

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 April 6th. 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.]

On March 20th, ASCO and the *National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship* (NCCS), held their annual media briefing for policy reporters at the *National Press Club* in Washington, D.C. ASCO/NCCS discussed:

- quality care initiatives, including developing a draft treatment

**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.

summary/survivor care plan for cancer patients;

- issues in the Medicare system;
- increased funding for the *National Institutes of Health* to advance cancer research;
- findings from ASCO's new oncology workforce study; and,
- expanded access to cancer drugs.

For more information about the media briefing, contact ASCO's *Communications and Patient Information Department* at (703) 299-1085.

On March 13th, ASCO released the results of a study entitled *Future Supply and Demand for Oncologists: Challenges to Assuring Access to Oncology Services on the future of the oncologist workforce in the United States*. The study, published in the March issue of the *Journal of Oncology Practice*, projects that the number of oncologists in 2020 will be insufficient to meet the demand for oncologist services. Factors that are expected to contribute to the increased demand are growth in the elderly population and increasing numbers of cancer survivors. While the supply of oncologists will grow by 20%, that growth is inadequate to keep pace with the 48% increase in demand. The study drew from the *National Cancer Institute's* (NCI) analyses of Medicare patients' use of oncologist services and found that there will be a 48% increase in cancer incidence and an 81% increase in people living with or surviving cancer between 2000 and 2020. At the same time, the supply of oncologists available to provide services is not expected to increase fast enough to meet this additional demand. This limited growth is due to the disproportionate number of oncologists near retirement today and the limited number of oncology fellowship training slots. As a result, while visits to oncologists are expected to increase by 48% by 2020, the number of visits provided by the projected supply of oncologists is expected to rise by only 14%—leaving a shortfall of 9.4 to 15.0 million visits or 2,550 to 4,080 oncologists. In response to the study findings, ASCO has formed a *Workforce Implementation Group* with expertise in clinical practice, cancer education, research, and oncology training to develop recommendations to address the projected

shortfall. The *Group* is expected to issue recommendations later this year.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced that the 2007 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) webpage is now available. A revised PowerPoint presentation on the PQRI was recently posted at www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI under the *Educational Resources* tab. 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 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 codes. For more information on PQRI, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/01_Overview.asp#TopOfPage. A new *MLN Matters* article with important information on the 2007 PQRI is also available at www.cms.hhs.gov/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/mm5558.pdf. Finally, the first in a series of national provider conference calls on PQRI will take place on March 27th at 12PM Pacific time. For more information and to register for his conference call, visit ww4.premconf.com/websvp/register?conf_id=6342225.

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 April 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.

Join the California Breast Cancer Research Program (CBCRP) at one of several upcoming stakeholder meetings to advise them on how to invest \$18M for the Special Research Initiatives focusing on environmental links to breast cancer and the unequal burden of the disease. Meetings are scheduled for Ukiah on March 26th, Fresno on April 5th, and San Francisco on April 11th; telephone/web conferences are scheduled for April 4th and April 12th. Advocates, researchers, healthcare providers, and anyone interested in these issues are invited to attend. For more information and to register, visit www.cabreastcancer.org/sri or call (888) 313-2277.

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:

- April 14-15th, Monterey
- June 7-8th, Napa/Solano
- June 13th, Butte Glen (tentative)
- June 14th, North Valley (Chico)

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.]

Effective March 9th, NHIC/Medicare will no longer cover erythropoietin (i.e., Aranesp, Procrit) for anemias of cancer (ICD-9 code 285.22). The change results from compendia-listed contra-indications emanating from recent clinical trial results. A revised NHIC/Medicare EPO *Local Coverage Determination* (LCD; coverage policy), along with coding-billing instructions is in development in cooperation with ANCO and MOASC. In summary, chemotherapy-induced anemia may be billed with ICD-9 code 284.8 as the primary diagnosis with E933.1 and the cancer diagnosis as secondary for up to 120 days post treatment. A copy of the revised EPO LCD to be implemented on April 2nd is available via www.anco-online.org.

In September 2006, CMS announced that it would implement the **revised Form CMS-1500** (08-05) on January 1st, 2007 with dual acceptability of both versions until March 31st, 2007. CMS further announced that beginning April 1st, 2007, the only acceptable version of the form would be the Form CMS-1500 (08-05) and that the prior version, Form CMS-1500 (12-90), would be rejected. It has recently come to CMS's attention that there are incorrectly formatted versions of the revised form being sold by print vendors, specifically the *Government Printing Office* (GPO). Therefore, **CMS has decided to extend the acceptance period of the Form CMS-1500 (12-90) version beyond the original April 1st, 2007 deadline.** Medicare contractors will be directed to continue to accept the Form CMS-1500 (12-90) until notified by CMS.

The *Medicare B Resource* (March 2007) is available online at www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider_news/mbr_mar07.pdf.

The most recent *NHIC/Medicare Provider Outreach, Education, and Advisory Group* (POEAG) meeting/teleconference took place on March 20th. While no hematology/oncology-specific agenda items were discussed, those items discussed most relevant to hematology/oncology were:

- Delay in implementing new 1500 claim form.
- PQRI educational efforts (ACTs, webinars).
- NPIs from referring physicians.

The next *NHIC/Medicare* POEAG meeting/teleconference takes place on June 13th.

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 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.

Visit www.medicarenhic.com/cal_prov/updates.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.

