

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

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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 May 18th. 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 April 23rd, the *National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship* (NCCS) held a *Capitol Hill* briefing to raise awareness about the *Comprehensive Cancer Care Improvement Act of 2007* (HR1078), co-sponsored by Representatives Lois Capps (CA) and Tom Davis (VA), that addresses the need for a comprehensive summary of a patient's treatment history to help physicians and

**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.

patients in their transition from treatment to survivorship and to provide physicians with the resources needed to treat patients with quality cancer care. The legislation would establish a new Medicare service for comprehensive cancer planning through the continuum of care. Physicians and patients addressed the importance of developing a treatment summary and survivor care plan for every patient. ASCO has been working to develop disease-specific templates for a treatment care summary and survivor care plan. A template for colon cancer is available on ASCO's website at www.asco.org (select Quality Care & Guidelines > Quality Measurement & Improvement > Chemotherapy Treatment Summary). Please contact your *Representatives* and urge them to support HR1078.

CMS has announced a proposed revised clinical trial policy. Details of the proposed revised coverage policy are available at www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/viewdraftdecisionmemo.asp?id=186. Among the proposed changes is a reversal of its earlier decision to cover trials that the FDA has found to be exempt from investigational new drug (IND) review. According to ASCO, this decision has the potential to cause serious dislocation, not only to cancer providers and patients who participate in IND-exempt trials in substantial numbers, but also to the FDA and its staff, as there will be many more requests for INDs despite FDA's decision that such submissions are unnecessary.

A CMS 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 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 (now available at www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI; under the *Measures/Codes* tab; see more below). For more information on PQRI, including FAQs, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI.

CMS has released detailed specifications for measures to be reported as part of the PQRI program. Measures that may be directly applicable to hematologists/oncologists include:

1. Hormonal therapy for Stage IC-III, ER/PR positive breast cancer.
2. Chemotherapy for Stage III colon cancer patients.
3. Documentation of a chemotherapy treatment plan prior to chemotherapy administration.
4. Baseline flow cytometry studies performed for CLL.
5. Intravenous bisphosphonate therapy for multiple myeloma.
6. Documentation of iron stores prior to initiating erythropoietin therapy for MDS.
7. Baseline cytogenetic testing performed on bone marrow for MDS or acute leukemia.

ASCO will develop additional educational resources for oncologists who are interested in participating in PQRI. ASCO also will continue to promote the use of measures that provide clinically meaningful data to reporting physicians.

CMS will host a *Special Open Door Forum* on the use of registries for reporting data on quality measures to the PQRI on Monday, May 14th at 10AM Pacific Time. To participate you will need to register at registration.intercall.com/go/cms2. Registration closes on Wednesday, May 9th. For those who will be unable to attend, the *Special Open Door Forum* will be recorded and available beginning at the close of business on May 18th for three days at www.cms.hhs.gov/center/hospital.asp.

CMS has announced the national launch of DOQ-IT (*Doctor's Office Quality Information Technology*) University, or DOQ-IT U, to support 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, including lessons on culture change, vendor selection, and operational redesign, along with

clinical processes. The nationally available e-learning system is available at no charge. DOQ-IT U will provide lessons in assessment, planning and implementation methodologies that will be disease and population specific, and incorporating clinical decision support and evidence-based medicine guidelines. This e-learning platform will be utilized to provide physicians with a self-paced curriculum and associated tools, based on adult learning principles, available at their convenience. Additional features, such as surveys, utilization tracking, and Continuing Medical Education/Continuing Education Unit (CME/CEU) offering/issuing capabilities will also be included in the near future. The first learning sessions (modules), available now, focus on physician office workflow redesign, culture change, and communication necessary for successful electronic health record (EHR) adoption, implementation of care management, and the incorporation of a strong patient self-management component to clinical care. Disease specific modules, starting with diabetes, will include a patient self-management component, which is critical to successfully managing patients with chronic disease. For more information, visit the DOQ-IT U website at elearning.qualitynet.org.

