ESA NCD. Please provide your input on the following questions:

- How has the ESA national Medicare coverage policy affected your practice?
- How is your practice planning to implement the new policy in terms of tracking and documentation?
- What concerns do you have about implementing the new policy?
- What additional clarification on the policy is needed?

Please email your responses to practice@asco.org.

On August 29th, **ASCO sent comments to CMS on proposed changes to payment policies under the Medicare physician fee schedule and other Part B policies.** ASCO made recommendations relating to:

- Scheduled 9.9% Reduction in the Physician Fee Schedule Conversion Factor
- Physician Quality Reporting Initiative
- Proposed Changes to the Compendia for Determining Medically Accepted Off-Label Uses
- Intravenous Immune Globulin
- WAMP and AMP Threshold
- Competitive Acquisition Program
- Reporting of Anemia Quality Indicators

Visit www.anco-online.org/mma.html to read ASCO's complete comments.

Three pieces of cancer-related legislation are being considered by Congress. HR3011 (*Revision of Payment Methodology for Drugs and Biologicals*) would refine the Medicare drug reimbursement system to ensure that critical chemotherapy drugs remain available to cancer patients by granting CMS the authority to

increase payment amounts for oncology drugs when the reimbursement level equal to 106% of the *Average Sales Price* (ASP) does not cover the generally available price of the drugs. It would also exclude prompt-pay discounts offered to wholesalers and distributors in the calculation of ASP. **HR1293/S1338 (*Access to Medicare Imaging Act of 2007*)** 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 on Medicare beneficiaries. And, **HR1078 (*Comprehensive Cancer Care Improvement Act of 2007*)** would establish a new Medicare service for comprehensive cancer planning through the continuum of care. Please contact your *Representatives* and *Senators* and urge them to support this legislation.

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 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 User Guide, Tool Kit for successful reporting, beneficiary letters, FAQs, and presentation materials from recent national provider calls, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI. The next national provider call takes place on September 26th at 8:30AM. Visit www2.eventsvc.com/palmettogba/event/14fb1aa76c244fe69df774507877a71f to register.

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.

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.]

NHIC/Medicare recently published updated billing guidelines for ESAs (visit www.medicarenhic.com/cal_prov/articles/esaguidelines_0707.pdf) **and off-label indications** (visit www.medicarenhic.com/cal_prov/articles/offlabelmed_0707.pdf). However, the updated ESA billing guidelines ***do not*** incorporate the provisions of the recently approved CMS ESA NCD.

NHIC/Medicare will host an *Ask the Contractor Teleconference* (ACT) on September 27th at 10AM regarding *National Provider Identifier updates*. For additional information, visit www.medicarenhic.com/cal_prov/seminars_act.shtml

Health care providers are required by law to apply for a *National Provider Identifier* (NPI). At this point, any covered entity that is noncompliant, and has not implemented a contingency plan, is at risk for enforcement action. 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.

CMS made physicians' NPI data publicly available on September 4th via a searchable database. The online lookup returns NPIs and relevant demographic information, but does not disclose Social Security numbers, dates of birth, or IRS taxpayer identification numbers. To view the NPI Registry, visit nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/NPIRegistryHome.do or download the file at nppesdata.cms.hhs.gov/cms_NPI_files.html.

CMS recently learned that some clearinghouses are stripping NPIs before submitting claims to Medicare. While this will not affect your ability to get paid, it will adversely affect your ability to participate in the PQRI. If you use a clearinghouse, then you should check with your clearinghouse to find out if it is stripping NPIs. If your clearinghouse is stripping NPIs, you may want to consider other billing options.

Effective September 17th, NHIC/Medicare will begin editing the NPI/legacy ID combinations for validity against the NPI crosswalk file.

Where a match cannot be located on the crosswalk, claims will be rejected or returned to the provider. When the claim is returned, a provider should first verify that the correct NPI was submitted. If correct, you will need to verify that your legacy identifier (PIN) number corresponds with the information on file with the *National Plan and Provider Enumeration System* (NPPES). NPPES data may be checked on line at nppes.cms.hhs.gov. If your NPPES information is correct and you have included and matched ALL Medicare legacy identifiers with a corresponding NPI in NPPES, but you are experiencing provider identifier problems with your claims that contain an NPI, you may need to submit a Medicare enrollment application (i.e., the CMS-855). Please contact Customer Service at (877) 527-6613 if you need more information.

An electronic version of the *Evaluation & Management Services Guide*, which provides evaluation and management services information regarding medical record documentation; *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification*; *American Medical Association Current Procedural Terminology Codes*; and, key elements of service is now available. Visit www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/eval_mgmt_serv_guide.pdf to download your copy.

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* (September 2007) is available online at www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider_news/mbr_sept07.pdf. Please note that the ESA article does not reflect current CMS coverage policy.

