

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 August 29th. 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.]

Several pieces of cancer-related legislation have been introduced into the Congress recently. The *Oncology Care Quality Improvement Act of 2008 (HR6725)* would develop a pilot program to examine how evidence-based clinical pathways implemented using electronic medical records (EMRs) can improve Medicare patient care 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.

outcomes. A three-year voluntary program created by HR6725 includes the adoption of clinical, evidence-based cancer treatment protocols. The program will examine the benefits of using treatment protocols and EMRs for the Medicare program through the lens of at least six cancer sites, including colon, ovarian, lung, and breast cancer. The program implementation is expected to provide Medicare beneficiaries with better quality cancer care combined with the minimization of unnecessary treatments and services. Participating providers will be incentivized to reduce Medicare spending by at least 5% for these six diagnoses while increasing quality of care. Quality will be measured by adherence to evidence-based pathways. Providers that lower Medicare spending by 5% for the six cancers in the demonstration project will be paid a 5% bonus as an incentive. *The Comparative Effectiveness Research Act of 2008 (S3408) would create a public-private Health Care Comparative Effectiveness Research Institute* to “review evidence and produce new information on how diseases, disorders, and other health conditions can be treated to achieve the best clinical outcome for patients.” The *Institute* would be responsible for setting national priorities and would contract with NIH, the *Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality*, and private entities to conduct peer-reviewed research studies that answer the most pressing questions about what works in health care.

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’s summary of the provisions that are of relevance to oncologists 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).

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has ordered AMGEN and Ortho Biotech to issue revised labels for ESAs. The FDA has mandated the following changes to the label:

- ESAs are no longer indicated for patients receiving myelosuppressive chemotherapy if the anticipated treatment

outcome is cure. They remain indicated when myelosuppressive chemotherapy is intended for palliation.

- ESAs should not be initiated if the patient's hemoglobin is above 10g/dL.

Further, the label change specifies that ESA treatment should target the lowest hemoglobin concentration that will avoid transfusion, removes "...or exceeds 12g/dL" as an upper range for ESA use, and removes language that allowed earlier initiation of ESAs, or treatment to higher hemoglobin targets, if the patient cannot tolerate anemia due to a co-morbid condition.

AMGEN and Ortho Biotech have finalized the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved changes in the labeling information for the ESA class of drugs including Aranesp (darbepoetin alfa), EPOGEN (Epoetin alfa), and Procrit (Epoetin alfa). These changes include modifications to the BOXED WARNINGS, INDICATIONS AND USAGE, and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATIONS sections for cancer patients on chemotherapy. *AMGEN and Ortho Biotech* are informing healthcare professionals about the revisions to the U. S. prescribing information through a joint *Dear Healthcare Professional* letter. In addition to communicating the changes in the labeling, the letter also includes information about the new FDA Medication Guide and Patient Instruction requirements for the ESA class of drugs. The letter, updated prescribing information, Medication Guide, and Patient Instructions are posted on www.aranesp.com and www.procrit.com.

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/MLNMMattersArticles/downloads/MM6104.pdf). For complete information on PQRI, including teleconference materials, 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 on 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.

The steps for individual eligible professionals to access their 2007 PQRI Feedback Reports Personally is outlined at www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/SE0830.pdf; for organizations, it is outlined at www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/SE0831.pdf. IACS *Quick Reference Guides* may be found at www.cms.hhs.gov/IACS/04_Provider_Community.asp.

Electronic health records (EHRs) are powerful tools that can streamline practice management and reduce errors in patient care. Members of ASCO's *EHR Workgroup* have provided commentary on several EHR topics via PodCast, as follows:

- An Overview of ASCO's EHR Goals and Activities
- Using the EHR to Promote Quality of Care and Patient Safety
- EHRs in Practice and EHR Vendors
- Implementation Issues and Tips
- Promoting ASCO's Clinical Guidelines in EHRs
- Technology Advances and EHR Trends

Listen to these PodCasts at www.asco.org/ASCO/Practice+Resources/Electronic+Health+Records/EHR+Events/Electronic+Health+Records+%28EHR%29+Lab+at+the+2008+Annual+Meeting?cpsextcurrchannel=1. In addition, ASCO has developed *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*.

