

ANCO FAX News

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INTRODUCTION

The *ANCO FAX News* focuses on ANCO's core activities—advocacy, clinical and professional education, membership benefits, and *Association* news. While membership mailings, FAX broadcasts, and ListServ postings continue, the *ANCO FAX News* summarizes this information in a regular forum of important news to members. Contact the ANCO office for additional information regarding any item published in the *ANCO FAX News* or to contribute items.

The *ANCO FAX News* is sent to member practices (via FAX) and Corporate Member contacts (via e-mail). The next regular *ANCO FAX News* will be published on January 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.]

Congress and the President acted in December to avert the scheduled 10.1% cut to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule by replacing it with a 0.5% increase in Medicare payments for the first six months of 2008. Unless Congress acts before July 2008, the 10.1% cut will go into

**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.

effect at that time. In summary, S2499:

- Replaces the scheduled 10.1% cut with a 0.5% increase to Medicare payments for physician services through June 30th.
- Implements recommendations from a report released by the *Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Inspector General* in 2006 to require CMS to adjust its ASP calculation to use volume-weighted ASPs, based on actual sales volume. The impact of this provision is difficult to determine but it may result in decreases in payments for some Part B drugs.
- Extends the physician quality reporting system.

ASCO will host a national teleconference on *Adapting to Changes in Medicare for 2008* at 2PM on Wednesday, January 9th. The call will include overviews of the Medicare *Physician Fee Schedule*, Medicare *Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System*, 2008 PQRI, and an oncology coding update. Visit ww4.premconf.com/webrsvp/register?conf_id=7022904 before January 8th to register. Call (800) 289-0579 (confirmation code 7022904) to access the teleconference.

CMS's Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) establishes a financial incentive for eligible professionals to participate in a voluntary quality-reporting program. Eligible professionals who successfully report a designated set of quality measures on claims may earn a lump sum bonus payment. You do not need to enroll to participate in the program. You must report the appropriate quality measure data on claims using G-codes and/or CPT codes. For complete information on PQRI, including a User Guide, Tool Kit for successful reporting, beneficiary letters, FAQs, and presentation materials from recent national provider calls, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI. For specific information on the 2008 PQRI, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/downloads/2008PQRIMPFSummary.pdf.

ANCO and ASCO continue to work towards ensuring that people with cancer have access to quality cancer care in the community. Practice resources are available at www.anco-online.org and www.asco.org/mma, including:

- The January 2008 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.

NHIC/Medicare, DHS/MediCal, & Private Payors

[Editor's Note: ANCO communicates regularly with National Heritage Insurance Company (NHIC) that administers Medicare in California and the Department of Health Services (DHS) that administers MediCal in California.]

NHIC/Medicare published updated Medicare Physician Fee Schedules for January through June on its website on Thursday, January 3rd. The updated fee schedules include the .5% increase to the *Physician Fee Schedule* conversion factor. Since there is a change in the fee schedule, CMS is extending the participation enrollment period for an additional 45 days to February 15th.

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

NHIC/Medicare has filed a formal protest over CMS's recent decision to name South Carolina-based Palmetto GBA as California's new MAC. The protest was filed with the *Government*

Accountability Office, which has 100 days to respond. CMA is supporting NHIC/Medicare's protest because NHIC/Medicare consistently pays claims on time and with fewer payment hassles than other payors, and has always been extremely helpful and responsive in resolving physician payment problems. CMS has asked Palmetto to cease any transition activities pending the resolution of NHIC/Medicare's protest.

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

The *Medicare B Resource* (December 2007) is available online at www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider_news/mbr_dec07.pdf.

