

ANCO FAX News

Association of Northern California Oncologists
Post Office Box 151109, San Rafael, California 94915-1109
Voice: (415) 472-3960 • FAX: (415) 472-3961
ExecDir@anco-online.org • www.anco-online.org

Vol. 6, No. 4

February 23rd, 2007

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 March 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 *Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services* (CMS) recently announced that the 2007 *Physician Quality Reporting Initiative* (PQRI) webpage is now available. PQRI establishes a financial incentive for eligible professionals to participate in a voluntary quality-reporting program. Eligible professionals who successfully report a designated set (at least three of a possible

**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.

sixty-six in 80% of applicable cases) of quality measures on claims for dates of service from July 1st to December 31st, 2007, may earn a lump sum bonus payment in early 2008, subject to a cap, of 1.5% of total allowed charges for covered Medicare physician fee schedule services. You do not need to enroll to participate in the program. You must report the appropriate quality measure data on claims using G-codes and/or CPT II codes. This newly established webpage will be updated regularly, so check it often for timely and reliable information from CMS. For more information on PQRI, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/01_Overview.asp#TopOfPage. Exact details of the program—including all of the reporting requirements and the feedback loop—have not yet been finalized. Stay tuned for more details.

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 January 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.]

The ***California Oncology Political Action Committee*** (or CalCancerPAC), formed by ANCO and MOASC, supports candidates sensitive to the needs of hematologists/oncologists and people living with cancer in California. ANCO

membership dues include a contribution to CalCancerPAC.

CMA 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.

CMA's 10th Annual California Health Care Leadership Academy takes place April 13-15th in Monterey. Learn what you need to know now about the latest trends affecting medical practice. There will also be practice management workshops for physicians and office staff. For more information and to register, visit www.cmanet.org/leadership.

CMA's 2007 ***California Physician's Legal Handbook*** is even more comprehensive than prior editions and comes in two formats: (1) a print version in an easy-to-handle soft cover binding, with a separate volume containing the Table of Contents and five indices (subjects, laws, forms, websites, and court cases), or (2) a fully searchable and hyperlinked CD-ROM, which contains all the contents of the print version, as well as interactive forms and sample letters physicians can customize using their word processing programs and hyperlinks to Findlaw for access to the cited court cases. Order online via the CMA Bookstore at www.cmanet.org/bookstore/product.cfm?catid=3&productid=163.

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.]

The following updated article is provided by NHIC/Medicare in an attempt to mitigate the continuing high volume of duplicate claims submitted by medical oncology practices. **California ranks number three in the nation for denied claims.** NHIC/Medicare denied 707,371 claims as duplicates in 4Q06. Hematologists/oncologists continue to rank in the top ten providers submitting duplicate claims. The top ten codes denied as duplicate are 36415, 85025, 80053, 84550, 83615, 84100, 99214, 82977, 90772, and 99213. There are several ways to avoid duplicate claim denials:

1. **Always** check the status of the original claim **prior** to re-billing.

- Call the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system to check claim status. The IVR provides patient eligibility, claim (including pending claims), deductible, and check information. You can find an IVR guide on the NHIC/Medicare website at www.medicarenhic.com/cal_prov/pubs/caivrinstructions_0906.pdf to assist in using the system.
- Check the Carriers Bulletin Board System (CABBS) to verify your claims submission was successful.
- Do not continue to resubmit claims because you do not know if they have been paid. If you cannot determine the status after checking the IVR, please contact a Customer Service Representative at (877) 527-6613.

2. Stay current on your financial posting. Carefully review your Remittance Advice (RA) notice and immediately post all payments into your system. Please note that the approved amount may not result in payment. It could be applied to the beneficiary's deductible.

3. Review your Remittance Advice (RA) remarks to see if the claim was denied or

rejected.

- Rejected claims (identified with the remark code MA130) must be rebilled with the corrected information.
- Some denied claims due to submitter error may be corrected by the NHIC/Medicare Customer Service Department, or you may request a reopening from written inquiries.
- Denied claims due to NHIC/Medicare error (usually items misread by the scanner) may be corrected by the NHIC/Medicare Customer Service Department.
- If one detail line of the claim denies, resubmit only that line item, not the whole claim.

4. **Do not** set your automated systems with an automatic rebilling at 30 days.

5. Build edits in your system to avoid duplicate submissions.

6. Use ICD-9-CM codes, modifiers, and documentation to identify different sites, sessions, or specimens when appropriate. Use the most current up-to-date HCPCS and ICD-9-CM coding.

7. Work with your EDI software vendor to resolve billing problems quickly. Check out the NHIC EDI website for a *Software Vendor Guide* and *Frequently Asked Questions* at www.medicarenhic.com/edi/sub_spotlight.shtml.

8. Stay current with Medicare updates, changes, policies, and guidelines by visiting the NHIC/Medicare website at www.medicarenhic.com and joining the mailing list.

9. You can find contact information on the NHIC/Medicare website at www.medicarenhic.com/cal_prov/contacts.shtml.

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.

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

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.

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 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.