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:

- In order to address the opposition of the *Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)* and release ANCO/MOASC's sponsored bill from the *Senate Appropriations Committee* suspense file, AB2440 was amended to have a narrower scope than its original version and will now require DHCS to update and publish new ICD-9 codes by the Federal

deadline of October 1st. AB2440 has bipartisan support and has passed in both Houses of the Legislature and awaits the Governor's signature.

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.

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.]

The July 2008 version of the *Evaluation & Management Services Guide*, which provides evaluation and management services information about medical record documentation, *International Classification of Diseases* and *Current Procedural Terminology* codes, and key elements of service, is now available on the CMS Medicare Learning Network at www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/eval_mgmt_serv_guide.pdf. CMS has also 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.

NHIC/Medicare's July 15th webinar on **Provider Enrollment NPI Troubleshooting** is now available at www.medicarenhic.com/providers/online/providerEnrollment/enroll_trblsht/enroll_trblsht.html. This program will walk you through the issues and give you instructions for correcting any problems you are having related to NPIs. According to CMA, **Medicare payments for thousands of Northern California physicians are at risk due to NPI/PTAN matching problems.** Affected are physicians who work for or contract with groups in Northern California and need to submit an updated 855R form to reassign their Medicare payments to their group(s). CMA has learned that some physicians who have already submitted the proper paperwork are still not being paid, largely because of a backlog of reenrollment forms from Northern California physicians. If your Medicare payments have been denied or delayed, first check the CMS's list of top NPI-related error codes (available at www.calphys.org/html/cc714.asp, including instructions on how to correct the errors.) If your payment problems are not related to these common billing errors, and you believe you are among those physicians affected by the group reassignment issue, please call CMA's Reimbursement Helpline, (888) 401-5911. CMA may be able to help expedite the enrollment process and get your payments back on track. **Palmetto/J1MAC will request your legacy identifier information when a one-to-one match is not found for your NPI and your PTAN (or Medicare legacy number).** When a one-to-one match for your NPI/PTAN combination cannot be determined, development letters are generated. For information on the Palmetto/J1MAC process, please visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/DocsCat/NPI%20Development%20Letters%3A%20Rendering%20and%20Billing%20PTANs%20Needed?opendocument.

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:

- **Transition updates** at www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/DocsCat/Attention%20Part%20B%20Providers%20in%20California%20-%20Segment%203%20Transition%20Information?opendocument
- **A cutover article for Segment 3 (California) Part B providers** at [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/J1.nsf/files/Segment_3_Cutover_Article.pdf/\\$File/Segment_3_Cutover_Article.pdf?Open&cat=Publications](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/J1.nsf/files/Segment_3_Cutover_Article.pdf/$File/Segment_3_Cutover_Article.pdf?Open&cat=Publications)
- **A provider resource checklist** at [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/J1.nsf/files/ProviderResourceChecklist.pdf/\\$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 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 update pages 90-91 discussing off-label chemotherapy use. The current online edition has updated pages 90-91.)
- **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*)
- **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)

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).

Beginning September 1st, DHCS/MediCal 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 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/MediCal currently accepts the NPI on all paper and electronic claims and transactions.

To comply with the Federally mandated NPI utilization date of May 23rd, providers should be using their NPI instead of a legacy provider number. Providers who are not ready to submit DHCS/MediCal claims using an NPI are out of compliance. However, **DHCS/MediCal will continue to accept legacy provider numbers through September 30th.** Providers that have registered their NPI but have not submitted claims using their NPI will not, at this time, experience interruption in payments for claims submitted with a legacy provider number.

Effective October 1st, claims submitted with a legacy provider number will be denied.

Additional information is included in an article entitled *Complete Implementation of NPIs* updated on the NPI webpage on July 25th at files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/npi/npi.asp. Please call the Telephone Service Center (TSC) at (800) 541-5555 for more information.

EDUCATION

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

Palmetto GBA General Transition Updates and Part B Claims Update

MOASC invites ANCO members to participate in a teleconference with Palmetto/J1MAC on Thursday, August 21st at 10:30AM. Pat Boardley, Palmetto/J1MAC *Manager of Customer Service*, and Margo Simpson, Palmetto/J1MAC *Provider Outreach and Education*, will present the latest transition information. Register via e-mail to moasc@moasc.org by August 20th to receive the

teleconference information and materials.

