

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 FAXed to Individual Member practices, and e-mailed to Group, Institutional, and Corporate (contacts) Members. The next *ANCO FAX News* will be published on June 20th. Send your comments or contributions to ANCO, P.O. Box 151109, San Rafael, CA 94915-1109; Voice: (415) 472-3960; FAX: (415) 472-3961; execdir@anco-online.org.

ADVOCACY

[Editor's Note: ANCO meets regularly with national, regional, and statewide organizations to discuss issues of importance to hematology/oncology practices and people living with cancer. We continually seek input from members on agenda items for these meetings. Send your issues to the ANCO office.]

ACCC, ASCO, ASH, and National Legislative & Regulatory Issues

[Editor's Note: ANCO is a member of the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) and a state/regional affiliate of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO).

ANCO and the American Society of Hematology (ASH) share information with members. We regularly participate with these organizations on matters of national importance to cancer care.]

The Senate Finance Committee continues to work on legislation that would stop the 15% Medicare physician payment cuts scheduled over the next two years, and instead extend the current .5% increase through the end of 2008 and a give doctors a 1.1% pay raise in 2009.

**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.

CMS recently issued revised instructions on the acceptable uses of ESAs. Read the updated instructions at www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM5699.pdf. ASCO's revised instruction sheet on reporting hematocrit/hemoglobin in conjunction with claims for ESAs and other anti-anemia drugs is now available at www.anco-online.org/ASCO_ESA_Reporting_2008.pdf. In addition, NHIC/Medicare reminds providers to follow their instructions for ESA claims (at www.medicarenhic.com/providers/articles/esacoverage_0108.pdf).

Noridian Administrative Services (NAS), the designated carrier for the CAP, offers interactive, online workshops about the CAP for Part B Drugs and Biologicals. These workshops train CAP vendors and elected physicians on a number of CAP topics and requirements such as billing for CAP claims, and NAS personnel are available to answer questions. Physicians and/or their staff are strongly encouraged to attend. Interested parties may view additional information about and register for these workshops at www.noridianmedicare.com/cap_drug/train/workshops/index.html. Upcoming workshops will be held on June 24th and July 24th.

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. CMS recently announced new reporting options and incentive payments for physicians participating in the PQRI. For complete information on PQRI, including teleconference materials, user guides, tool kits for successful reporting, beneficiary letters, fact sheets, and FAQs, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI. The next CMS PQRI teleconference is scheduled for June 18th. For more information and to register, please visit www2.eventsvc.com/palmettogba/061808. The *American Medical Association* (AMA) has posted PQRI worksheets for the 2008 PQRI program at its website (www.ama-assn.org). In addition, ASCO has

updated its PQRI website (www.asco.org/pqri) to include relevant links and a table of oncology-related measures.

Electronic health records (EHR) are an important vehicle for advancing quality cancer care. To help oncology practices select, purchase, and implement an EHR, ASCO has developed a new handbook, *The Oncology Electronic Health Record Field Guide: Selecting and Implementing an EHR*—the only oncology-specific consumer manual designed to guide oncology practices in selecting current and future oncology-specific EHRs for clinical practice management and quality-of-care measurement and improvement. The chapters in the *Field Guide* address the core functionalities desired in an oncology-specific EHR, including:

- Identifying an EHR project team
- Selecting an EHR
- Building a budget
- Using the EHR to support quality of care and patient safety
- Post-implementation management

The *Field Guide* is available in hard copy as well as PDF. Electronic users can print worksheets and forms as they go through the *Field Guide's* material. Both formats of the *Field Guide* can be purchased by e-mailing support@articleworks.com or calling (800) 804-1425. More information is available at www.asco.org/ehrfieldduide.

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 2008 PowerPoint* presentation. (Also visit www.asco.org/janaudiocall for additional materials and a downloadable recording of the presentation.)
- The April 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.]

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

- AB16 (Evans) requires health care service plans and health insurance policies providing coverage for cervical cancer treatment or surgery to also provide coverage for the HPV vaccine beginning January 1st, 2009. AB16 has passed out of the *Assembly* and *Senate Health Committees* and will next be heard in the *Senate Appropriations Committee*. ANCO/MOASC supports AB16.

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.