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

DHS/MediCal records indicate that almost 50% of providers have not registered their NPIs. As a result, electronic claims submitted through Computer Media Claims (CMC) cannot be accepted for processing. **To ensure uninterrupted claim payments, all providers must register their NPI with DHS/MediCal as soon as possible.** Notifications are being made to the submitters, billers, and/or clearinghouses; however, it is the provider's responsibility to ensure their NPI is registered with DHS/MediCal. Once NPI

registration is completed, claims previously submitted without NPIs must be submitted again. Providers can register their NPI with DHS/MediCal using the National Provider Identifier Collection (NPIC) tool on the DHS/MediCal website or through hardcopy or bulk registration. Providers who obtained subpart NPIs from NPPES must register each NPI with the appropriate DHS/MediCal provider number at a one-to-one ratio. Failure to use the corresponding NPI registered for a DHS/MediCal provider number may result in denial of claims. For more information or assistance please contact the NPI Helpdesk at (800) 541-5555 (option 16 and then option 18 for NPI registration).

EDUCATION

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

Medicare Reimbursement for Oncology

ANCO's annual *Medicare Reimbursement for Oncology* meeting will take place on January 8th in Fresno. Bobbi Buell, M.B.A., will present the latest information impacting Medicare's reimbursement for oncology in 2008. Gordon Hedrick, M.H.S.A., will discuss CMS's transition from Part B to MAC carriers. The speakers will describe these changes as well as provide information on how to analyze their impact on your oncology practice and how your practice should respond to these changes. Download the meeting announcement/registration form at www.anco-online.org/medicareupdate2008.html. Materials from the meeting will be available online in the near future.

San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Highlights 2007

ANCO's *San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Highlights 2007* will take place on Wednesday evening, January 9th at the *Hotel Nikko* in San Francisco. Faculty from *Stanford* (Kathleen Horst, M.D., Ph.D.), *UC Davis* (Richard J. Bold, M.D.), and *UC San Francisco* (Michelle Melisko, M.D., and Hope S. Rugo, M.D.) will review the clinically most important research results

presented at December's *Symposium*. This meeting will be moderated by Hope S. Rugo, M.D., *UC San Francisco*, and accredited by *Indiana University*. A meeting announcement/registration form was mailed the week of December 10th and may be downloaded at www.anco-online.org/sabcs.html.

ASH Highlights 2007

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

ASCO's 2008 Genitourinary Cancers Symposium

ASCO's *2008 Genitourinary Cancers Symposium: A Multidisciplinary Approach* will take place at the *San Francisco Marriott* on February 14-16th. The meeting is being hosted by ASCO in collaboration with the *American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology* and the *Society of Urologic Oncology*. Visit www.asco.org/meetings for more information.

ASCO Annual Meeting

ASCO members can now register for the 2008 *Annual Meeting*. Exclusive access to housing reservations has been available to ASCO members since September. The quickest and most convenient way to take advantage of this exclusive member benefit is to register online. Members can also complete and mail or FAX the form available in the 2008 *Registration Announcement*, which was mailed in early December. There is a \$10 non-refundable processing fee for all registrations received by FAX or mail. The deadline for early registration is April 25th. Visit www.asco.org/annualmeeting for more information and to register.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

January 16th

Marrow or Cord Blood Transplant as a Treatment Option

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

January 23rd

Treatment Update on Sarcoma

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

January 30th

Update on Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML) from the American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

February 4-6th

CHF Regulatory Boot Camp

California Hospice Foundation

San Diego

February 8-9th

Colorectal Cancer: New Frontiers in Surveillance, Diagnosis, and Treatment

John Muir Cancer Institute

Walnut Creek

February 15th

Caring for Your Bones When You Have Lung Cancer

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

February 19th

I Have Had Many Treatments for Metastatic Breast Cancer: What's New For Me?

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

February 20th

Medical Update on Bladder Cancer

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

March 1st

8th Annual Allison Taylor Brooks/Barbara Jo Johnson Breast Cancer Conference

Northern California Cancer Center

San Francisco

March 5th

Living with Metastatic Colorectal Cancer: Update from the 2008 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

March 11th

Caring for Your Bones When You Have Prostate Cancer
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

March 13th

Treatment Update on Glioblastoma
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

March 19th

Questions and Answers About Managing Chemotherapy-Related Anemia
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

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

MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES & BENEFITS

[Editor's Note: All ANCO members are also eligible for several tangible benefits.]

