

ANCO FAX News

Association of Northern California Oncologists
Post Office Box 151109, San Rafael, California 94915-1109
Voice: (415) 472-3960 • FAX: (415) 472-3961
execdir@anco-online.org • www.anco-online.org

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INTRODUCTION

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

The *ANCO FAX News* is FAXed to Individual Member practices, and e-mailed to Group, Institutional, and Corporate (contacts) Members. The next *ANCO FAX News* will be published on August 15th. 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.]

Congress overrode President Bush's veto of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA) on July 15th. As a result, the mid-year 2008 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) rate adjustment of -10.6% has been replaced with a +0.5% update, retroactive to July 1st. And, physicians will

**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.

receive a **1.1% increase in fees on January 1st, 2009**. Physicians should have begun receiving payment at the updated rates by the end of July. Congress also used this bill as a venue to push forward many of its priorities including adoption of electronic health records, expanding coverage of the “Welcome to Medicare” visit, creating a physician feedback program around value-based purchasing, and increasing bonuses for participation in the *Physician Quality Reporting Initiative*. However, this legislation does not include a long-term fix for the sustainable growth rate (SGR) problem that results in reduced physician reimbursement. Finally, in response to the override, the **HHS Office of the Inspector General** has issued a policy statement that **assures Medicare providers, practitioners, and suppliers affected by retroactive increases in payment rates under MIPPA that they will not be subject to OIG administrative sanctions if they waive retroactive beneficiary cost-sharing amounts attributable to those increased payment rates**, subject to the conditions noted in the policy statement (available at oig.hhs.gov/fraud/docs/alertsandbulletins/2008/MIPPA_Policy_Statement.PDF).

On June 30th, CMS issued the 2009 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) proposed rule. CMS will accept comments on all elements of the proposed rule until August 29th, and will respond to those comments in a final rule to be issued by November 1st. ASCO has published a summary of the provisions that are of relevance to oncologists. ASCO’s detailed summary is available at www.anco-online.org/mma/ASCOMPFS2009.pdf. According to ASCO, the key elements in the proposed rule impacting oncology are:

- CMS’s acceptance of the *American Medical Association’s (AMA) Relative Value Update Committee (RUC)* recommendations to revise practice expense values for CPT codes 96440, 96445, 96450, and 96542.
- CMS’s decision not to make any changes to the payment localities for California.
- CMS’s decision to review the estimated prices of high-cost supplies, procedures

that are performed together, and establish priorities for RUC review.

- CMS’s decision to discontinue the special payment for IVIG.
- CMS’s update of ASP affecting the calculation of weighted average ASP for multiple source drugs.
- CMS’s proposal to refine regulations in the CAP for drugs.
- CMS’s proposal to require physicians that furnish diagnostic services to enroll in Medicare as an independent diagnostic testing facility (IDTF) and comply with most of the IDTF standards by September 30th, 2009.
- CMS’s proposal of two alternative approaches to deal with the issue of possible overutilization of services resulting from certain arrangements (i.e., the anti-markup provision would apply to services performed or supervised by a physician who does not share a practice with the billing physician, and continuing the site-related approach).
- CMS’s proposal of a new exemption under the Stark law that would permit incentive and shared savings arrangements between physicians and hospitals.
- CMS’s revisions in the quality measures that would be used in the 2009 PQRI (i.e., elimination of oncology measures #74 and #103; adoption of new cancer-related measures in melanoma, pain management, radiation dose limits, and staging for esophageal and lung cancers).

CMS has completed its review of available and recognized sources to help determine coverage for anti-cancer chemotherapy drugs. The acceptable compendia are:

- The *American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information (AHFS-DI)*; for Parts B, D, and Medicaid)
- *National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Drugs & Biologics Compendium* (for Part B)
- Thomson Micromedex *DrugDex* (for Parts B, D, and Medicaid)

- Elsevier Gold Standard's *Clinical Pharmacology* (for Part B)

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 (see www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM6104.pdf). For complete information on PQRI, including teleconference materials (with the next teleconference scheduled for August 13th), quick reference charts, user guides, tool kits for successful reporting, updated submission methodologies, beneficiary letters, fact sheets, and FAQs, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri. 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 has announced that 2007 PQRI Final Feedback Reports are available on a secure website. The first step is to register for access through a CMS security system known as the *Individuals Authorized Access to CMS Computer Services (IACS)*. Do not register if you did not report PQRI quality measures in 2007. There are two categories of user types in IACS—individual practitioner and organization. The CMS approval process differs depending on the type of user you are; therefore, it is important to register correctly. Follow these instructions **if you are a professional paid by Medicare directly** (you have *not* reassigned Medicare payments to a group practice):

- If you do not have employees, the CMS approval process requires you to register as an individual practitioner and access the PQRI 2007 feedback report personally. Some solo professionals have incorrectly registered in IACS as organizations, and have had to reregister as individual practitioners.

