

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 October 26th. 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.]

Members of Congress continue to weigh in with CMS on coverage of ESAs. *Representatives* Anna Eshoo and Mike Rogers have introduced HJRes54 disapproving CMS's ESA NCD. If passed by both the *House* and *Senate* and signed by the *President*, HJRes54 would have the force of law and would prohibit CMS from implementing the coverage change. In addition,

**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.

Representative Stephen Cohen has introduced HRes681 urging CMS to reconsider its coverage decision on ESAs and consult with members of the oncology community to make appropriate revisions to its policy. This resolution is a companion bill to the *Senate* resolution passed September 4th. ANCO and ASCO applaud *Representatives* Eshoo, Rogers, and Cohen for their action and their continued commitment to cancer care. Please call your *Representative*, tell him or her the effect this policy change is having on your practice and your patients, and urge him or her to co-sponsor these important pieces of legislation.

ASCO continues to outreach to CMS and has formally requested that they reconsider the ESA NCD. CMS responded with six questions that ASCO is currently addressing. At this point, CMS has neither accepted nor rejected ASCO's formal request for reconsideration.

A recording of ASCO's **national audioconference and the presentation materials** are available at www.asco.org/ESAAudiocall or via www.anco-online.org. CMS's ESA NCD and FAQs are also available at www.anco-online.org. An updated ASCO/ASH guideline on the use of ESAs in patients with cancer will be published in the Fall of 2007.

ASCO seeks member 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. For more information, please contact ASCO's *Cancer Policy & Clinical Affairs Department* at (704) 299-1050 or publicpolicy@asco.org.

The 2008 physician election period for the Medicare Part B Drug Competitive Acquisition Program (CAP) began on October 1st and

concludes on November 15th. The CAP is a voluntary program that offers physicians the option to acquire many injectable and infused drugs they use in their practice from an approved CAP vendor, thus reducing the time they spend buying and billing for drugs. The 2008 CAP program will run from January 1st to December 31st. Once a physician has elected to participate in CAP, they must obtain all drugs on the CAP drug list from the CAP drug vendor. Physicians can still continue to purchase and bill Medicare under the Average Sale Price (ASP) system for those drugs that are not provided by the physician's CAP vendor. Additional information about the CAP is available at www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcquisforBios/01_overview.asp.

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.

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 October 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:

- The regular session of the *Legislature* has adjourned, but the *Governor* and legislators continue to work. The *Governor* called two *Special Sessions*—one on water issues and the other on health care. The *Governor* no longer includes a tax on physicians to pay for his universal health care plan. The financing mechanism (which includes a tax on hospitals, employers, health plans, and the enrollee) will likely be a ballot initiative to be approved by voters. If the ballot measure fails, the *Governor's* plan approved by the *Legislature* will not be enacted. The *Governor* is still in negotiations with legislators and stakeholders regarding the details of what his plan would look like. A vote on the proposal has not yet been scheduled. *Senate* Republicans do not support the *Governor's* plan and have introduced their own proposal consisting of more than 20 pieces of legislation. Under their proposal, demand for overburdened and expensive emergency room services will be reduced by the expansion of clinics with an emphasis on preventive and primary care medicine, there would be no mandate for all Californians to buy health care

coverage, and it provides tax incentives for individuals, physicians, and businesses to lessen financial obstacles associated with health care expenditures.

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.

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.]

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.

Physician NPI data is publicly available via a searchable on-line 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 began 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.

The revised *Medicare Physician Guide: A Resource for Residents, Practicing Physicians, and Other Health Care Professionals* (previously titled *Medicare Resident & New Physician Guide: Helping Health Care Professionals Navigate Medicare*) is now available in downloadable format on the Medicare Learning Network Publication Page located at www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/MPUB/list.asp.

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.

DHS/MediCal is extending the current dual-use period, which began on May 23rd to continue beyond the NPI implementation date. Effective November 26th, the NPI implementation date, a DHS/MediCal provider number will continue to be required, even though the NPI is also being requested. Failure to include the DHS/MediCal provider number beyond the NPI implementation date could result in delay or denial of payment. Providing both sets of provider numbers will assist DHS/MediCal in its continuing effort to provide prompt and accurate claims payment to DHS/MediCal providers. As a result, until post-implementation NPI evaluations occur, use of the DHS/MediCal provider number on all transactions will continue to be mandatory to achieve optimal success. DHS/MediCal providers must continue using their DHS/MediCal provider numbers until instructed otherwise. This information is also available at files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/npi/articles/npi_8806.asp. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please call the Telephone Service Center (TSC) at (800) 541-5555.

