

ANCO FAX News

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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 December 14th. 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 *United States Food and Drug Administration* (FDA) recently approved new boxed warnings, and other safety-related product labeling changes, for erythropoietin stimulating agents (ESAs) to treat chemotherapy-related anemia in patients with cancer. The new labeling stresses that clinical studies have not been

**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.

conducted to exclude ESA-associated tumor progression, or shortened survival, when ESAs are dosed to achieve lower hemoglobin levels. The new labeling also states that, for cancer patients, ESAs have not been demonstrated in controlled clinical trials to improve symptoms of anemia, quality of life, fatigue, or patient well being. ASCO is currently examining how these changes will affect the joint ASCO/ASH updated clinical practice guideline on the use of epoetin and darbepoetin. For more information, contact ASCO's *Cancer Policy & Clinical Affairs Department* at (703) 299-1050 or publicpolicy@asco.org.

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. *Senate Finance Committee Chair* Max Baucus has introduced a companion bill in the *Senate*. If passed by both the *House* and *Senate* and signed by the *President*, this legislation would have the force of law and would prohibit CMS from implementing the coverage change. In addition, *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* Cohen, Eshoo, Rogers, and *Senator* Baucus for their action and their continued commitment to cancer care. Please contact your *Representatives* and *Senators* to discuss the effect this policy change is having on your practice and your patients, and urge them to co-sponsor these important pieces of legislation.

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 Clinical Practice Guideline on the Use of ESAs in Patients with Cancer has been released. The updated guideline was derived from systematic reviews and analysis of published clinical trials. It outlines the clotting risks of ESAs, makes recommendations on usage,

and provides insights on disease progression and patient survival. Specifically, the guideline:

- Declares epoetin and darbepoetin equally safe and effective.
- Recommends the use of ESAs as a treatment option for cancer patients who become anemic as a result of chemotherapy when their hemoglobin approaches or falls below 10g/dL, as well as patients with low-risk myelodysplasia.
- Suggests that when using ESAs, hemoglobin can be raised to (or near) a concentration of 12 at which point the dosage should be titrated to maintain that level. Dose reductions are also recommended when hemoglobin rise exceeds 1g/dL in any two-week period or when the hemoglobin level exceeds 11g/dL.
- Recommends discontinuing use of ESAs beyond six to eight weeks if a patient has not responded to the drug.
- Recommends monitoring the iron levels of patients being treated with ESAs and providing supplements accordingly.
- Cautions against using ESAs for cancer patients not receiving chemotherapy since recent trials have shown increased thromboembolic risks and decreased survival under these circumstances.

The guideline was published ahead of print at bloodjournal.org and jco.org on October 22nd. The guideline will be published in print in both journals on December 1st.

ASCO seeks member feedback on CMS's ESA NCD. Please provide your input on the following questions:

- How has CMS's ESA NCD 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.

CMS released the 2008 *Physician Fee Schedule (PFS)* on November 1st. Key highlights include:

Physician Payments. The conversion factor will be set at \$34.0682, a 10.1% reduction from the 2007 level of \$37.8975. *Congress* could reverse this reimbursement cut through legislation, as it has done in the past. CMS continues to phase-in the new methodology for practice expense RVUs, which causes the practice expense RVUs for many services to change in 2008.

Off-label Drug Use. CMS does not revise the list of compendia used to determine covered off-label uses of drugs used in anticancer chemotherapeutic regimens. The final rule does, however, create a new process for considering requests for changes to the list.

DrugPoints was not specifically named a successor publication to *USP-DI*. This does not mean it will not be a successor publication, but the issue was not discussed in the final rule.

IVIG Payment. CMS will continue to pay for preadministration services for IVIG furnished in physicians' offices in 2008 at rates based on the practice expense RVUs established in 2007.

ESAs. CMS will provide implementing instructions for the new requirement to report hemoglobin or hematocrit levels for cancer patients receiving anti-anemia drugs.

Quality Reporting. The 2007 *Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI)* is extended for all of 2008. In addition, the rule designates the fund that will pay for the bonus payment.

