

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 February 9th. 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 2006 Oncology Demonstration Project is over. To date, CMS has not committed to its continuation in 2007. An extension “remains under consideration.” The 2006 demonstration codes should not be used for 2007 services. When *Congress* passed legislation to avert the 5% reduction in the *Physician Fee Schedule* conversion factor, it also provided for a 1.5% increase for

**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.

reporting quality measures through the CMS *Physician Voluntary Reporting Program* (PVRP) starting July 1st. Details concerning implementation of this provision are still forthcoming.

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

ANCO and ASCO continue to work towards ensuring that people with cancer have access to quality cancer care in the community. Practice resources are available at www.anco-online.org and www.asco.org/mma. Members may also call/e-mail ASCO's billing and coding hotline at (703) 299-1054/practice@asco.org for up-to-date information on changes in coding for drug administration services, as well as billing and payments for drugs. Specifically:

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

CMA, MOASC, and State Legislative & Regulatory Issues

[*Editor's Note: ANCO and the Medical Oncology Association of Southern California (MOASC) are members of the California Medical Association's (CMA) House of Delegates and Council on Legislation. ANCO and MOASC coordinate advocacy activities in California.*]

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

- February 27th; San Ramon
- March 15th; San Mateo
- April 14-15th; Monterey

Attendees will learn how to evaluate current and proposed payor contracts; target payors for contract termination, negotiation, or

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

NHIC/Medicare, DHS/MediCal, & Private Payers

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

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

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

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

NHIC/Medicare is hosting a free one-hour teleconference for Medicare Part B providers on NPIs. The teleconference is Thursday, February 8th at 10AM. Physicians and their staff are invited to participate. Registration is not required, but the number of call-in lines is limited. Dial in early to secure your spot on the call at (888) 469-0487 and enter pass code "NPI."

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

DHS/MediCal NPI training sessions will assist providers in obtaining and registering their NPI. DHS/MediCal is offering NPI training sessions in 12 different cities throughout California, including February 6th in Burlingame, February 20th-21st in Redding, February 27th in Eureka, March 6th in Sacramento, and March 13th in Fresno. Visit files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/npi/npi.asp for complete details.

DHS and EDS are planning an NPI Roundtable (public forum) and would like to solicit your top 3 to 5 questions regarding the NPI. It is their intent to address these questions during the NPI Roundtable and to also post them on the DHS/MediCal NPI web page under the NPI FAQs. What questions do you have regarding the NPI? This may include but is not limited to enumeration, registration, training sessions, testing, electronic/paper billing requirements, and atypical providers. Please email your questions and concerns to norlanie.mostajo@eds.com.

Form CMS-1500 was revised to accommodate the reporting of the NPI effective October 1st, 2006. The new form will not be mandated for use until February 1st. There is a dual acceptability period of the old and the revised forms. To learn more about the revised form, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R899CP.pdf.

The *Medicare B Resource* (December 2006) is available online at www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider_news/mbr_dec06.pdf.

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

EDUCATION

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

Oncology Reimbursement 2007

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

San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Highlights 2006

ANCO's *San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Highlights 2006* will take place on Tuesday evening, January 30th at *The Claremont Resort* in Oakland. Faculty from *Stanford* (Frederick M. Dirbas, M.D.), *UC Davis* (Helen K. Chew, M.D.), and *UC San Francisco* (Alison Bevan, M.D., Ph.D.) will review the clinically most important research results presented at December's *Symposium*. This meeting will be moderated by Robert W. Carlson, M.D., *Stanford*, and accredited by *Indiana University*. Major support for this meeting is anticipated in part from *AMGEN*, *AstraZeneca*, *Genentech BioOncology*, and *Sanofi Aventis Oncology*; additional support is anticipated in part from

Abraxis Oncology, Cephalon Oncology, Cytogen, Genomic Health, GlaxoSmithKline, International Oncology Network/Oncology Supply, Lilly Oncology, McKesson Specialty Oncology Services/National Oncology Alliance, Ortho Biotech/Tibotech Therapeutics, and Pfizer Oncology. A meeting announcement was mailed to all members on December 13th. Download the registration form at www.anco-online.org/sabcs.pdf.

