

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 July 3rd. 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. Under the current Medicare physician payment formula, payments are scheduled to decrease by 10.6% on July 1st 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.

by an additional 5% on January 1st, 2009.

CMS announced June 10th that it will recognize the Thomson Micromedex DrugDex compendium as an additional source of information that the agency will use in determining which drugs may be covered under Medicare Part B when used to treat patients undergoing cancer treatment through chemotherapy. CMS recently announced that the NCCN *Drugs & Biologics Compendium* would be an additional source of information for this purpose as well. *The American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information* (AHFS-DI) and the Thomson *Micromedex DrugDex* compendia are recognized for Medicare Part B, Medicare Part D, and Medicaid. NCCN's *Drugs & Biologics Compendium* is currently recognized only for Medicare Part B. CMS will no longer use the now obsolete *American Medical Association Drug Evaluations* (AMA-DE) compendium as a source for making these decisions. Visit www.cms.hhs.gov/CoverageGenInfo/02_compendia.asp for a list of accepted compendia.

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. To access the June 18th presentation, click on the CMS *Sponsored Calls* tab, scroll down to the *Downloads* section, and click on the *National Provider Call 06/18/08* link. 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.**

CMS/Medicare recently announced new PQRI submission methodologies for July 1st to December 31st. Since none of these methodologies (claims groups or registries) particularly applies to oncology, it may not be possible for many of you to start reporting in July. You must use one of these new mechanisms to qualify for the new reporting period. Otherwise, unless you are using the new claims groups or a registry, the reporting period started January 1st. There are two new ways to report starting July 1st:

- Through a Medicare-certified registry (but registries will not be named until August 31st), or
- Through claims reporting groups (for diabetes, ESRD, CKD, or preventive care).

The only other way you can start reporting now is to choose measures that only require PQRI measures once per reporting period (i.e., 2008). Here are the once per year measures in hematology and oncology (with abbreviated descriptors):

- Measure #67 (MDS Baseline Cytogenetic Testing)
- Measure #68 (MDS Erythropoetin Documentation of Iron Stores)
- Measure #69 (Multiple Myeloma Biphosphonate Therapy)
- Measure #70 (CLL Baseline Flow Cytometry)
- Measure #71 (Breast Cancer Stages on Tamoxifen/AIs)

- Measure #72 (Colon Cancer Stage III Chemotherapy)
- Measure #73 (Chemotherapy Plan Documented Before Chemotherapy; limited by type of cancer)
- Measure #74 (Radiation Oncology in Breast-Conserving Surgery)
- Measure #101 (Prostate Cancer Evaluation)
- Measure #103 (Treatment Options for Localized Prostate Cancer)

Visit www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri for more information on the new reporting options.

CMS has announced that 2007 PQRI Final Feedback Reports will be made available in mid-July on a secure website. Reports will be available to each practice, identified by *Taxpayer Identification Number* (TIN), under which at least one eligible professional reported 2007 PQRI quality measures data. Reports available to the practice will include information on reporting rates, clinical performance, and incentives earned by individual professionals, with summary information on reporting success and incentives earned at the practice (TIN) level. Although the PQRI feedback reports are not yet available on this website, CMS recommends that practices take the time now to set up their online account so they can access their report as soon as it is available. For more information about the *Reports* and how to register to receive them, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMArticles/downloads/SE0747.pdf and www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMArticles/downloads/SE0753.pdf.

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/ehrfieldguide.

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 July 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:

- AB841 (Portantino) would require health plans (regulated by either the *Department of Health Care Services* or the *Department of Insurance*) to cover mammograms for screening or diagnosing

breast cancer in accordance with current national guidelines. It has passed out of the *Assembly* and will be considered in the *Senate*. ANCO supports AB841.

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 enacted in February.

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.]

July revisions (reflecting decreases) to the Medicare physician fee schedule are now available at www.medicarenhic.com/cal_prov/fee_sched.shtml. Of course, there is still some hope that these reductions will be averted by *Congressional* action before the end of June.

Palmetto/J1MAC's list of *Local Coverage Determinations* (i.e., coverage policies) has been published and is available at www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/DocsCat/Future%20Effective%20Date%20-%20Part%20B%20LCDs%20for%20Northern%20and%20Southern%20California?opendocument. These policies become effective on September 2nd.

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!%20opendocument for more information about these workshops (i.e., San Francisco, July 9th; Fresno, July 16th).

Palmetto/J1MAC is also 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 will be conducting Web-based trainings to answer your questions concerning the transition. You will have an opportunity to hear directly from Palmetto/J1MAC regarding such topics as transition dates, what is needed to continue to bill electronically, how the *Local Coverage Determination* (LCD) process will work, the differences in claims processing guidelines and much more. Please register to attend one of the upcoming trainings at www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/DocsCat/Part%20B%20Transition%20Web-based%20Trainings?opendocument.