ASCO has finalized a report summarizing the recommendations from a two-day *Electronic Health Records (EHR) Roundtable* held in January. The report outlines the core functional and clinical elements that ASCO recommends for inclusion in an oncology EHR. A key recommendation is that EHRs integrate the ASCO-developed treatment plan and summary. The treatment plan and summary are intended to summarize core clinical information in a way that facilitates information transfer between providers or from provider to patient. While the recommendations provide a solid foundation for implementing EHR systems, the report acknowledges a number of remaining challenges, including funding and workflow re-engineering. The report includes perspectives shared by roundtable participants on lessons learned in their efforts to implement an EHR in their offices. ASCO is holding an *EHR Lab* at the 2007 *Annual Meeting* to allow doctors and other

meeting attendees to test EHR systems provided by 12 vendors and give feedback on ways to improve EHR software for oncology. The *EHR Lab* will take place Friday, June 1st (1- 6PM) and Saturday and Sunday, June 2nd and 3rd (9AM-5PM) at *McCormick Place Convention Center* (Room N226). For more information on the *EHR Roundtable* or *EHR Lab*, visit www.asco.org/ehr.

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.]

***Noteware Government Relations* represents ANCO (and MOASC) in Sacramento.** They report:

- ANCO/MOASC support AB34 that would implement an umbilical cord blood collection program. *Assemblymember Portantino* asked for ANCO/MOASC support as cord blood may be a treatment for at least 70 disorders affecting the blood and immune system, including certain cancers. Currently, 97% of all pregnancies result in the discarding of cord blood after birth because hospitals lack a coordinated collection system. The bill received

unanimous bi-partisan support in the *Assembly Health Committee*.

CMA recently submitted to Congress a multipronged plan to overhaul the broken Medicare payment system. The proposal would eliminate the flawed sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula, provide payment updates based on practice cost increases, and update the geographic payment localities. Specifically, the proposal:

- equalizes Medicare Advantage health plan rates with fee-for-service rates and requires Medicare Advantage plans to spend 90 percent of every premium dollar on medical care.
- eliminates the flawed sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula and replaces it with a formula based on the *Medical Economic Index* (MEI), which is a market index of actual medical practice costs.
- proposes a number of five-year demonstration projects to study cost-saving mechanisms to coordinate care, manage volume, and reward appropriate use of medical services.

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:

- June 7-8th, Napa/Solano
- June 13th, Butte/Glen
- 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*. Call/e-mail Jewel Thompson at (916) 551-2061/ jthompson@cmanet.org for more information.

CMA has also published a new toolkit to train physician office personnel in proper billing and collections procedures. The toolkit, *Back to Basics: A Step-by-Step Guide to*

Maximizing Your Cash Flow, is designed to help members become more successful in their practices. Whether you are new to the field or just want a refresher course, this self-instructional workbook will teach physicians and their office staff how to gain greater control of the practice's bottom line, increase revenue while decreasing days in A/R, identify common pitfalls of the billing and collections process, monitor payor compliance with contract terms, develop skills to effectively and efficiently manage collections, and foster positive working relationships. To order, visit www.calphys.org/html/cc386.asp or call (800) 882-1262. This new toolkit joins two previous toolkits, *Taking Charge: Steps to Evaluating Relationships* and *Preparing for Negotiations and Getting Paid: Strategies to Maximize Reimbursement*.