Visit www.anco-online.org/ASCO2008PFS.pdf for ASCO's complete analysis of the 2008 *Physician Fee Schedule* or www.accc-cancer.org/PUBPOL/pdf/pubpol_PFSrule2008.pdf for ACCC's analysis. You may download NHIC/Medicare's 2008 *Physician Fee*

Schedules at www.medicarehnic.com/cal_prov/fee_sched.shtml.

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. For information on the 2008 PQRI, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/downloads/2008PQRIMPFSsummary.pdf.

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. Visit www.asco.org (Practice Resources > Electronic Health Records) for important information about electronic health records (EHRs).

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:

- 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.

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 has published lists of 2008 added and deleted HCPCS codes. Visit www.medicarenhic.com/providers/fees/addcodes_2008.pdf for the list of added codes; visit www.medicarenhic.com/providers/fees/deletcodes_2008.pdf for the list of deleted codes.

CMS has announced that it has awarded a contract to Palmetto GBA, headquartered in Columbia, South Carolina, to serve as the Jurisdiction 1 (J1) Medicare Administrative Carrier (MAC). J1 includes California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. MACs will serve as the primary point of contact for the processing and payment of fee-for-service claims from providers, such as hospitals, nursing facilities, physicians, and other practitioners. **Palmetto GBA will assume full responsibility for the work in its jurisdiction no later than June 2008.** Palmetto GBA currently serves Ohio, South Carolina, and West Virginia as a Part B carrier. State oncology societies in those states report that Palmetto is a "wonderful carrier" and that they "get along great with them." ANCO will be working with its colleagues in Hawaii and Nevada to establish a working relationship with Palmetto in the very near future.

As of March 1st, 2008, all providers must include an NPI on their claims or the claims will reject. If providers have not yet applied for an NPI, they need to do this soon. Those who must complete a provider enrollment 855 form to have their legacy numbers properly cross-walk to their NPI should do so immediately. According to CMS, your Medicare fee-for-service claims must include an NPI in the primary fields on the claim (i.e., the billing, pay-to, and rendering fields). You may continue to submit NPI/legacy pairs in these fields or submit only your NPI on the claim. You may not submit claims containing only a legacy identifier in the primary fields. Failure to submit

an NPI in the primary fields will result in your claim being rejected or returned as unprocessable. Until further notice, you may continue to include legacy identifiers only for the secondary fields.

The *Medicare B Resource* (December 2007) is available online at www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider_news/mbr_dec07.pdf. Among the subjects discussed most relevant to hematology/oncology are:

- Appeals Transition
- ASPs
- CCIs
- Clinical Trials
- CMS-1500 Form
- Laboratory Services (DOSs)
- Medigap Claim-Based Crossover Process
- NP/CNS Services
- NPIs
- Off-label Use of Anti-Cancer Drugs
- PET Scan Coding
- Physician Fee Schedule
- Separately Billed Services
- SNF Consolidated Billing
- UPINs

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

EDUCATION

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

Medicare Reimbursement for Oncology

ANCO's annual *Medicare Reimbursement for Oncology* meetings will take place on January 2nd and 3rd in Sacramento and San José, respectively, and on January 8th in Fresno. Bobbi Buell, M.B.A., will present the latest information impacting Medicare's reimbursement for oncology in 2008. Gordon Hedrick, M.H.S.A. will discuss CMS's transition from Part B to MAC carriers. The speakers will describe these changes as well as provide information on how to

analyze their impact on your oncology practice and how your practice should respond to these changes. A copy of the meeting announcement is attached to this edition of the *ANCO FAX News* and will be mailed next week.

San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Highlights 2007

ANCO's *San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Highlights 2007* will take place on Wednesday evening, January 9th, 2008 at the *Hotel Nikko* in San Francisco. Faculty from *Stanford* (Kathleen Horst, M.D., Ph.D.), *UC Davis* (Richard J. Bold, M.D.), and *UC San Francisco* (Michelle Melisko, M.D., and Hope S. Rugo, M.D.) will review the clinically most important research results presented at December's *Symposium*. This meeting will be moderated by Hope S. Rugo, M.D., *UC San Francisco*, and accredited by *Indiana University*. A meeting announcement will be mailed to all members in mid-December.