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.

Providers may now **take advantage of Palmetto/J1MAC's early boarding for EDI connectivity**. Transition now and ensure that you get prompt attention to support questions and ensure that there is no disruption of your claims processing. Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/DocsCat/Jurisdiction%20%20EDI%20Early%20Boarding%20Began%20May%201st!%3Fopendocument for more information.

California's next Medicare (J1MAC) carrier will be Palmetto GBA. They will assume operational responsibility for all Medicare claims (pending, in-process, and new) in California on September 2nd. For the latest information on the transition from NHIC/Medicare to Palmetto/J1MAC, **visit the Palmetto/J1MAC website at www.palmettogba.com/J1 or subscribe to Palmetto's e-mail ListServ at www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/DocsCat/Home and follow the *E-Mail Update* links. Also visit www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/J1.nsf/docsCat/Welcome%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. A provider resource list is available at [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/J1.nsf/files/ProviderResourceChecklist.pdf/\\$File/ProviderResourceChecklist.pdf](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/J1.nsf/files/ProviderResourceChecklist.pdf/$File/ProviderResourceChecklist.pdf); an**

implementation timeline is available at [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/J1.nsf/files/ImplementationTimeline.pdf/\\$File/ImplementationTimeline.pdf](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/J1.nsf/files/ImplementationTimeline.pdf/$File/ImplementationTimeline.pdf).

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/MLNMArticles/downloads/MM5288.pdf. Finally, **CCI quarterly updates** can be found at www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMArticles/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 at www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand.

ANCO member practices (especially group practices) may have received or may receive claims denials with denial code B7 (provider ineligible) due to provider identification (PTAN) number deactivation by the carrier. The reason for these denials is that your physicians' PTAN have been deactivated for non-use, OR are not attached to your group identification number, OR your group identification number is not linked to your physicians' PTANs. To avoid and resolve these denials you will need to submit Forms 855R and 855I (if the physicians have not updated their Medicare enrollment since 2003). Submit these forms immediately! These forms are available as follows:

CMS 855R Application
www.cms.hhs.gov/cmsforms/downloads/cms855r.pdf

CMS 855I Application
www.cms.hhs.gov/cmsforms/downloads/cms855i.pdf

Please note that Form 855R does not have a place for reactivation. However, NHIC/Medicare advises providers to write "REACTIVATION" across the open space in section 1 on page 3 of the form. Submit these forms to the following address using the Option Code Project (in order to expedite processing) cover sheet:

Northern California
Medicare Provider Certification
P.O. Box 2812
Chico, CA 95927-2812

The Option Code Project cover sheet should contain the following text:

Place this page at the beginning of provider application(s) to assist with expediting.

OPTION
Code
Project

Group ID Number:

For additional information, please contact NHIC/Medicare customer service at (877) 527-6613, option 3. NHIC/Medicare is committed to processing clean applications submitted by July 1st with the Option Code Project cover sheet by August 1st.

The *Medicare B Resource* (June 2008) is available online at www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider_news/mbr_jun08.pdf. 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).

Effective for dates of service on or after August 1st, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will discontinue the use of the current DHCS/MediCal interim codes for blood products and some services related to administering those products. These interim codes will be replaced by HCPCS Level II and CPT-4 codes so as to be in compliance with provisions of HIPAA. Complete details of the billing changes, including manual replacement pages (MRPs), can be found in the June release of the DHCS/MediCal *Updates Bulletin*, which can be accessed at files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/Bulletins_menu.asp.

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 took 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* provided concepts, examples, and tools with which to optimize procurement

economies, effectiveness, and efficiencies. These programs were supported by *OneOncology*. Download the presentations at www.anco-online.org/procurement.html.

2008 Best of ASCO Meetings

Oncology professionals 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 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

September 26-28th

13th Annual North American Education Forum on

Lymphoma

Lymphoma Research Foundation

San Francisco

September 29th-October 2nd

Oncology: Clinical Issues and Trends

Contemporary Forums

Las Vegas

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/JIMAC 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* teleconferenced on June 17th to discuss and/or act upon the following issues:

- National and California advocacy issues
- ANCO's *ASCO/ONS Highlights 2008*
- The ANCO Directory 2008
- FY2008 Finances

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

The ANCO *Board of Directors* meets regularly by teleconference and occasionally in person to discuss issues affecting the *Association*, clinical and professional education, and ways to better serve the membership. *Board* meetings are open to individual physician members. The **next regularly scheduled ANCO *Board of Directors* teleconference** will take place on August 13th. 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.

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.

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.

Novartis Oncology reports that *Zometa* has been accepted by the *American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information (AHFS-DI)* drug compendium as treatment for prevention of aromatase inhibitor-associated bone loss (AIBL) in postmenopausal women.

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.