- If you have employees and therefore are an organization for tax purposes, you may select one of 2 options:

§ Option 1: Register in IACS as an organization if you will use one or more employees to access IACS and/or your PQRI feedback reports.

§ Option 2: Register in IACS through the Individual Practitioner role if you will access the PQRI report personally.

If you are a professional who has reassigned Medicare payments to a group practice:

- Do *not* register in IACS unless you are one of the individuals designated to do so by the group practice.
- Group practices will register in IACS as organizations. Up to 2 individuals will be able to access the 2007 PQRI feedback report for each organization that registers in IACS. One 2007 PQRI feedback report will be prepared for each taxpayer identification number (TIN). The group practice will be responsible for sharing *National Provider Identifier (NPI)* level information with the appropriate professionals within the group practice.

IACS *Quick Reference Guides* may be found at www.cms.hhs.gov/IACS/04_Provider_Community.asp. Summary information about accessing the 2007 PQRI feedback reports for those registering as organizations and individual practitioners will soon be posted at www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI.

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.

CMS's Doctor's Office Quality Information Technology University (DOQ-IT U) supports health information technology (HIT) in physicians' offices. DOQ-IT U is an interactive, Web-based tool designed to provide solo and small-to-medium sized physician practices with the education for successful HIT adoption. For more information, visit the DOQ-IT U website at elearning.qualitynet.org.

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.]

In May, a **coalition of health care providers (including ANCO) led by CMA sued the state of California to stop the 10% cut in MediCal reimbursements.** The suit alleged that the state violated state law by failing to set MediCal reimbursement rates at a level that ensures access to care for MediCal enrollees. The court found that cutting MediCal rates would cause irreparable harm to MediCal enrollees and the health care system generally, but denied the motion for preliminary injunction on the grounds that the state court lacked the authority to enforce federal law. While this is a disappointing setback, the legal fight is not over. There are a number of other cases pending, including one to be heard in federal court. MediCal reimbursement rates continue to be an important part of the budget debate.

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.]

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.

NHIC/Medicare's presentation on **Provider Enrollment NPI Troubleshooting** is now available at www.medicarenhic.com/providers/online/providerEnrollment/enroll_trblsht/enroll_trblsht.html.

NHIC/Medicare has updated its coverage and claims requirements for erythropoiesis

stimulating agents (ESAs). The updated requirements are available at www.medicarenhic.com/providers/articles/esacoverage_0708.pdf.

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.** Specific resources are highlighted below:

- **Palmetto/J1MAC PowerPoint presentation** at www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/J1.nsf/docsCat/Welcome%20to%20Palmetto%20GBA?opendocument?open&cat= (including background information on Palmetto, timelines and other important information regarding the J1MAC, and details regarding the transition period)
- **A provider resource checklist** at [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/J1.nsf/files/ProviderResourceChecklist.pdf/\\$File/ProviderResourceChecklist.pdf](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/J1.nsf/files/ProviderResourceChecklist.pdf/$File/ProviderResourceChecklist.pdf)
- **An implementation timeline** at [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/J1.nsf/files/ImplementationTimeline.pdf/\\$File/ImplementationTimeline.pdf](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/J1.nsf/files/ImplementationTimeline.pdf/$File/ImplementationTimeline.pdf)
- **A transition article** at www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/DocsCat/Transition%20Communication?opendocument
- **A transition manual** at www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/docsCat/J1-Learning%20and%20Education-Manuals-Manuals?open&cat=J1-Learning%20and%20Education-Manuals-Manuals. (*Please note:* If you obtained an early version of the transition manual, then you need to delete the pages discussing off-label chemotherapy use as the claims processing for off-label chemotherapy is not expected to change substantially, if at

all, from the current NHIC/Medicare process. The current on-line edition has deleted these pages.)