Visit www.medicarenhic.com/whats_new/whats_new.shtml to learn **the latest information** (updated weekly) **from NHIC/Medicare**. Updates are also posted on ANCO's WebLog (at

www.anco-online.org/news/index.html; under *California News*).

DHS/MediCal will not be implementing all NPI system changes on May 23rd. Initially, DHS/MediCal is taking a preliminary step toward NPI compliance, and plans to announce a "dual-use" period in the March *Bulletins*, during which both identifiers (NPI and the DHS/MediCal provider number) would be required. Further information regarding the NPI implementation and identifier dual use period will be included in future *DHS/MediCal Updates*. The deadline for the NPI registration has been extended to May 23rd. Providers can continue to register through the online registration tool (NPIC) at www.medi-cal.ca.gov, submit a hardcopy registration, or perform Bulk Registration using the Bulk Registration Tool (BRT) until May 23rd. This information resides in the "Register, Update or Inquire About NPIs" page on the NPI webpage on the DHS/MediCal website. Also, **beginning April 23rd through June 24th**, **DHS/MediCal will accept both versions of the professional claim form, (either the HCFA 1500 or the CMS-1500) and both versions of the institutional claim form (either the UB 92 or UB 04)**. During this period, providers are encouraged to migrate their business processes away from the *HCFA 1500 and UB 92*, depleting their form stock, in preparation for exclusive use of the *CMS-1500 and UB 04*. Providers may choose to fully transition to the new *CMS-1500 and UB 04* claim forms at any time during this two-month window before the use of the *CMS-1500 and UB 92* is mandatory. Beginning June 25th, DHS/MediCal will only accept the *CMS-1500 and UB 04* claim forms. Separate billing instructions apply, as DHS/MediCal is announcing an NPI dual-use period that will begin during the claim form transition period. (For more information on the NPI implementation date, refer to the DHS/MediCal website as well as future *DHS/MediCal Updates*.) Providers billing on the new *CMS-1500 and UB 04* claim forms must continue to use their DHS/MediCal provider number until instructed otherwise. Beginning May 23rd, the NPI, if available, should be reported along with the DHS/MediCal provider number, but is not necessary for proper adjudication.

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 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.

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.

EDUCATION

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

ASH Highlights 2006

ANCO's *ASH Highlights 2006* took place on Wednesday evening, February 21st at the *Hotel Nikko* in San Francisco. Faculty from *Stanford University* (Ranjana Advani, M.D., Steven E. Coutré, M.D.), *UC Davis* (Joseph M. Tuscano, M.D.), and *UC San Francisco* (Jeffrey L. Wolf, M.D.) reviewed the clinically most important research results presented at December's *ASH Annual Meeting*. This meeting was moderated by Steven E. Coutré, M.D., *Stanford University*, and accredited by *Indiana University*. Major support for this educational activity was provided by *AMGEN*, *biogenIDEC/Genentech BioOncology*, *Millennium*, and *Novartis Oncology*; additional support was provided by *Berlex Oncology*, *Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology*, *Cephalon Oncology*, *Enzon Pharmaceuticals*, *MGI Pharma*, *Ortho Biotech*, *Pharmion*, and *Roche Oncology*. Download the presentations at www.anco-online.org/ash.html.

Breast Cancer: More Questions, More Answers

ANCO is a collaborating partner in the 6th *Annual Allison Taylor Holbrooks/Barbara Jo Johnson Breast Cancer Conference for Survivors, Family, Friends, and Medical Professionals* entitled

Breast Cancer: More Questions, More Answers. This meeting will take place on Saturday, March 3rd, at the *Golden Gate Club* (The Presidio) San Francisco. New and practical information about living with a diagnosis of breast cancer will be presented. For more information and to register, visit www.nccc.org.

ASCO's Best of ASCO 2007

ASCO's *Best of ASCO 2007* will take place on July 20th-21st in San Francisco. *Best of ASCO* features premier abstracts from the *ASCO Annual Meeting* and offers CME opportunities for attendees. ANCO's *ASCO Highlights 2007* will not be organized in lieu of *Best of ASCO 2007* which we encourage all members to attend. For additional information, visit www.asco.org/meetings. Watch for an ANCO event at *Best of ASCO* on July 19th!

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

March 2nd

Dental Health During Cancer Treatments
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

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, FL

March 15th

Medical Update on Cervical Cancer
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

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 14-18th
98th Annual Meeting
 American Association for Cancer Research
 Los Angeles

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

April 17th, May 15th, & June 19th
The 5th Annual Cancer Survivorship Series: Living With, Through, and Beyond Cancer
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

April 24-28th
ONS Congress
 Oncology Nursing Society
 Las Vegas

May 2nd-4th
Annual Conference
 Association of Oncology Social Work
 Portland, OR

May 5-8th
Spring Conference
 California Hospice Foundation
 Reno

June 1st-5th
2007 Annual Meeting
 American Society of Clinical Oncology
 Chicago

June 23rd-29th
Integrating Nutrition into Clinical Practice, Medical Education and Community Health
 The Center for Mind-Body Medicine,
 Georgetown University School of Medicine &
 The University of Minnesota
 Baltimore

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@usoncology.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

Board of Directors

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

- *Board* member attendance at meetings/teleconferences, and 2007 meeting/teleconference schedule.
- Budget and investment status.
- Long-term planning for ANCO.