A coalition of health care providers (including ANCO) led by CMA sued the state of California to stop the 10% cut in MediCal reimbursements scheduled to take effect on July 1st. The class action lawsuit seeks an injunction to block the reduction in MediCal reimbursement rates. In February, the *Legislature* approved and the *Governor* signed into law a total of \$1.3B in cuts to the MediCal program in an effort to stem the state's budget crisis. The lawsuit contends that the planned cuts violate state and federal laws which require that Medicaid (MediCal) payments "must be sufficient to enlist enough providers so that services under the (state's Medicaid) plan are available to recipients at least to the extent that those services are available to the general public." According to the complaint, the reimbursement cuts authorized in February were implemented "solely due to state budgetary woes, without regard to the impact on the

availability of MediCal services." Such cuts are illegal, according to the complaint, and are "being imposed on a system already in crisis, wherein inadequate payment levels have resulted in a scarcity of willing providers, creating serious access hurdles for MediCal beneficiaries." California ranks last in the nation when it comes to payments to doctors, hospitals, and other providers who care for Medicaid (MediCal) patients.

CMA has learned that many physicians renegotiating their contracts with *Blue Cross of California* have been asked to sign an amendment to the insurer's *Prudent Buyer Plan Participating Physician Agreement*. Before signing any new contract or contract amendment, it is critical that you review it carefully and make sure the terms of the agreement are mutually beneficial. This particular amendment contains several onerous provisions. Specifically:

- Physicians cannot close their practice to new *Blue Cross* patients unless they also stop taking new patients from all other contracted health plans.
- Physicians are not allowed to disclose or discuss the terms of the amendment with anyone, even their own attorneys or business managers. Doing so will constitute a material breach of the agreement and *Blue Cross* may unilaterally and without notice reduce the physician's fee schedule, terminate the agreement, and/or take legal action against the physician.
- The contract term is 3 years and physicians do not have the right to renegotiate or terminate the agreement until the contract expires.

Physicians should also be aware that *Blue Cross* considers the amendment to be an "individually negotiated contract." Physicians who sign individually negotiated contracts do not qualify for protection under the *Wellpoint* RICO settlement.

To help physicians negotiate and manage complex third-party payor agreements, CMA has published a contracting tool kit entitled *Taking Charge: Steps to Evaluating Relationships and Preparing for Negotiations*—

A Focus on Payor Contracting that is available free to CMA members at the members-only website. Nonmembers can purchase the tool kit for \$100 in the CMA bookstore (call (800) 882-1262). This tool kit joins several other CMA tool kits (i.e., *Back to Basics: A Step-by-Step Guide to Maximizing Your Cash Flow*, *Getting Paid: Strategies to Maximize Reimbursement*) aimed at empowering physician practices vis-à-vis their relationships with private payors.

CMA's 2008 California Physician's Legal Handbook (CPLH) is now available. CPLH—an annual publication of CMA's *Center for Legal Affairs*—answers the legal questions most frequently asked by physicians. CPLH 2008 offers more than 4,500 pages of comprehensive legal information including current laws, regulations, and court decisions related to medical practice in California. The *Handbook* is available in a 7-volume print format and on CD-ROM. The CD-ROM offers all of the content of the print version, plus many enhancements including fully searchable content and hyperlinks that let you navigate within the CD-ROM and onto the web, as well as links to *Findlaw* for information on the cited court cases. The CD-ROM is priced at \$398 for members (\$480 for nonmembers), the print version costs \$798 (\$960 for nonmembers), and the CD-ROM/print combo combination costs \$898 (\$1,080 for nonmembers). To place an order, visit www.cmanet.org/bookstore or call (800) 882-1262. And, CMA members can access most of the CPLH content free via CMA On-Call, CMA's online library of medical-legal information at www.cmanet.org/member.

NHIC/Medicare, Palmetto/J1MAC, MediCal, & Private Payors

[*Editor's Note:* ANCO communicates regularly with *National Heritage Insurance Company* (NHIC) that administers Medicare in California, *Palmetto* that will administer the J1MAC in California, and the *Department of Health Care Services* (DHCS) that administers MediCal in California.]

Palmetto/J1MAC is hosting a series of Medicare Part B transition teleconference calls for Part B providers in Hawaii, Nevada, California, Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana

Islands. These one-hour sessions provide you with the most recent transition information and will address the questions you have about the implementation and is your opportunity to speak with Palmetto/J1MAC to discuss the implementation topic of your choice. For more information, visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/DocsCat/Home and review the Events section.

Palmetto/J1MAC is conducting transition workshops throughout the region. These workshops will provide you an opportunity to hear directly from your *Medicare Administrative Contractor* (MAC) regarding such topics as transition dates, what is needed to continue to bill electronically, how the *Local Coverage Determination* process will work, address any differences in claims processing guidelines, and much more. Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/DocsCat/Palmetto%20GBA%20Announces%20Transition%20Workshops!%3Fopendocument for the schedule of workshops (i.e., San Francisco, July 9th; Fresno, July 16th).