ANCO On-Line

ANCO's website, www.anco-online.org, features:

- a general description and introduction to the *Association*, its activities, leadership, and membership benefits.
- advocacy information (including ANCO and ASCO Medicare resources).
- clinical and professional education meeting announcements and distributed materials.
- survey reports, publications, and ListServ.
- clinical trials information.
- links to affiliated organizations.

- updated physician, nurse, manager, and patient resources.

ANCO On-Line ListServ

The ANCO *Online ListServ* is available to all ANCO physician members, nurses, practice managers, and Corporate Member representatives. It is a source for the latest ANCO news and other information impacting hematology/oncology practices. It is also a way for ANCO members to communicate amongst themselves. To post an item to the ANCO *Online ListServ*, send e-mail to anco@anco-online.org. (Please note: Only subscribers to the ANCO *Online ListServ* may post items and the ANCO Executive Director will review all postings for appropriate content. In addition, to communicate directly and privately with the ANCO Executive Director, send e-mail to execdir@anco-online.org.) All ANCO physician members and their staffs are encouraged to subscribe, participate, and use the ANCO *Online ListServ* to receive ANCO information electronically and to communicate with colleagues about issues of importance to hematology/oncology practice. To subscribe, send your e-mail address to the ANCO office at execdir@anco-online.org.

Benefits

ANCO continues to seek ways to make membership more beneficial. The Board identifies, reviews, and approves of additional membership benefits. In addition to the benefits derived from its advocacy, educational, and information dissemination activities, ANCO members may also benefit from several tangible benefits from a number of vendors, including:

- *McKesson Specialty Oncology Services* (formerly *National Oncology Alliance* or NOA); contact Scot Wagner at (866) 466-2462 or swagner@noainc.com; or Patrick Walsh at (415) 793-8736 or patrick.walsh@mckesson.com)
- *Oncology Pharmaceutical Services* (OPS), a division of *US Oncology*; contact Sean Taylor at (415) 235-4673 or sean.taylor@usoncology.com

- **Oncology Supply (OS)/International Oncology Network (ION)**; contact Doug Storer at (650) 219-9282 or douglas.storer@iononline.com; or Paul Sullivan at (602) 391-9166 or paul.sullivan@iononline.com
- **Onmark/OTN**; contact Jennifer Semanik at (415) 497-2750 or Tony Policani at (509) 995-0280 or anthony.policani@otnnet.com; or Monique Weston at (650) 871-2108 or monique.weston@onmarkservices.com

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Annual Election Results

The ANCO membership elected the following members to the *Board of Directors* (location, for terms ending in 2010, inclusive):

Jeffrey Cronk, M.D.

(Antioch)

Primo Lara, Jr., M.D.

(Sacramento)

Robert L. Robles, M.D.

(Walnut Creek)

Antoine Sayegh, M.D.

(Sacramento)

Drs. Bohannon (San Francisco, 2009), Cohen (Oakland, 2008), Ekstrand (San Mateo, 2008), Guardino (Stanford, 2009), Keech, (Chico, 2008), Keiser (Santa Rosa, 2009), Mirda (Napa, 2008), and Patel (Antioch, 2009) continue on the *Board*. ANCO salutes Drs. Fisher, Hufford, and Yu for their past service to the *Association*.

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. 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 member Barbara McAneny, M.D., has been nominated for ASCO *President-Elect*. In addition, ANCO member Branimir (Brandy) Sikic, M.D., has been nominated for an open position (undesignated specialty) on the ASCO *Board of Directors*. The ASCO *Annual Election* opened on January 2nd and ANCO urges all members to vote prior to the close of the election on February 15th.

The ANCO Directory of Members 2007 was published and mailed to ANCO physician members; nurse and office manager contacts; and, Corporate Member representatives at the end of June 2007. Additional copies are available from the ANCO office upon request. Please verify your *Directory* entry and contact the ANCO office with any corrections, additions, and/or deletions. The next *Directory* will be published in June 2008.