EDUCATION

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

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:

October 19th
The Importance of Taking Your Pills Every Day
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

October 20th
Latino Survivorship Conference
Northern California Cancer Center
Hayward

October 23rd
Sailing into the Unknown: Contending with Loss
Northern California Cancer Center
Atherton

October 25th
Follicular Lymphoma: New Treatments on the Horizon
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 1st
Sailing into the Unknown: Contending with Loss
Northern California Cancer Center
San Francisco

November 7th
Living Each Day With Lung Cancer
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

November 9th
Caregivers of Women Living with Metastatic Breast Cancer
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

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

November 16th
Living with Colon Cancer
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

December 5th
Advances in the Treatment of Renal Cell Cancer
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

December 7th
Medical Update on Pancreatic Cancer
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

December 8th
What Now? Living with the "New Normal" Cancer Survivorship Conference
Northern California Cancer Center
San Francisco

December 8-11th
49th Annual ASH Annual Meeting & Exposition
American Society of Hematology
Atlanta

December 13th
Update on the Treatment of Liver Cancer

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

December 19th

The Latest Developments Reported at the 30th Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium

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 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.
- **Oncology Pharmaceutical Services (OPS)**, a division of *US Oncology*. Contact Sean Taylor at (415) 235-4673

or sean.taylor@usoncology.com for more information.

McKesson Specialty Oncology Services and OTN inform ANCO that *McKesson* has agreed to acquire OTN before 2008. ANCO member practices should discuss the impact of this merger with their *McKesson/NOA* and/or *OTN/Onmark* representatives. The two companies will continue to operate separately until the merger is complete.

Onmark will host a clinical teleconference entitled *Effect of Zometa on Health Outcomes in Patients with Metastases from Solid Tumors* with Allan Lipton, M.D., *Milton Hershey Medical Center*, on Monday, October 22nd at 8AM or 4PM Eastern Time. To participate in this teleconference, call (866) 686-2686, select option 1, and enter code #8020. In addition, *Onmark* will host an instructional webcast entitled *Maximizing the Value of Onmark Regimen Profiler* on October 24th at 10AM, Pacific Time. Enroll at [onmarkevents](http://onmarkevents.webex.com/onmarkevents).

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* 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

California Cancer Care, an ANCO member practice, has been very involved in designing the *Cancer Center Business Summit* (October 25-26th; *The Fairmont Chicago*), an educational meeting for those interested in the future of academic and community cancer centers. The *Cancer Center Business Summit* is a professional forum for exploring today's imperatives for success in the delivery of cancer care: clinical integration, business diversification, and practice consolidation. The *Summit* brings together the financial and business community with the stakeholders in the delivery of cancer care to provide diversity of viewpoint on the future business models for cancer care and how that future vision can be achieved. For more information and to register, visit www.foley.com/cancersummit.

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):

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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.stanfordhopsital.com for more information.

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

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.

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 or visit cancer.stanford.edu/calendar/events/2007/ammc.html 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:

*Abraxis Oncology • Alexion Pharmaceutical
AMGEN • AstraZeneca
Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals
biogenIDEC
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology
Celgene • Cephalon Oncology
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
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*

Renewal packages for ANCO 2008 Corporate Memberships were mailed to Corporate Member contacts in early October.

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.

Abraxis Oncology informs ANCO that the **United States Food and Drug Administration** approved its generic irinotecan for the treatment cancer of the large intestine and rectum. Generic irinotecan will become available in February 2008.

Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology (and **ImClone**) informs ANCO that the **United States Food and Drug Administration** has approved an update to the Erbitux package insert to include overall survival data as a single agent in EGFR-expressing metastatic colorectal cancer patients after failure of both irinotecan- and oxaliplatin-based regimens.

Celgene informs ANCO that **DrugPoints**, the successor publication to the USP DI compendia, has updated its monograph for Revlimid to include multiple myeloma, in combination with dexamethasone, as first-line therapy. Evidence favors efficacy as a class IIa recommendation.

Pharmion is hosting a **US Oncology Interactive Webcast** entitled **A Practical Approach to Treatment Options in MDS** with Lewis Silverman, M.D., **Mount Sinai School of Medicine**, on October 18th at 10AM Pacific Time. Register at comp08.eventcenterlive.com/cfmx./ec/register/reg.cfm?BID=18&RegID=3D780A3D

Sanofi Aventis Oncology informs ANCO that the **United States Food and Drug Administration** has approved Taxotere in combination with cisplatin and 5-fluorouracil for induction therapy of locally advanced squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck before patients undergo chemoradiotherapy and surgery.

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.

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

The September/October (Vol. 22, No. 5 issue of ACCC's **Oncology Issues** features articles on ethnic diversity and cultural competency in cancer care and clinical highlights of ASCO's 2007 **Annual Meeting**. Visit www.acc-cancer.org/ONIS/onis_archives.asp to view these articles.

ANCO recently distributed a brief ANCO **Member Experience with the Medicare RAC** survey. If you did not received the survey, then please download one from www.anco-online.org. ANCO will share the results of the survey with the **California Medical Association** and **American Medical Association** that are working with CMS to improve the RAC process.