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

Beginning September 17th DHS/MediCal claims received on the old HCFA 1500 or UB-92 claim forms will be rejected and returned to the provider. To ensure claims processing, providers must submit claims on the new CMS-1500 or UB-04 claim form. Over-one-year claims must also be billed using the new CMS-1500 or UB-04 claim forms beginning September 17th. For more detailed information, please see the claim form article located on the DHS/MediCal website (at files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/whatsnew_8699.asp). Should you have any questions or need additional information, please call the Telephone Service Center (TSC) at (800) 541-5555.

ANCO has communicated directly with *Blue Shield of California* with regard to its ESA coverage policies. *Blue Shield's* revised

policies do NOT cover ESAs for MDS, do raise the initiation HgB to 10 from 9, do allow use of ESAs with anti-angiogenic treatment protocols, and do require the use of Procrit prior to Aranesp. Copies of these coverage policies are available via www.anco-online.org. ANCO urges members to submit other payor ESA coverage policies for review and comment.

EDUCATION

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

ASCO's Electronic Health Records: 2007 Oncology Symposium

Electronic Health Records: 2007 Oncology Symposium will be held on September 19-20th in Dallas. 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 2008 Genitourinary Cancers Symposium

ASCO's 2008 Genitourinary Cancers Symposium: A Multidisciplinary Approach will take place at the *San Francisco Marriott*, February 14-16th, 2008. The meeting is being hosted by ASCO in collaboration with the *American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology* and the *Society of Urologic Oncology*. Visit www.asco.org/meetings for more information.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

September 19th
Caring for Your Bones When You Have Prostate Cancer
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

September 20th
Update on Metastatic Breast Cancer
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

September 27th
Medical Update on Ovarian Cancer
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

September 27th
Role of Culture in Medical Decisions: Provider and Patient Perspectives
Northern California Cancer Center
South San Francisco

September 28-30th
New Technologies and Innovative Treatment Strategies for Genitourinary Malignancies
City of Hope
San Diego

September 30th-October 3rd
27th Annual Oncology Nurses Symposium
Scripps Cancer Center
San Diego

October 3rd
Moving Forward: Breast Cancer Survivorship
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

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 7-9th
Fall Conference
California Hospice Foundation
San Diego

October 10th
Sailing in the Unknown: Contending with Loss

Northern California Cancer Center
San Francisco

October 19th
The Importance of Taking Your Pills Everyday
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

October 26th
Caring for Your Bones When You Have Breast Cancer
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

October 27th-November 1st
SRAO Annual Conference
Society for Radiation Oncology Administrators
Los Angeles

October 30th
Understanding Peripheral Neuropathy
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

November 7th
Living Each Day With Lung Cancer
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

November 14th
For Caregivers: Coping with a Loved One's Cancer During the Holidays
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

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, and 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 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 Louis Diodoro at *IntrinsiQ* directly at (800) 565-2279, x504 or louis.diodoro@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@usonology.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.

OPS presents a webcast entitled *An Update in the Treatment of HER2+ Metastatic Breast Cancer* with Stephen Jones, M.D., *Baylor University*, on Wednesday, September 26th at 11:00AM. For more information and to register, please visit comp08.eventcenterlive.com/cfm/ec/register/reg.cfm?BID=18&RegID=42495050. If you need further assistance, please contact OPS Customer Service at (866) 876-

9254.

Onmark presents *A Treatment Continuum in mCRC: A Strategic Approach to Extend Survival on September 19th*. This webcast is sponsored by *Pfizer Oncology*. In addition, *Onmark* presents ***An Update in the Treatment of HER2+ Metastatic Breast Cancer*** on October 5th. This webcast is sponsored by *GlaxoSmithKline Oncology*. Finally, *Onmark's* legislative teleconferences continue on September 24th & 25th. To join the call, dial 800-479-9001. Topics will include Q407 ASP, new ICD-9 codes for oncology, and CMS's ESA NCD. Visit www.onmarkservices.com (Events) for more information and to register.

OTN informs ANCO that it has entered into an exclusive agreement with *Altos Solutions* that adds electronic medical record (EMR) functionality to OTN's current integrated Lynx technology platform. Lynx EMR provides broad oncology-specific electronic medical record capabilities and integrates directly with Lynx' existing automated charge capture, inventory management and practice management tools.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Annual Election

Four seats on the ANCO Board of Directors are up for election in 2007. ANCO seeks nominations for candidates for these seats. This year's election will be conducted via mail ballot in December. Candidates with the top four vote totals will serve for three years (i.e., from 2008-2010, inclusive). Nominate an ANCO member (including yourself) to stand for election to the *Board* via FAX to the ANCO office at (415) 472-3961 no later than November 16th.

Board of Directors

The ANCO Board of Directors teleconferenced on September 12th to discuss and/or act upon the following issues:

- Public and private advocacy issues.
- Clinical and professional education programs.
- ANCO membership initiatives.
- *Board* changes.