- **Workshops, webinars, and teleconferences at**

www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/DocsCat/Home (*Events*)

- **Coverage policies (LCDs) at** www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/DocsCat/Future%20Effective%20Date%20-%20Part%20B%20LCDs%20for%20Northern%20and%20Southern%20California?opendocument (including LCDs for ESAs; filgrastim, sargramostin, and pegfilgrastim; gonadotropin releasing hormone analogs; IVIG; oncologic in vitro chemoresponse assays; and, Oncotype DX)

- **The self-administered drug exclusion list** at [www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/DocsCat/2008%20Self%20Administered%20Drug%20\(SAD\)%20Exclusion%20List?opendocument](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/DocsCat/2008%20Self%20Administered%20Drug%20(SAD)%20Exclusion%20List?opendocument) (including octreotide, interferon, and leuprolide)

- **Claims processing changes and/or reminders** at www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/DocsCat/Part%20B?opendocument

- **Electronic data interchange (EDI) information, application, enrollment, and early boarding** at www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/J1.nsf/DocsCat/Home (*EDI*) and an EDI transition schedule is available at www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/DocsCat/Urgent%20Information%20for%20J1%20NHIC%20EDI%20Submitters?opendocument

- **Electronic funds transfer (EFT) information and enrollment agreement** at www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/DocsCat/Home (*Electronic Funds Transfer*)

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/J1MAC. Updates are also posted on ANCO's *Online Weblog* (via www.anco-online.org).

Since California failed to enact the FY2008-09 budget by June 30th, the *Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)* will direct the fiscal intermediary (EDS) to continue to pay to DHCS/MediCal practitioners per federal mandate. Through the new automated Value of Claim (VOC) process, all DHCS/MediCal providers whose held payments equal or exceed \$5,000 will be automatically sent a VOC letter on a weekly basis. This letter will be based on the amount approved for payment (often referred to as the "In Process" amount) each Monday and will be cumulative each week. This letter will be sent to the "Pay-To" address on file. Providers who have not updated their "Pay-To" address with Provider Enrollment Division (via a DHCS/MediCal Supplemental Changes DHCS 6209 form, revised 2/08), may not receive this letter. Providers who want this letter but have not received it and have a correct Pay-To address on the Provider Master File, can contact the Telephone Service Center (TSC) at (800) 541-5555 and choose option 15, and then option 13.

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.

Beginning September 1st, providers are encouraged to begin using the *National Drug Code (NDC)* for physician-administered drugs, in conjunction with the customary *Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS)* Level I, II, or III code, on all DHCS/MediCal claims. Claims for dates of service September 1st,

2008 through March 31st, 2009 that do not include an NDC will not be denied. However, claims with dates of service on or after April 1st, 2009 that do not meet the NDC reporting requirements of a valid NDC present with the HCPCS code will be denied. DHCS will soon be publishing the details regarding NDC reporting requirements.

EDUCATION

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

ANCO's ASCO/ONS Highlights 2008

ANCO's *ASCO/ONS Highlights 2008* will summarize the major research and treatment advancements presented at this year's *ONS Congress* and *ASCO Annual Meeting*. The program will focus on breast, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, gynecologic, and lung cancers as well as hematological malignancies. The faculty will place these developments in context as to their immediate clinical utility. A plenary talk on pharmacogenomics will also be presented. *ASCO/ONS Highlights 2008* will take place on Saturday morning, September 6th, at *The Claremont Resort* in Oakland. Meeting announcements were mailed in early July and can be downloaded at www.anco-online.org/ascohl2008.html.

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:

September 14-16th

2008 Annual Conference

California Hospice & Palliative Care Association
San Mateo

September 26-28th

13th Annual North American Education Forum on Lymphoma for Lymphoma Patients, Survivors, and Loved Ones

Lymphoma Research Foundation
San Francisco

September 29th-October 2nd

Oncology: Clinical Issues and Trends

Contemporary Forums

Las Vegas

October 20th-21st

2008 Cancer Center Business Summit: Community Oncology at the Crossroads—Building a Balanced Future

Chicago

November 20th-21st
5th International Conference: Integration Across the Spectrum of Cancer Care
 Society for Integrative Oncology
 Atlanta

January 15-17th, 2009
Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium
 ASCO, American Gastroenterological Association
 Institute, American Society for Therapeutic
 Radiology and Oncology, Society of Surgical
 Oncology
 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/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.