Emerging Therapies for Blood Cancer Patients

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

Highlights of ASH

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

ASH Highlights 2006

ANCO's *ASH Highlights 2006* will take place on Wednesday evening, February 21st at the *Hotel Nikko* in San Francisco. Faculty from *Stanford* (Ranjana Advani, M.D., Steve E. Coutre, M.D.), *UC Davis* (Ted Wun, M.D.), and *UC San Francisco* (Jeffrey L. Wolf, M.D.) will review the clinically most important research results presented at December's *ASH Annual Meeting*. This meeting will be moderated by Ted Wun, M.D., *UC Davis*, and accredited by *Indiana University*. Major support for this educational

activity is anticipated in part from *AMGEN* and *Genentech BioOncology*; additional support is anticipated in part from, *Berlex Oncology, Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology, Cephalon Oncology, Enzon Pharmaceuticals, MGI Pharma, Millennium, Novartis Oncology, Ortho Biotech/Tibotech Therapeutics, Pharmion, and Roche Oncology*. A meeting announcement was mailed to all members on January 5th. Download the registration form at www.anco-online.org/ash.pdf.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

January 26th

Tips for Managing Treatment-Related Rash and Dry Skin

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

January 30th

Treatment Update on GIST (Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors)

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

January 31st

Emerging Treatments for Mantle Cell Lymphoma

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

February 7th

Medical Update on Bladder Cancer

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

February 8-9th

Maximizing a Healthy Revenue Cycle

Medical Group Management Association

Boston

February 9th

Medicare Part D for People Living with Cancer

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

February 10-11th

Implementing Best Practices of Successful Medical Groups

Medical Group Management Association

Boston

February 13th
New Diagnostic Technology in the Treatment of Breast Cancer
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

February 17th-21st
27th Annual Conference: Clinical Hematology & Oncology
 Scripps Cancer Center
 San Diego

February 21st
Nutrition and Cancer: Beyond Calories—Building Lean Body Mass
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

February 22nd-24th
2007 Prostate Cancer Symposium
 American Society of Clinical Oncology
 Orlando

March 2nd
Dental Health During Cancer Treatments
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

March 3rd
Breast Cancer: More Questions, More Answers
 Northern California Cancer Center
 San Francisco

March 9-11th
4th Annual Oncology Nursing Advanced Practice: Innovation Through Practice
 Scripps Cancer Center
 San Diego

March 14-18th
12th Annual Conference: Clinical Practice Guidelines and Quality Cancer Care
 National Comprehensive Cancer Network
 Hollywood, Florida

March 21st
The Role of Targeted Therapy in the Treatment of Breast Cancer
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

March 28th-31st
33rd Annual National Meeting: Navigating Rough Waters—How to Stay the Course
 Association of Community Cancer Centers
 Baltimore

April 12-13th
Achieving Efficient Practice Operations
 Medical Group Management Association
 New Orleans

April 12-14th
31st Annual Symposium
 American Society of Breast Disease
 San Francisco

April 15-16th
Implementing Best Practices of Successful Medical Groups
 Medical Group Management Association
 New Orleans

April 15-17th
2007 Conference
 Medical Group Management Association/Administrators in Oncology/Hematology
 Austin

May 5-8th
Spring Conference
 California Hospice Foundation
 Reno, NV

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

MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES & BENEFITS

ANCO On-Line

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

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

ANCO On-Line ListServ & WebLog

The ANCO *Online ListServ* is available to all ANCO physician members, nurses, practice managers, and Corporate Member representatives. It is a source for the latest ANCO news and other information impacting hematology/oncology practices. These postings are digested in the ANCO *Online WebLog* at www.anco-online.org/news/index.html (see below). It is also a way for ANCO members to communicate amongst themselves. To post an item to the ANCO *Online ListServ*, send e-mail to anco@anco-online.org. (*Please note: Only subscribers to the ANCO Online ListServ may post items and the ANCO Executive Director will review all postings for appropriate content. In addition, to communicate directly and privately with the ANCO Executive Director, send e-mail to execdir@anco-online.org.*) All ANCO physician members and their staffs are encouraged to subscribe, participate, and use the ANCO *Online ListServ* to receive ANCO information electronically and to communicate with colleagues about issues of importance to hematology/oncology practice. To subscribe, send your e-mail address to the ANCO office at execdir@anco-online.org.