Palmetto/J1MAC sent a letter to all California Medicare providers on April 1st requesting a new completed *Electronic Funds Transfer* (EFT) agreement (i.e., CMS-588). The contact telephone number listed in the original letter is incorrect and should be (866) 749-4301. The link to the CMS-588 form is www.cms.hhs.gov/cmsforms/downloads/CMS588.pdf. Complete the EFT agreement with your current banking information and forward along with a copy of a voided check to the following address:

Palmetto GBA Finance
J1 EFT
Post Office Box 100277
Columbia, SC 29202-3277

Due to the volume of EFTs being processed, submit your EFT agreement as soon as possible and no later than August 1st. Failure to submit the form by the deadline date will revert payment to hard copy checks beginning with the first cycle after conversion. Please contact Palmetto/J1MAC at EFT.Admin@PalmettoGBA.com or (866) 749-4301 should you have any questions or need assistance and identify yourself as a new J1

provider to expedite your call. Alternatively, visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/DocsCat/Home and follow the EDI links. There you will find updated Application Forms, Frequently Asked Questions (and Answers), Hot Topics, and information about Support Center hours of operation.

To subscribe to Palmetto's e-mail ListServ for the transition, visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/DocsCat/Home and follow the E-Mail Update links. Also visit www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/J1.nsf/docsCat/Welcom%20to%20Palmetto%20GBA?opendocument?open&cat= to view a Palmetto *PowerPoint* presentation that provides background information on Palmetto, introduces timelines and other important information regarding the J1MAC, and lays out some details regarding the transition period.

CMS has implemented the use of the revised *Advance Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage (ABN)* and is allowing a six-month transition period from the date of implementation (March 1st) for use of the revised form and instructions. All providers and suppliers must begin using the new ABN no later than September 1st. The new form replaces both the CMS-R-131G and the CMS-R-131L. You can access the new form and instructions online at www.cms.hhs.gov/bni. **CMS also recently updated its "incident to" policy.** The updates are described at www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5288.pdf. Finally, **CCI quarterly updates** can be found at www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6045.pdf.

As of May 23rd, Medicare requires and sends NPI-only in ALL provider identifier fields for all HIPAA and paper transactions where a provider identifier is required. If you send Medicare a transaction with a Medicare legacy identifier in any of the provider fields, your claim will be rejected. These transactions include all electronic and paper claims, the 276/277 claims status transaction, the 270/271 eligibility transaction, 835 remittance advice, and SPR paper remittance. With regard to NPIs for secondary providers, if the entity that is required to be

identified in the secondary provider field (i.e., the ordering/referring/attending/operating/supervising/purchased service/other/service facility provider or prescriber) does not furnish an NPI, the billing provider must attempt to obtain that NPI in order to enter it on the claim. The billing provider may use the NPI Registry to obtain the secondary provider's NPI or it may need to directly contact the ordering/referring/attending/operating/supervising/purchased service/other/service facility or prescriber in order to obtain the NPI. If the billing provider has exhausted all possibilities of finding the NPI of the ordering/referring/attending/operating/supervising/purchased service/other or prescriber, Medicare is permitting the provider to use their own NPI as the identifier for those secondary providers. Medicare will reject claims if Medicare policy requires a secondary identifier and there is no NPI present. Still not sure what an NPI is and how you can get it, share it and use it? As always, more information and education on the NPI can be found through the CMS NPI page www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand.

The **Medicare Remit Easy Print brochure** has been updated and is now available to order print copies or to download as a PDF file. This brochure provides an overview of free software that enables physicians and suppliers to view and print remittance information. To view the PDF file, go to www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNPproducts/downloads/MedicareRemit_0408.pdf.

The **Medicare B Resource (June 2008)** is available online at www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider_news/mbr_jun08.pdf. Among the subjects discussed most relevant to hematology/oncology are:

- CAP
- Compendia
- Drug claims (JW modifier)
- E&M services
- ESAs
- HCPCS modifiers (clinical research)
- IVIG

Visit www.medicarenhic.com/cal_prov/updates.shtml to learn **the latest information** (updated weekly) **from NHIC/Medicare** or www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/

DocsCat/Home to learn the latest information from Palmetto/JIMAC. Updates are also posted on ANCO's *Online Weblog* (via www.anco-online.org).