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 March 14th. Please call José Luis González, *ANCO Executive Director*, at (415) 472-3960 if you wish to participate in a future meeting.

Individual Member News

ANCO members **Robert S. Miller, M.D.**, (Sacramento) and **Eric J. Small, M.D.**, (San Francisco) were elected to the ASCO *Board of Directors* as a Community Oncology representative and to the ASCO *Nominating Committee*, respectively, during the recent ASCO *Annual Election*. They each will serve three-year terms. Our congratulations to these ANCO members.

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 2006. 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):

ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF PHYSICIAN MEMBERS

Thomas P. Bradley, M.D., Ph.D.
Cancer Associates
of Monterey Peninsula
101 Wilson Road/Ryan Ranch

Monterey, CA 93940
Contact(s): Jana Allen, R.N.
Marcy Jae Levin
Telephone: (831) 375-4777
FAX: (831) 375-0462
campbradley@aol.com

Robert A. Havard, Jr., M.D.

Sequoia Regional Cancer Center
4945 West Cypress Avenue, Suite C
Visalia, CA 93277
Contact(s): Senoria Banuelos, R.N.
Lucile Gibbs
Mercy Jauregui
Telephone: (559) 624-3000
FAX: (559) 635-6137

ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF NURSE & OFFICE MANAGER CONTACTS

Senoria Banuelos, R.N.

Sequoia Regional Cancer Center
4945 West Cypress Avenue, Suite C
Visalia, CA 93277
Telephone: (559) 624-3000
FAX: (559) 624-4747

Catherine Dobyns

Cancer Prevention & Treatment Center
of the Central Coast
3035 Main Street
Soquel, CA 95073
Telephone: (831) 462-8750
FAX: (831) 475-5713
cathy@pigheaven.com

Lucile Gibbs

Sequoia Regional Cancer Center
4945 West Cypress Avenue, Suite C
Visalia, CA 93277
Telephone: (559) 624-3257
FAX: (559) 713-2257
lgibbs@kdhcd.org

Mercy Jauregui

Sequoia Regional Cancer Center
4945 West Cypress Avenue, Suite C
Visalia, CA 93277
Telephone: (559) 624-3016
FAX: (559) 732-5023
mjauregu@kdhcd.org

Aida Moss

Pacific Hematology-
Oncology Associates
2100 Webster Street, Suite 225
San Francisco, CA 94115
Telephone: (415) 923-6562
FAX: (415) 749-5732
amos@phoamd.com

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 **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 University, 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.

UCSF's **Pain Management and End-of-Life Care** takes place at the *Sir Francis Drake Hotel* in San Francisco on June 7-8th. Visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MDM07P14 for more information.

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

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 • OSI Pharmaceuticals • OTN
Pfizer Oncology • Pharmion
Roche Oncology • Sanofi Aventis Oncology
Schering-Plough Oncology • SuperGen*

Pfizer informs ANCO that that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved new labeling of Sutent that includes first-line treatment of advanced renal cell carcinoma. The approval is based on results of a large Phase 3 trial that showed prolonged progression-free survival.

Pharmion is sponsoring two educational lectures and dinners, as follows:

- *Treatment Options in Myelodysplastic Syndromes* with Peter Greenberg, M.D., *Stanford University* (March 21st, 6:30PM, Tanglewood, San José)
- *Epigenetics and Its Role in MDS and Other Cancers* with Allen Yang, M.D., *University of Southern California* (March 22nd, 6:30PM, Ca'Bianca Ristorante Italiano, Santa Rosa)

Please RSVP by calling (866) 381-4923, x1712.

Clinical Trial News

ANCO members can obtain information about Institutional Member's clinical trials at www.anco-online.org/trials.html.

BreastCancerTrials.org (BCT) is a web-based, pilot project, to match breast cancer patients with clinical trials sponsored by the *National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Center for Bioinformatics*, the *University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Comprehensive Cancer Center*, and the *Center of Excellence for Breast Cancer Care*. Patients looking for trials may enter detailed information about their cancer history into a completely confidential and secure online database. The patient's *Personal Health Record (PHR)* is used to match the patient with breast cancer trials that medical researchers have registered with BCT. Visit www.breastcancertrials.org for more information.

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.

The *National Cancer Institute (NCI)* also has a *Clinical Trials Education Series* to help recruit patients. It is available from (800) 4-CANCER or www.cancer.gov/publications.

Publications, Services, & Surveys

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.

Caring4cancer.com is a portal with all the specific coding and billing information a busy oncology practice manager needs. It includes cancer-specific Medicare regulations, forms, coding education pieces, and a subscription to a free newsletter from Bobbi Buell. Visit www.caring4cancer.com and select *Practice Management*.

Membership Dues for 2007

Second notices of membership renewal were mailed the week of February 5th. 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 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!