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 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 *American Society of Clinical Oncology* (ASCO) has relocated to 2318 Mill Road, Suite 800, Alexandria VA effective July 11th. Their new telephone number is (571) 483-1300; their new FAX number is (571) 366-9530.

The *ANCO Directory of Members 2008* was mailed to ANCO physician members; nurse and office manager contacts; and, Corporate Member representatives the week of July 7th. Additional copies are available from the ANCO office upon request. An updated online (.pdf) edition is available at www.anco-online.org/pubs.html. 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 2009. The following update(s) to the *Directory* were recently included in the online edition:

ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF PHYSICIAN MEMBERS

Added Shane Dormady, M.D., Alice T. Kengla, M.D., & Rishi Sawhney, M.D.

Deleted Jonathan Rosenberg, M.D.

ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF NURSE & OFFICE MANAGER CONTACTS

Added Teri Cott, Ersilia Lacaze, Jiang Zhang

Deleted Kara Dunlevy, R.N., Kathi Hawes, R.N., Angie Perales, Cindy Winstead

Group Member News

ANCO 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.

The 10th *Annual UCSF/UCD Thoracic Oncology Conference* takes place in San Francisco on November 8th. Visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU09004 for more information.

UCSF's 3rd *International Symposium on Cancer Metastasis and the Lymphovascular System: Basis for Rational Therapy* takes place in San Francisco on May 6-9th, 2009. For more information, please visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU09002.

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

Onyx Pharmaceuticals
biogenIDEC
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology
Celgene • Cephalon Oncology • Eisai
Enzon Pharmaceuticals
Genentech BioOncology
Genomic Health • Genzyme Oncology
GlaxoSmithKline Oncology • Hospira
ImClone Systems
Lash Group Healthcare Consultants
Lilly Oncology • Millennium
Novartis Oncology
Oncology Supply/ION • Ortho Biotech
OSI Pharmaceuticals
OTN/Onmark, McKesson Specialty
Companies
Pfizer Oncology • Roche Oncology
Sanofi Aventis 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. *Clarient Diagnostics*, *Genitope Corporation*, and *Schering-Plough Oncology* did not renew their Corporate Memberships for 2008.

Publications, Services, & Surveys

ASCO's continued dedication to enhancing the overall quality of cancer care is furthered with the publication of its most recent educational tool for oncologists, the *ASCO Self-Evaluation Program* (ASCO-SEP). Designed to keep physicians abreast of developments in various areas of oncology, ASCO-SEP provides an up-to-date overview of cancer, its treatment, and the supportive care needed to optimize quality of life of patients with cancer. Price and purchasing information can be found in the ASCO Bookstore (at www.asco.org/ASCO/ASCO+Bookstore).

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.

The *American Society of Hematology* (ASH) offers many tools to help keep practicing hematologists/oncologists up-to-date on the latest advances in the field. To help practitioners easily locate the resources they need, **ASH has created the *Practitioner Toolkit***. Obtain your *Toolkit* via e-mail to snunes@hematology.org.

The July issue of *The Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network* (Volume 6, Number 6) features the updated NCCN *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology Cancer- and Chemotherapy-Induced Anemia and Hodgkin Disease/Lymphoma*. Visit www.nccn.org/JNCCN/default.asp for more information.

The July 2008 issue of *Oncology Business Review* features articles on the ASCO 2008 *Annual Meeting*, Medicare policies and ESA use and payment, and biomarkers. Visit www.oncbiz.com for more information.

The July (Vol. 4, Issue 4) issue of ASCO's *Journal of Oncology Practice* features articles on barriers to clinical trial enrollment, the 2007 national practice benchmark survey, and financial management in oncology practice. Visit www.jopasco.org for more information.

The *Quality Oncology Practice Initiative* (QOPI) is a practice-based quality improvement program developed by ASCO volunteers. QOPI includes a set of quality measures, a specified chart selection methodology, a secure system for data entry, automated data analysis and reporting, and a network of resources for improvement. Twice a year, staff at participating practices conduct a retrospective review of patient charts. Following every data collection period, the QOPI system generates a report for each practice. QOPI data can be used to satisfy the practice performance improvement requirement for *ABIM Maintenance of Certification*. Register for QOPI at www.asco.org/QOPI.