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.

DHS/MediCal National Drug Code (NDC) project will be delayed from the original January 1st, 2008 implementation date. DHS/MediCal is currently developing new implementation timelines and will notify providers at the earliest time possible. Once firm dates are known, they will be published in future *MediCal Updates* and on the DHS/MediCal website. For more information, providers are encouraged to contact the Telephone Service Center at (800) 541-5555.

EDUCATION

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

ANCO 2007 Annual Meeting: Be Prepared!

ANCO's 2007 *Annual Meeting: Be Prepared!* will take place on Friday, June 29th, and Saturday, June 30th, at the *Hyatt Vineyard Creek* in Santa Rosa. Watch for the meeting announcement, housing information, and registration form by the end of March.

ANCO Legislative/Regulatory Update at 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. An ANCO legislative/regulatory update with Joseph Bailes, M.D., will take place at *Best of ASCO* on the evening of July 19th! Watch for an announcement in the near future.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

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

March 31st

Advances in Oncology: Emerging Trends, Targets, and Approaches in Solid Tumors

CMP Medica

Los Angeles

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 18th
Medical Update on Ovarian 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 6-9th
Spring Conference
 California Hospice Foundation
 Reno

May 23rd, June 20th
Chemotherapy Related Anemia: Taking a Step

Forward
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

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

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.

McKesson Specialty Oncology Services has extended its reimbursement call-in series. The next *Oncology Update 2007* call-in program will take place on April 25th at 12PM. Visit www.noainc.com for more information.

Onmark presents Learn How To Benchmark Your Practice via webcast on May 1st at 9AM and May 2nd at 12PM. Benchmarking is a valuable tool to compare your practice to regional or national standards and evaluate performance overtime. This CORE webcast will discuss how to incorporate benchmarking into your practice to enhance performance and increase efficiency.

Visit www.onmarkservices.com (select *Events*) for more information and to enroll.

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

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* teleconferenced on March 14th to discuss and/or act upon the following issues:

- NHIC/Medicare revised (draft) EPO LCD.
- *Board* changes.
- ANCO membership initiatives.
- Clinical and professional education, and *Annual Meeting* plans for 2007.
- ANCO's infrastructure.

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

The ANCO *Board of Directors* meets regularly by teleconference and occasionally in person to discuss issues affecting the *Association*, clinical and professional education, and ways to better serve the membership. *Board* meetings are open to individual physician members. The **next regularly scheduled ANCO *Board of Directors* teleconference** will take place on May 17th. Please call José Luis González, *ANCO Executive Director*, at (415) 472-3960 if you wish to participate in a future meeting.

Individual Member News

Roger Shiffman, M.D. (Monterey) resigned from the ANCO *Board of Directors*. His term (through 2008) will be completed by **Bradley Ekstrand**, M.D. (San Mateo).

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.

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DRUG REIMBURSEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Cephalon Oncology

FENTORA Patient Assistance Program
(877) 4FENTORA (433-6867);
FAX (866) 495-0657;
9:00AM-8:00PM Eastern Time
Patients who do not have prescription
drug coverage could be eligible for the
FENTORA Patient Assistance Program.
The patient must not be eligible for
public and private insurance
reimbursement (including Medicare Part
D), and must meet certain income
restrictions and U.S. residency
requirements.

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 *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.

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.

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
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*

Genomic Health informs ANCO that *Blue Shield of California* has instituted a positive coverage policy for Oncotype DX.

GlaxoSmithKline informs ANCO that that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has approved *Tykerb* in combination with *Xeloda* for the treatment of advanced or metastatic breast cancer in women who have progressed on prior therapy.

Pharmion invites members to participate in *AVIDA, the Vidaza Patient Registry*. *AVIDA* is a prospective, observational, multi-center study including 300 to 500 patients who receive treatment with *Vidaza*. Participating practices will be provided a modest honorarium to compensate for administrative and data collection efforts. Patients enrolled in this study should be planning to begin *Vidaza* treatment at the time of registry enrollment and be able and willing to participate in the study for two years. For more information, visit the *AVIDA Registry* website at www.avidaregistry.com or contact *Pharmion Medical Affairs* at (866) 461-8432.

Schering-Plough Oncology informs ANCO that *NOXAFIL* received a category 1 recommendation for preventing certain invasive fungal infections (IFIs) in high-risk cancer patients in the latest *National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology for Prevention and*

Treatment of Infections in Patients with Cancer.

The recommendation pertains to NOXAFIL's approved indication for IFI prophylaxis of neutropenic patients with myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) or acute myelogenous leukemia (AML), and hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) recipients with significant graft-versus-host disease GVHD. NOXAFIL also received a category 2B recommendation for preventing IFIs in neutropenic cancer patients undergoing allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT).

Clinical Trial News

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has redesigned its clinical trials online portal making it easier to find clinical trial results by cancer type. Based on user feedback, many parts of the site have been simplified and the search feature is now easier to use. To see the new search features and other educational materials for patients, family members, and researchers, go to www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials. **NCI also has a Clinical Trials Education Series to help recruit patients.** It is available from (800) 4-CANCER or www.cancer.gov/publications.

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.

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

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.

The March (Vol. 3, Issue 2) issue of ASCO's *Journal of Oncology Practice* features articles on measuring quality of care, EHRs, and SNF consolidated billing. Visit www.jopasco.org to view these articles.

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!