The 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 also benefit from group purchasing activities and value added services from a number of vendors, including:

- ***California Oncology Consortium (COC) Group Purchasing Organization (GPO).*** The COC GPO has preferred vendor agreements and discounted pricing with *International Oncology Network (ION)/Oncology Supply (OS)*, and *McKesson Specialty Oncology Services* (formerly *National Oncology Alliance* or NOA). Contact your local ION/OS (Doug Storer at (650) 219-9282 or douglas.storer@iononline.com; or Paul Sullivan at (602) 391-9166 or paul.sullivan@iononline.com) or McKesson/NOA (Scot Wagner at (866) 466-2462 or swagner@noainc.com; or Patrick Walsh at (415) 793-8736 or patrick.walsh@mckesson.com) representatives for more information.
- ***Oncology Pharmaceutical Services (OPS)***, a division of *US Oncology*. Contact Sean Taylor at (415) 235-4673 or sean.taylor@usonology.com for more information.
- ***Onmark, OTN's preferred group purchasing organization.*** Contact Monique Weston at (650) 871-2108 or monique.weston@onmarkservices.com for more information.
- ***IntrinsiQ's IntelliDose Discount Program*** makes *IntelliDose*, a clinical oncology software solution, available to ANCO members at a significant discount. In addition, ancillary products/services, and maintenance fees will also be discounted for ANCO member practices. Contact Kris Beinder at *IntrinsiQ* directly at (800)

565-2279, x151 or
kbeinder@intrinsiq.com for more
information about *IntrinsiQ Research* and
IntelliDose or visit www.intrinsiq.com.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Annual Election Results

The ANCO membership elected the following members to the *Board of Directors* (location, for terms ending in 2009, inclusive):

Richard A. Bohannon, M.D.
(San Francisco)
Ellie Guardino, M.D., Ph.D.
(Stanford)
L. Wayne Keiser, M.D.
(Santa Rosa)
Bimal J. Patel, M.D.
(San Leandro)

Drs. Cohen (Oakland, 2008), Fisher (Stanford, 2007), Hufford (San Francisco, 2007), Keech, (Chico, 2008), Miller (Sacramento, 2007), Mirda (Napa, 2008), Shiffman (Monterey, 2008), and Yu (Sunnyvale, 2007) continue on the *Board*. ANCO salutes Dr. Hardy for his service to the *Association*.

Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* meets regularly by teleconference and occasionally in person to discuss issues affecting the *Association*, clinical and professional education, and ways to better serve the membership. *Board* meetings are open to individual physician members. The **next regularly scheduled ANCO Board of Directors meeting** will take place on January 30th. Please call José Luis González, *ANCO Executive Director*, at (415) 472-3960 if you wish to participate in a future meeting.

Individual Member News

The ANCO Directory of Members 2006 was published and mailed to ANCO physician members; nurse and office manager contacts; and, Corporate Member representatives at the end of June. Additional copies are available from the ANCO office upon request. Please verify your

Directory entry and contact the ANCO office with any corrections, additions, and/or deletions. The next *Directory* will be published in June 2007.

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

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Institutional Member News

ANCO thanks the following **Institutional Members** for their support:

- *Stanford University Medical Oncology*
- *University of California, Davis, Cancer Center*
- *University of California, San Francisco*

For information on **continuing medical education meetings organized by our Institutional Members**, please visit:

- med.stanford.edu/seminars/cme-all.jsp?qcme=on
- www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/conferences
- www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/index.aspx?Display=Date

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

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

Stanford's **9th Annual Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-based Approach (formerly the Northern California Tumor Board at Silverado)** will be presented by the *Stanford University School of Medicine* on March 16-18th. Tumor boards on breast, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, and thoracic cancers; hematological malignancies and lymphoma; ethics, supportive, and palliative care; and, dilemmas in patient management will be presented by faculty from *Stanford, UC Davis, UC San Francisco*, and the community. Registration and case submission materials can be downloaded from cancer.stanford.edu/calendar/events/2007/ammc.html or obtained from Jennifer Schafer at (650) 724-2288 or schafer@stanford.edu.