- ANCO's infrastructure.

Contact the ANCO office for additional information on any of these items.

The ANCO *Board of Directors* meets regularly by teleconference and occasionally in person to discuss issues affecting the *Association*, clinical and professional education, and ways to better serve the membership. *Board* meetings are open to individual physician members. The **next regularly scheduled ANCO Board of Directors teleconference** will take place on November 13th. 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* was published and mailed to ANCO physician members; nurse and office manager contacts; and, Corporate Member representatives at the end of June 2007. 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 2008.

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

ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF PHYSICIAN MEMBERS

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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 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. Visit ucdrc.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/servlet/CmeSignIn?ccode=ONCOL08 to register.

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.

UCSF's Donald Abrams, M.D., is the *Program Co-Chair* for the *Society of Integrative Oncology's 4th International Conference: Expanding Horizons in Collaborative Cancer Care* taking place November 15-17th at the *Renaissance Parc 55 Hotel* in San Francisco. For additional information and to register, visit www.integrativeonc.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.

Stanford's *10th 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 14-16th, 2008. Contact Jennifer

Schafer at (650) 724-2288 or
schafer@stanford.edu 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 • Celgene
Clariant Diagnostics • Eisai
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, Celgene, Eisai, 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.

Alexion Pharmaceuticals presents ***The Evolution of PNH: Diagnosis to Current Therapeutic Options*** with Patrick Fogarty, M.D., *UC San Francisco*, on Tuesday, September 18th at the *Presidio Golf Club* in San Francisco; with Ilene Weitz, M.D., *University of Southern California*, on Wednesday, September 26th at the *San José Fairmont*; and, with Ted Wun, M.D., *UC Davis*, on Tuesday, October 2nd at the *Hyatt Regency*

Sacramento. To register for these meetings please e-mail Christine Kostanecki at kostaneckic@alxn.com.

AMGEN has launched a grassroots initiative that includes a toll free number and website for patients, health care providers, caregivers, and/or any person who has a story to tell regarding how the CMS ESA NCD is affecting their lives, care, and ability to give care to patients. The toll-free number is (800) 386-8881. The website

(www.protectcancerpatients.org) connects visitors to a forum and provides information on how to make a call, write a letter, or email an appropriate political figure. There is also a way for patients, health care providers, and/or caregivers to post information or tell their story.

Genentech informs ANCO that Medicare will require that new ICD-9 codes be used for patients with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma as of October 1st. Please note that there are a significant number of coding changes. The coding changes are available at www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD9ProviderDiagnosticCodes/Downloads/new_diagnosis_codes_2007.pdf. Providers may contact SPOC at (888) 249-4918 with coding, billing, or reimbursement questions.

Lilly Oncology is sponsoring Challenging Cases in Non-Small Lung Cancer on September 27th at 4PM and 6PM. Physicians may participate via webcast or satellite broadcast at select *Morton's Steakhouses*. The faculty includes Chandra P. Belani, M.D., *Penn State College of Medicine*, Ronald B. Natale, M.D., *Cedars-Sinai Cancer Center*, and Mark Socinski, M.D., *University of North Carolina*. Visit www.lungleaderslive3.com for more information or to register or call (866) 381-5174.

MGI Pharma informs ANCO that the United States Food & Drug Administration has updated Aloxi's package insert. The updated labeled indication removes a dosing recommendation that limited Aloxi use to once per seven-day interval. Aloxi may now be administered more than once per week, which may be necessary when treating cancer with multi-day chemotherapy regimens. Aloxi is approved by the FDA for the prevention of acute nausea and vomiting associated with initial and repeat

courses of moderately and highly emetogenic cancer chemotherapy and for the prevention of delayed nausea and vomiting associated with initial and repeat courses of moderately emetogenic cancer chemotherapy. In addition, **DHS/MediCal now covers Dacogen for myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS)** according to an announcement in the *MediCal Bulletin* (August 2007). Effective August 1st Dacogen (1mg, J0894) is reimbursable for patients with myelodysplastic syndrome using ICD 9-CM diagnosis codes 238.72-238.75.

Sanofi Aventis Oncology informs ANCO that a new 200mg single-use vial of Eloxatin for patients who have adjuvant stage III colon cancer and advanced colorectal cancer is now available. The new vial is expected to offer more convenience, efficiency, and safety in the preparation of the injectable cancer drug. Previously, Eloxatin had been available in 50mg and 100mg single-use vials. The 200mg vial's NDC number is 0024-0592-40.

Clinical Trial News

ASCO's Clinical Trials Workshop takes place October 26-28th at the Grand Hyatt in Denver, Colorado. 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 search 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.

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 but not later than September 28th. You may request a duplicate *Practice Staff Salary Survey* instrument from the ANCO office at (415) 472-3960 if you did not receive or misplaced the first copy.

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.