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

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Institutional Member News

ANCO thanks the following **Institutional Members** for their support:

- *Stanford University Medical Oncology*
- *University of California, Davis, Cancer Center*
- *University of California, San Francisco*

For information on **continuing medical education meetings organized by our Institutional Members**, please visit:

- med.stanford.edu/seminars/cme-all.jsp?qcme=on
- www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/conferences
- www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/index.aspx?Display=Date

UCSF's **7th Annual UCSF Clinical Cancer Update** takes place at Lake Tahoe on January 25-27th. Visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU08006 for more information.

Stanford's **10th Annual Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-based Approach** (formerly the *Northern California Tumor Board at Silverado*) will be presented by the *Stanford University School of Medicine* on March 14-16th. Tumor boards and panels on breast, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, gynecological, and thoracic cancers; hematological malignancies and lymphoma; and, dilemmas in patient management, ethics, and supportive and palliative care will be presented by faculty from *Stanford University, UC Davis, UC San Francisco*, and the community. For more information, to register, or to submit a case study, visit cancer.stanford.edu/calendar/events/2008/ammc.html or contact Jennifer Schafer at (650) 724-2288 or schafer@stanford.edu.

Corporate Member News

ANCO thanks the following **Corporate Members** for their generous support that enables ANCO to provide services to the hematology/oncology community in Northern California, and to provide its members and their patients with substantial benefits in the areas of advocacy, education, and information dissemination:

*Abraxis Oncology • Alexion Pharmaceutical
AMGEN • AstraZeneca
Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals
biogenIDEC
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology
Celgene • Cephalon Oncology
Clariant Diagnostics • Eisai
Enzon Pharmaceuticals
Genentech BioOncology
Genitope Corporation • Genomic Health
Genzyme Oncology • Hospira
Lash Group Healthcare Consultants
Lilly Oncology
McKesson Specialty Oncology Services
MGI Pharma • Millennium
Novartis Oncology
Oncology Pharmaceutical Services
Oncology Supply/ION • Onmark
Ortho Biotech • OSI Pharmaceuticals • OTN
Pfizer Oncology • Pharmion
Roche Oncology • Sanofi Aventis Oncology
Schering-Plough Oncology • Vidacare*

Clinical Trial News

UC San Francisco's Neil Shah, M.D., is running a study using XL019, a potent, ATP-competitive and reversible inhibitor of JAK2. This is a first in human study aimed at patients with myeloproliferative disorders. These patients have a dominant gain-of-function mutation in the JAK2 gene that the drug targets. Eligible patients will have one of the following diagnoses: primary myelofibrosis (MF), post-polycythemia vera MF, and post-essential thrombocythemia MF who require therapy. Patients can be newly diagnosed intermediate of high risk, or have relapsed or refractory disease. The drug is taken orally, once per day, for 21 out of 28 days. If you have a potentially eligible patient, please contact Dr. Shah's research coordinator at (415) 502-1564.

ANCO members can search information about Institutional Member's clinical trials at www.anco-online.org/trials.html. A current list of UCD's active adult protocols is available at ccresources.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/csr/content/clinicaltrialspublicreport.csr?adult=1.

Publications, Services, & Surveys

You may already be familiar with ASCO's *Clinical Practice Guidelines*, but did you know they are accompanied by easy-to-use clinical tools? These tools include slide sets, and summaries of the guidelines, and may also include patient chart tools, such as flow sheets. In the midst of a busy practice, these tools enable oncologists to use the latest guidelines on emerging issues in clinical oncology. All of these tools are free of charge and available online through www.asco.org/guidelines.

Membership Dues for 2008

Membership renewal notices for 2008 were mailed to all members in early December. Return your 2008 membership dues to ANCO to ensure your inclusion in *The ANCO Directory of Members 2008*. Be sure to provide ANCO with the name(s) of office and/or nurse manager contact(s). Those not renewing their membership by June 1st 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!