ASH Highlights 2007

ANCO's *ASH Highlights 2007* will take place on Wednesday evening, February 6th, 2008 at the *Hotel Nikko* in San Francisco. Faculty from *UC Davis* (Joseph M. Tuscano, M.D.) and *UC San Francisco* (Lloyd E. Damon, M.D., Lawrence D. Kaplan, M.D., and Charles A. Linker, M.D.) will review the clinically most important research results presented at December's *ASH Annual Meeting*. This meeting will be moderated by Jeffrey L. Wolf, M.D., *UC San Francisco*, and accredited by *Indiana University*. A meeting announcement will be mailed to all members in late December.

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.

ASCO Annual Meeting

ASCO members can now register for the 2008 *Annual Meeting* before registration opens to the general public on December 3rd. Advance access to meeting registration includes first choice of ticketed sessions (such as *Meet the Professor* and *Clinical Problems in Oncology* sessions, ticket prices for which have been reduced in 2008). Exclusive access to housing reservations has been available to ASCO members since September. The quickest and most convenient way to take advantage of this exclusive member benefit is to register online. Members can also complete and mail or FAX the form available in the 2008 *Registration Announcement*, which will mail in early December. There is a \$10 non-refundable processing fee for all registrations received by FAX or mail. The deadline for early registration is April 25th, 2008. Visit www.asco.org/annualmeeting for more information and to register.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

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 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 18th
Update on Lymphoma Treatment from the 2007
American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

December 19th
*The Latest Developments Reported at the 30th
 Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium*
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

January 16th
*Marrow or Cord Blood Transplant as a Treatment
 Option*
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

February 4-6th, 2008
CHF Regulatory Boot Camp
 California Hospice Foundation
 San Diego

February 8-9th, 2008
*Colorectal Cancer: New Frontiers in Surveillance,
 Diagnosis, and Treatment*
 John Muir Cancer Institute
 Walnut Creek

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 website, 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.

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:

- *Oncology Supply (OS)/International Oncology Network (ION)*; contact Doug Storer at (650) 219-9282 or douglas.storer@iononline.com; or Paul Sullivan at (602) 391-9166 or paul.sullivan@iononline.com
- *McKesson Specialty Oncology Services* (formerly *National Oncology Alliance* or NOA); contact Scot Wagner at (866) 466-2462 or swagner@noainc.com; or Patrick Walsh at (415) 793-8736 or patrick.walsh@mckesson.com)
- *Onmark/OTN*; contact 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
- *Oncology Pharmaceutical Services (OPS)*, a division of *US Oncology*; contact Sean Taylor at (415) 235-4673 or sean.taylor@usonology.com

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

Onmark presents a webcast entitled *Advances in the Treatment of Renal Cell Carcinoma* on Tuesday, December 4th. In addition, *Onmark* presents a webcast entitled *Maximizing the Value of Regimen Profiler* on Wednesday, December 12th. Enroll for these webcasts at www.onmarkservices.com (Events).

OTN 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

Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* teleconferenced on November 13th to discuss and/or act upon the following issues:

- Public and private advocacy issues.
- Clinical and professional education programs.
- Membership activities.
- *Board* nominations and retirements.
- ANCO's finances.

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.

Individual Member News

ANCO member Barbara McAneny, M.D., has been nominated for ASCO *President-Elect*. The ASCO *Annual Election* opens on January 2nd, 2008 and ANCO urges all members to vote prior to the close of the election on February 15th, 2008.

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

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. Tumor boards and panels on breast, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, gynecological, and thoracic cancers; hematological malignancies and lymphoma; and, dilemmas in patient management, ethics, and supportive and palliative care will be presented by faculty from *Stanford University, UC Davis, UC San Francisco*, and the community. For more information, to register, or to submit a case study, visit cancer.stanford.edu/calendar/events/2008/ammc.html or contact Jennifer Schafer at (650) 724-2288 or schafer@stanford.edu.

Stanford's Branimir (Brandy) Sikic, M.D., has been nominated for an open position (undesigned specialty) on the *ASCO Board of Directors*. The *ASCO Annual Election* opens on January 2nd, 2008 and ANCO urges all members to vote prior to the close of the election on February 15th, 2008.