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

Corporate Member News

ANCO thanks the following **Corporate Members** for their generous support that enables ANCO to grow and expand its services for the hematology/oncology community in Northern California, and to provide its members and their patients with substantial benefits in the areas of advocacy, education, and information dissemination:

*AMGEN • APP/Abraxis Oncology
 AstraZeneca
 Bayer Oncology/Onyx Pharmaceuticals
 Berlex Laboratories • biogenIDEC
 Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology
 Cephalon Oncology • Clariant Diagnostics
 Enzon Pharmaceuticals
 Genentech BioOncology
 Genitope Corporation • Genomic Health
 GlaxoSmithKline
 International Oncology Network
 Lash Group Healthcare Consultants
 Lilly Oncology • Matrix Oncology
 McKesson Specialty Oncology Services
 MedImmune Oncology • MGI Pharma
 Millennium • Novartis Oncology
 Oncology Pharmaceutical Services
 Oncology Supply • Onmark
 Ortho Biotech/Tibotec Therapeutics
 OSI Pharmaceutical • OTN
 Pfizer Oncology • Pharmion
 Roche Oncology • Sanofi Aventis Oncology
 Schering-Plough Oncology • SuperGen*

Genomic Health informs ANCO that three major private payers have implemented coverage policies for Oncotype DX, as follows:

- ***Aetna US Healthcare:***
 For node-negative, estrogen receptor-positive, tumor size < 5cm, HER2 negative breast cancer; effective November 2006.
- ***HealthNet:***
 For stage I or II, node-negative, estrogen

receptor-positive breast cancer; effective December 2006.

- *United Healthcare:*

For node-negative, estrogen receptor-positive, tumor size <5cm, HER2 neu-negative breast cancer; effective January 2007.

Publications, Services, & Surveys

ASCO and the *College of American Pathologists (CAP)* have developed *Guideline Recommendations for Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor 2 Testing in Breast Cancer* based on analysis of disease-specific data published from January 1987 through February 2006. In addition to databases, the ASCO/CAP *Expert Panel* reviewed abstracts presented at ASCO and CAP meetings from 2000 to 2005 and the *San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium* from 2003 to 2005. In order to accurately determine HER2 status in all cases of invasive breast cancer, the *Expert Panel* provides recommendations to specify testing methodologies and to provide quality assurance measures that better inform clinical decision-making. The guideline and several complementary tools designed to facilitate the implementation of recommendations in clinical practice are available at www.asco.org/guidelines and are discussed in the *Journal of Oncology Practice* (Vol. 3, Issue 1, January 2007).

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) has updated its *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology* for multiple myeloma. The changes highlight leading developments in the treatment of multiple myeloma. The guidelines list two different sets of response criteria, one developed by the *European Group for Bone and Marrow Transplant* and the other developed by the *International Myeloma Working Group*. Use of the *International Staging System (ISS)* is also new to the guidelines. Based on the results of the clinical and laboratory evaluation, patients are initially classified as either having smoldering (asymptomatic) disease or active (symptomatic) disease. Those with active disease are then further categorized according to stage, based on either the *Durie Salmon Staging System* or the ISS. Diagnostic tests such as free light chain, MRI and PET/CT scan have been added to the follow-up/surveillance recommendations

throughout the guidelines. Several new induction regimens for potential transplant candidates are listed in the guidelines. Additional options for non-transplant candidates containing alkylating agents are also listed. Research into various induction regimens has focused on improving the complete response rates in both transplant and non-transplant candidates. The most recent version of this and all the guidelines are available at www.nccn.org.

The January (Vol. 3, Issue 1) issue of ASCO's *Journal of Oncology Practice* features articles on benchmarking, coding, Medicare reimbursement in 2007, and clinical trials. Visit www.jopasco.org to view these articles.

Membership Dues for 2007

Membership renewal notices for 2007 were mailed to all members on December 5th, 2006. Return your 2007 membership dues to ANCO now to ensure your inclusion in *The ANCO Directory of Members 2007*. Be sure to provide ANCO with the name(s) of office and/or nurse manager contact(s). Those not renewing their membership by June 1st, 2007 will be deleted from the *Directory of Members*, and will no longer be eligible any other ANCO benefits. Contact the ANCO office if you did not receive or misplaced your membership dues renewal notice.

ANCO seeks new members. **All members of a practice should join ANCO.** Provide the ANCO office with the names and addresses of colleagues you would like invited to join ANCO.

A larger ANCO is a stronger ANCO!