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 *Association of Community Cancer Centers* (ACCC) submitted **comments regarding erythropoiesis stimulating agents** (ESAs) for non-renal disease indications to CMS. ACCC expressed appreciation for CMS's concerns for ensuring that these therapies are used appropriately by Medicare beneficiaries and asked that, if CMS decides to issue a new *National Coverage Determination* (NCD) for ESAs, the NCD be as clear as possible and continue to allow Medicare beneficiaries with cancer to receive ESAs for medically accepted indications, including those uses supported by the compendia or peer-reviewed medical literature. Furthermore, ACCC asked that any further questions regarding coverage for ESAs that are not explicitly addressed in the NCD be left to the local carriers' discretion. ASCO's comments to CMS on the initiation of a *National Coverage Analysis* (NCA) on the use of ESAs supports the off-label use of ESAs in certain conditions (e.g., use of epoetin for patients with anemia associated with low-risk myelodysplasia who are not receiving

chemotherapy). Pending the completion of a comprehensive review, ASCO has urged CMS and Medicare contractors to carefully analyze the use of ESAs in particular conditions and maintain access to these therapies where clinical data support their use. ASCO is planning to submit more detailed comments after analyzing additional data which is expected to be presented during the review of ESA safety and efficacy at the FDA's *Oncologic Drug Advisory Committee* (ODAC) meeting in early May.

NHIC/Medicare's revised ESA (EPO) Local Coverage Determination (LCD), or coverage policy, was effective April 2nd. Access the revised policy via the ANCO website at www.anco-online.org. In summary:

1. J0881/J0885 are covered for anemia of cancer chemotherapy. Use 284.8 as the primary diagnosis; use E933.1 as the secondary diagnosis. You may (it is optional for NHIC/Medicare) specify the underlying cancer diagnosis under treatment. Please consider use of the cancer diagnosis carefully, especially since Medicare secondary payers may not have yet updated their coverage policies and coding/billing instructions. Coverage for this diagnosis is allowed up to 120 days following the end of treatment.
2. J0881/J0885 are covered for multiple myeloma (MM) and myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) under anemia of bone marrow dysfunctions not under treatment with chemotherapy. Use the ICD-9 diagnosis code for MM or MDS as the primary diagnosis code.
3. J0881/J0885 are no longer covered for anemia of malignancy.

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. And, NHIC/Medicare has announced that it will be able to process claims submitted on incorrectly formatted CMS-1500 forms while physicians are obtaining corrected forms. The best way to identify badly formatted forms is to look at the upper right-hand corner of the form. If the tip of the red arrow above the vertically stacked word "CARRIER" is touching or close to touching the top edge of the form, then the form is not printed to specifications. There should be approximately a quarter of an inch between the tip of the arrow and the top edge of the paper on properly formatted forms. Please note that this issue involves the paper claim form only and does not affect the NPI implementation date.

Health care providers are required by law to apply for a National Provider Identifier (NPI). 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. For complete information, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand. To apply for an NPI online, visit nppes.cms.hhs.gov or call the NPI enumerator to request a paper application at (800) 465-3203. A national NPI Roundtable is scheduled for May 10th from 2-3:30PM Eastern Time. 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.

NHIC/Medicare urges all physicians and providers to obtain their NPI and begin using it. If you wish to test your EDI transmissions with the NPI, please contact the EDI Department at (213) 593-6950 or (530) 634-

7024 and they will be happy to work with you.

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

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*).

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.]

3rd Annual African American Breast Cancer Conference: Each One Reach One—Working Together to Make a Change

The Northern California Cancer Center's *3rd Annual African American Breast Cancer Conference: Each One Reach One—Working Together to Make a Change* takes place on May 19th at the *Hilton Oakland Airport*. The target audience is cancer patients, survivors, caregivers, family members, friends, advocates, and those in the general public who are interested in learning more about breast cancer in the African American community. Speakers from local agencies and institutions will be present. Visit www.nccc.org for more information; register via telephone at (888) 315-5988 or via e-mail at education@nccc.org.

ASCO State Affiliate Presidents' Reception

ANCO members are invited to attend the ASCO State Affiliate Presidents' Reception at the ASCO 2007 *Annual Meeting* in Chicago. The reception will take place on Sunday, June 3rd, at 5:30PM at

the *Prairie Center, Hyatt Regency*. Send your RSVP to stateaffiliates@asco.org.