EDUCATION

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

Transplanting Procurement Best Practices into Community Oncology

Transplanting Procurement Best Practices into Community Oncology will take place on June 10th in Sacramento and June 11th in San José. Kyle Gilman, Esq., *President & CEO, Forgefinder*, and Bev Favret, *Co-Founder & Vice President, OneOncology* will provide concepts, examples, and tools with which to optimize procurement economies, effectiveness, and efficiencies. These programs are being supported by *OneOncology*. Download the meeting announcement/registration form at www.anco-online.org/procurement.html.

2008 Best of ASCO Meetings

Oncology professionals unable to attend ASCO's *2008 Annual Meeting* as well as attendees who wish to review the cutting-edge science presented at the *Annual Meeting* can now register for the upcoming *Best of ASCO Meetings*. The *Best of ASCO Meetings* condense highlights from the *ASCO Annual Meeting* into a two-day program presented in two locations—Boston and Los Angeles. These summary meetings will feature high-impact abstracts presented at ASCO's *2008 Annual Meeting* that represent the most relevant scientific findings in primary disease sites and practice changing advances in cancer prevention and treatment. For the first time, the *Best of ASCO Meeting* in Los Angeles will be held in conjunction with the *World Conference on Interventional Oncology's (WCIO) Annual Meeting*. Attendees will have the opportunity to examine advances in scientific and translational cancer research, evaluate the role of new diagnostic techniques and therapeutic approaches, and gain the knowledge to implement new disease management and patient

care strategies and to revise existing ones. Research in the fields of breast cancer, developmental therapeutics, gastrointestinal cancer (colorectal and noncolorectal), genitourinary cancer, gynecologic cancer, head and neck cancer, leukemia, lung cancer, lymphoma, melanoma, and patient care will be presented. The 2008 *Best of ASCO Meetings* will be held on June 22nd-25th, *Hyatt Regency Century Plaza*, Los Angeles, and June 27-28th, *Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel*. Visit www.asco.org/boa to register and to obtain more information about the *Best of ASCO Meetings*. Please note that ANCO will organize its *ASCO Highlights in 2008 featuring local faculty on September 6th* at *The Claremont Resort* in Oakland.

ACCC's 25th National Oncology Economics Conference

Mark your calendar for the *Association of Community Cancer Center's 25th National Oncology Economics Conference*, September 17-20th, *Hyatt Regency*, San Francisco. Are you prepared to weather the storm? Increased competition, reduced reimbursement, and rising demand require a solid plan. Learn how to protect and strengthen your cancer program. Sessions will cover increasing your revenue stream, economics of clinical trials, and how to best use NPs and PAs. Visit www.accc-cancer.org/mainevent for more information and to register.

4th Annual Oncology Congress



The *4th Annual Oncology Congress* takes place September 25-28th at the *Hilton San Francisco*. All content is programmed by a multidisciplinary board of 20 advisors and speakers are the thought leaders in their fields. The *Oncology Congress* engages you in productive peer-to-peer discussions about cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment options, giving you the practical knowledge, tools, and insight needed to improve care and quality of life for your patients today.

The first 50 ANCO members to register attend for free; all others pay a discounted rate of \$395 for physicians or \$195 for nurses and physician assistants. Register at www.oncologycongress.com/anco and use priority code ANCO. For assistance, contact Jeannie Cook at (203) 840-5562 and ask about special attendance rates for partners.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

June 19th

Medical Update on Ovarian Cancer from the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

June 24th

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

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

June 25th

Medical Update on Head and Neck Cancer from the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

June 25-26th

9th Annual Patient Congress

Patient Advocate Foundation

Washington DC

June 26th

Hereditary Breast and Colon Cancer

(w/ Farin Amersi, M.D.)

South Bay Tumor Board/

Community Cancer Foundation Monthly

Distinguished Lecturer Series

Santa Clara County Medical Association

(FAX RSVP to (408) 378-4511)

June 26th, July 24th

Updates on Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia/Small Lymphocytic Lymphoma (CLL/SLL)

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

July 18-20th

Advances in Long-Term Management of Adult Patients Undergoing Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
San Francisco

July 19th

5th Annual Oncology Update

Scripps Clinic

San Francisco

July 19th-23rd

7th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer

American Head & Neck Society

San Francisco

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 Online

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, and Weblog.
- clinical trials information.
- links to affiliated organizations.
- updated physician, nurse, manager, and patient resources.

ANCO Online 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 anco-online.blogspot.com (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 ANCO *Online Weblog* posts and archives important news for hematology/oncology practices on an almost daily basis. Among the additional news topics covered at anco-online.blogspot.com 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
- Palmetto/J1MAC Website Updates

ANCO urges its members to bookmark anco-online.blogspot.com (or subscribe to anco-online.blogspot.com/feeds/posts/default using your favorite news reader software; e.g., RssReader for Windows or NetNewsWire for Macintosh) and refer to it often.