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 • Hospira
Lash Group Healthcare Consultants
Lilly Oncology*

*McKesson Specialty Oncology Services
MGI Pharma • Millennium
Novartis Oncology
Oncology Pharmaceutical Services
Oncology Supply/ION • Onmark
Ortho Biotech • OSI Pharmaceuticals • OTN
Pfizer Oncology • Pharmion
Roche Oncology • Sanofi Aventis Oncology
Schering-Plough Oncology • Vidacare*

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, Genzyme Oncology, Hospira*, and *Vidacare* as new Corporate Members in 2007 and 2008. We regret to announce that *GlaxoSmithKline* and *Matrix Oncology* are no longer Corporate Members of ANCO.

Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals informs ANCO that the FDA has approved sorafenib tablets for the treatment of patients with unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), or liver cancer. In 2005 sorafenib became the first new treatment in more than a decade for advanced kidney cancer.

Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology informs ANCO that the FDA has approved ixabepilone for the following two indications:

- in combination with capecitabine for the treatment of patients with metastatic or locally advanced breast cancer resistant to treatment with an anthracycline and a taxane, or whose cancer is taxane-resistant, and for whom further anthracycline therapy is contraindicated.
- as monotherapy for the treatment of metastatic or locally advanced breast cancer in patients whose tumors are resistant or refractory to anthracyclines, taxanes, and capecitabine.

In addition, *Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology* informs ANCO that the FDA granted accelerated approval of a new dosing regimen of dasatinib for the treatment of adults with chronic phase (CP) chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) with resistance or intolerance to prior therapy, including

imatinib. The new dosing regimen is 100mg, taken orally once daily.

Novartis Oncology informs ANCO that the FDA has granted accelerated approval to nilotinib for use in the treatment of chronic phase (CP) and accelerated phase (AP) Philadelphia chromosome positive chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) in adult patients resistant or intolerant to prior therapy that included imatinib.

Publications, Services, & Surveys

You may already be familiar with ASCO's *Clinical Practice Guidelines*, but did you know they are accompanied by easy-to-use clinical tools? These tools include slide sets, and summaries of the guidelines, and may also include patient chart tools, such as flow sheets. In the midst of a busy practice, these tools enable oncologists to use the latest guidelines on emerging issues in clinical oncology. All of these tools are free of charge and available online through www.asco.org/guidelines. ASCO's **most recently promulgated/updated guidelines** cover updated recommendations for the **use of tumor markers in breast cancer**, adjuvant chemotherapy and adjuvant radiation therapy for stages I-III A resectable **non-small cell lung cancer**, an update on the use of **epoetin and darbepoetin**, and recommendations for **venous thromboembolism prophylaxis and treatment** in patients with cancer.

Thomson Healthcare's *DrugPoints* is the official successor publication to the *USP DI Drug Compendium*. *DrugPoints* includes many of the same features as the *USP DI*. However, there are some important differences. While the current *USP DI* lists uses as "accepted," "acceptance not established," or "unaccepted", the revised *DrugPoints* will publish uses according to a tiered rating system. ASCO has sent a letter to CMS requesting that it issue instructions to its Medicare contractors, state Medicaid programs, and Medicare Part D plans regarding coverage of off-label drug uses listed in *DrugPoints*. Specifically, ASCO has requested that CMS to:

- Recognize *DrugPoints* as the successor publication to *USP-DI* with the same authoritative status as *USP-DI*; and,

- Require coverage of all FDA-approved and off-label uses listed in *DrugPoints* under the respective programs involved.

Visit www.micromedex.com/products/uspdi/v1/ or contact ASCO's *Cancer Policy & Clinical Affairs Department* at (703) 299-1050 for more information.

ANCO recently distributed (via FAX and e-mail) a brief **ANCO Member Survey on Private Payor Claims Processing**. If you did not received the survey, then please download one from www.anco-online.org. The ANCO *Board of Directors* wishes to pursue details of ANCO member experience with regard to routine claims processing hassles encountered with private carriers. They will use the findings of the survey in developing more effective advocacy positions and strategies.

Membership Dues for 2008

Membership renewal notices for 2008, an annual election ballot, and 2007 Annual Report will be mailed to all members during the week of December 3rd. Return your 2008 membership dues to ANCO to ensure your inclusion in *The ANCO Directory of Members 2008*. 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, 2008 will be deleted from the *Directory of Members*, and will no longer be eligible for any 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!