ANCO 2007 Annual Meeting: Be Prepared!

ANCO's 2007 *Annual Meeting: Be Prepared!* will take place on Friday, June 29th-Saturday, June 30th, at the *Hyatt Vineyard Creek Hotel & Spa* in Santa Rosa. This meeting will provide participants with the tools and information to take on the management, technological, and clinical challenges facing oncology practice in the years to come. A meeting announcement (including agenda/faculty, housing information, and registration form) is available at www.anco-online.org/annmtg2007.html. Copies were mailed on April 6th.

ANCO Legislative/Regulatory Update at ASCO's Best of ASCO 2007

ASCO's *Best of ASCO 2007* will take place on July 20th-21st at the *San Francisco Marriott*. *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/boa2007. An ANCO legislative/regulatory update with Joseph Bailes, M.D., will take place at *Best of ASCO* on the evening of July 19th! Plan on arriving early for *Best of ASCO* and attending the ANCO event. Watch for an announcement in mid May.

ASCO's 2007 Breast Cancer Symposium: Integrating Emerging Science into Clinical Practice

Registration and housing reservations are now open for ASCO's 2007 *Breast Cancer Symposium* at the *San Francisco Marriott*, September 7-8th. This groundbreaking event will include presentations about the latest multidisciplinary research and will also feature topical education sessions. The *Symposium* will provide attendees an opportunity to engage in clinically relevant, in-depth discussions of the science most likely to have a lasting effect on the treatment of breast cancer. Co-sponsored by the *American Society of Breast Disease, American Society of Breast Surgeons*,

ASCO, *American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology*, and *Society of Surgical Oncology* (SSO), the *Symposium* will present oncologists with the most relevant and timely information they need to provide high-quality care to patients with breast cancer, as well as to increase the amount of “cross talk” among practitioners and scientists in the field. Visit www.asco.org/meetings for more information and to register.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

May 6-9th

Spring Conference

California Hospice Foundation
Reno

May 10th

Caring for Your Bones When You Have Multiple Myeloma

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 15th, June 19th

The 5th Annual Cancer Survivorship Series: Living With, Through, and Beyond Cancer

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 17th

Ask the Doctor: Lymphoma

Lymphoma Research Foundation

San Francisco

May 18th

Current Perspectives on Radioimmunotherapy for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL)

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 23rd, June 20th

Chemotherapy Related Anemia: Taking a Step Forward

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 25th

Caring for Your Bones When You Have Lung Cancer

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

June 1st-5th

2007 Annual Meeting

American Society of Clinical Oncology
Chicago

June 9th

Living Now: A Survivor's Conference on Life after Transplant

National Marrow Donor Program
San Francisco

June 21st

Breast Cancer Update from the ASCO 2007 Annual Meeting

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

June 24th-26th

8th Annual Patient Congress

Patient Advocate Foundation

Washington, D.C.

June 26th

Medical Update on Head and Neck Cancer from the ASCO Annual Meeting

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

June 28th

Living with Colorectal Cancer

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

September 7-9th

From Research to Action: Breaking New Ground

California Breast Cancer Research Program

Los Angeles

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

MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES & BENEFITS

[*Editor's Note:* All ANCO members are eligible for benefits from the *California Oncology Consortium* (COC).]

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.

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)*, *McKesson Specialty Oncology Services* (formerly *National Oncology Alliance* or NOA), and OTN/Onmark. Contact your local ION/OS (Doug Storer at (650) 219-9282 or douglas.storer@iononline.com; or Paul Sullivan at (602) 391-9166 or paul.sullivan@iononline.com), McKesson/NOA (Scot Wagner at (866) 466-2462 or swagner@noainc.com; or Patrick Walsh at (415) 793-8736 or patrick.walsh@mckesson.com), or OTN/Onmark (Jennifer Semanik at (415) 497-2750 or Tony Policani at (509) 995-0280 or anthony.policoni@otnnet.com; or Monique Weston at (650) 871-2108 or monique.weston@onmarkservices.com) for more information.
- **Oncology Pharmaceutical Services (OPS),** a division of *US Oncology*.