Benefits

As a follow-up to the recent professional education meetings entitled *Managing in Whitewater Times*, ANCO has negotiated an exclusive membership offer (including free

practice assessment, aggressive discounts on pricing, and potential access to ANCO member-specific benchmarking data) for *RemitDATA's* powerful suite of web-based, plug-n-work productivity tools that help providers become more profitable. *Reimbursement Pro* helps managers and collectors better control their reimbursement process including the identification of payer problems, identification and appeals of denials, submission of secondary claims, and finding and copying paper EOBs and other common money pits. Contact Matthew Trogden at (972) 249-8661 or mtrogdon@remidata.com for more information.

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 June 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 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 later this month.

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

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Group Member News

ANCO has initiated a **Group Membership** in 2008 based on a mutual set of perceived values and benefits and a mutual set of interests. The ANCO *Board* believes that the *Association* and *The Permanente Medical Group* (TPMG) will each receive value from Group Membership. ANCO thanks *The Permanente Medical Group* for joining ANCO. A complete roster of TPMG physicians that are now ANCO members is available at www.anco-online.org/pubs.html (under *ANCO FAX News*, Vol. 7, No. 5).

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/cmecalendar.do
- www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/conferences
- www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme

Stanford's **2nd Annual GI Cancers** takes place August 22nd-24th at the *Mauna Lani Bay Resort* in Hawaii. Visit www.stanfordhospital.com/PDF/cme/GICancers08CME_r8aFnl.pdf for more information and to register.

UCD's **9th Annual Advances in Oncology** takes place at the *Hyatt Regency* in Sacramento on September 6th. Visit ucdrc.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/servlet/CmeSignIn?ccode=ONCOL08 to

register.

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
ImClone Systems
Lash Group Healthcare Consultants
Lilly Oncology • MGI Pharma • Millennium
Novartis Oncology
Oncology Supply/ION • Ortho Biotech
OSI Pharmaceuticals
OTN/Onmark, McKesson Specialty
Companies
Pfizer Oncology • Pharmion
Roche Oncology • Sanofi Aventis Oncology
Schering-Plough Oncology
US Oncology Physician Services
Wyeth BioPharma • Vidacare*

We especially wish to thank and welcome *ImClone Systems* and *Wyeth BioPharma* as new Corporate Members in 2008.

US Oncology Physician Services will host a webcast for ANCO members on June 24th at 12PM. Join presenter Sean Taylor to learn about the services offered by *US Oncology Physician Services* for the independent oncology practice. This presentation will feature a discussion of how an oncology-trained pharmacist works with practice staff to provide solutions for overall process improvement that include regimen analysis, charge capture/inventory roll forward, admixture services, billing and coding education/support, and cash flow management.

Visit www.opspharmacist.com/anco to register; for more information, please call (866) 216-5053 or email ops@usoncology.com.

Publications, Services, & Surveys

ANCO and *Sullivan/Luallin Healthcare Consulting* have cooperated on *Patient Satisfaction Surveys* for the past several years. Another *Patient Satisfaction Survey* will be offered in 2008. ANCO is using its negotiating leverage to offer you expert and reliable *Patient Satisfaction Surveys* at steep discounts. ANCO will fund the set-up fee so that members may participate at discounted per physician rates. An announcement of the *Patient Satisfaction Survey* was mailed and FAXed to all ANCO member practices earlier this week. For more information, visit www.anco-online.org/pxsrvy.html.

The **National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN)** is pleased to announce that the **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)** has recognized the **NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium** as a mandated reference for establishment of coverage policy and coverage decisions regarding the use of drugs and biologics in cancer care. The NCCN *Compendium* will be used by CMS for national coverage determinations and by intermediaries and carriers for locoregional determinations. The major application will be in determinations about coverage for the use of drugs and biologics in oncology beyond the FDA approved indication.

The May 2008 issue of *Oncology Business Review* features articles on patient assistance programs and oncology drug denials. Visit www.oncbiz.com for more information.

The May/June (Vol. 23, No. 3) issue of ACCC's *Oncology Issues* features articles cancer center design and construction. Visit oi.accc-cancer.org for more information.

The May (Vol. 4, Issue 3) issue of ASCO's *Journal of Oncology Practice* features articles on Medicare coding edits, charge capture, an annual meeting track, and understanding the finances of oncology practice. Visit www.jopasco.org for more information.