Contact Sean Taylor at (415) 235-4673 or sean.taylor@usoncology.com for more information. A replay of the *Introduction to OPS* webcast is available at www.opspharmacist.com/ancowebcast.

- ***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* 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

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

Cheryl Cho-Phan, M.D.

Stanford Cancer Clinic
875 Blake Wilbur Drive
Stanford, CA 94305
Telephone: (650) 723-7621
FAX: (650) 736-7106
cdcho@stanford.edu

Anne M. Smith, M.D.

510 Cypress Street, Suite C
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
Contact(s): *Eviale Cooper, R.N.*
Monica Felkins
Telephone: (707) 964-6451
FAX: (707) 964-6450
crabdoc@mcn.com

ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF NURSE & OFFICE MANAGER CONTACTS

Eviale Cooper, R.N.

Monica Felkins

510 Cypress Street, Suite C
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
Telephone: (707) 964-6451
FAX: (707) 964-6450

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 annual dinner party at the ASCO Annual Meeting for Stanford alumni, faculty, and fellows takes place at *The Grill on the Alley*

Restaurant, Westin Hotel Michigan, on Monday evening, June 4th. Please RSVP by May 21st to Leslie Quiroz or Christina Kasson at FAX (650) 725-1420.

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

Genentech BioOncology has issued a Dear Healthcare Professional Letter, warning of potentially fatal complications when patients are treated with Avastin in combination with standard therapies for limited-stage small-cell lung cancer. Genentech BioOncology and the United States Food and Drug Administration state that Avastin is not approved for the treatment of small-cell lung cancer. During a phase II trial, two cases of tracheoesophageal fistula were documented among the first 29 patients enrolled; one case was fatal. Genentech BioOncology also reports a third fatal case in which the patient died after developing upper aerodigestive tract hemorrhage, which is believed to be related to a tracheoesophageal fistula. Avastin was used along with irinotecan, carboplatin, and radiation therapy, followed by maintenance Avastin alone for up to 6 months. All three events occurred during the Avastin maintenance phase. Genentech BioOncology intends to revise the Avastin package insert to include more detailed information regarding the incidence of all cases of fistula during treatment with Avastin.

Genentech BioOncology is hosting a series of webcasts entitled *2007 Medicare Updates: Analysis and Application* with Rise Marie Cleland and Michelle Weiss. The webcasts start on May 9th. E-mail medicareupdates@fallonmedica.com for more information and to register.

Publications, Services, & Surveys

The most recent ASCO *Clinical Practice Guideline* entitled *Initial Hormonal Management of Androgen-Sensitive Metastatic, Recurrent, or Progressive Prostate Cancer: 2007 Update* is now available online at www.asco.org/guidelines. This revised guideline, which updates the original recommendations released in 2004, is based on the *Metastatic Prostate Cancer Expert Panel's* literature review of information related to the initial hormonal management of androgen-sensitive, metastatic, recurrent, or progressive prostate cancer. The *Panel* made three major revisions to the original 2004 guideline. First, it recommends that

combined androgen blockade (CAB) be considered as part of the overall treatment regimen for prostate cancer. It determined that evidence did not support the immediate application of early androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) and recommends further studies in this area. Finally, the *Panel* suggests that current data is insufficient to support the use of intermittent ADT outside of clinical trials.

The April (Vol. 6, No. 4) issue of *Hematology & Oncology News & Issues* features articles on evidence-based practice management, off-label drug use in cancer care, and dispensing at the point of care. The May issue of *Oncology Business Review* features an article on communicating non-reimbursed costs to payers.

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

Final notices of membership renewal were mailed on May 2nd. 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!