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.

Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) in Adults and the National Action Plan

ANCO will host an evening clinical education dinner meeting entitled *Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) in Adults and the National Action Plan* with W. Archie Bleyer, M.D., on Wednesday, October 1st, at *The Claremont Resort* in Oakland, and Thursday, October 2nd, at the *Hyatt Regency* in Sacramento. Dr. Bleyer will discuss the disparity in progress of ALL therapy between children and adults; the primary reason for ALL deficit in adolescents and young adults; the basis for the new intergroup trial for 15-30 year-olds with B-precursor ALL; and, relate the deficit to ALL strategies underway in California, other states, and other countries. This meeting is being supported by *Enzon Pharmaceuticals*. The meeting announcement/registration form is being mailed August 15th and may be downloaded at www.anco-online.org/bleyer.pdf.

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.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* teleconferenced on August 13th to discuss and/or act upon the following issues:

- National and California advocacy issues
- Clinical and professional education meetings
- Corporate Member meeting report

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 October 16th. 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 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

Changed Joel Anne Chasis, M.D., Charles L. Hoffman, M.D.

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.

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. *Clariant Diagnostics*, *Genitope Corporation*, and *Schering-*

Plough Oncology did not renew their Corporate Memberships for 2008.

Abraxis Oncology informs ANCO that the ***Abraxis Patient Assistance Program (APAP)*** income guidelines have increased from a gross family household income of \$75,000 to \$100,000. This program change was effective on July 14th for both uninsured and under insured Abraxane patients.

Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology informs ANCO that the ***United States Food and Drug Administration*** has approved **Sprycel** as a 100mg tablet. The new tablet supports the recently FDA-approved Sprycel 100mg starting dose for chronic phase chronic myeloid leukemia treatment. The new tablet was available the first week in July.

Celgene informs ANCO that according to a research study on patient assistance programs recently published in the *Oncology Business Review*, oncologists identified ***Celgene*** as being tied for #2 for having the best program in the industry.

Ortho Biotech announced that it is voluntarily recalling one manufacturing lot (P114942A) of **Procrit** after having identified cracks in the necks of a small number of vials upon post-manufacturing inspection. No other lot of this product is affected by this recall. Approximately 44,292 vials of lot P114942A in the following packaging configurations were distributed between April 15th and July 17th:

- **NDC: 59676-312-00**
Individual multi-dose vials of Procrit
10,000 U/2mL
Lot Number: P114942A
Expiration Date: 12/10
- **NDC: 59676-312-04**
Cartons containing 4 multi-dose vials of Procrit 10,000 U/2mL
Lot Number: P114942A
Expiration Date: 12/10

Vials exhibiting even slight cracks may not maintain their sterile condition and should not be used for subcutaneous or intravenous injection. Procrit vials from the above recalled lot should be promptly returned by contacting the returned goods service provider at (800) 668-4391.

Healthcare providers and patients with questions about this recall notice can contact the ***Ortho Biotech Medical Information Department*** at (888) 227-5624, Monday through Friday, 8:30AM to 5:00P EDT.

OTN/Onmark, McKesson Specialty Companies, will host their monthly legislative call on Tuesday, August 19th at 1PM and Wednesday, August 20th at 10AM. Call (877) 718-5107 to participate. Discussion items will include CMS updates on held claims, CAP, 2007 PQRI reports, and ESA label revisions.

US Oncology Physician Services will host its next ***Oncology Practice Education Series*** webcast on Thursday, August 21st at 12PM. Randy Farber will discuss *The Efficient Oncology Practice*. For more information and to register, visit www.opspharmacist.com

Patient News

Established in 1992, the ***National Bone Marrow Transplant Link*** (nbmtLINK) helps patients, as well as their caregivers, families and the health care community meet the many challenges of bone marrow/stem cell transplant (BMT) by providing vital information and support services. The nbmtLINK has three original publications tailored to the needs of individuals affected by BMT—*Caregivers' Guide for Bone Marrow/Stem Cell Transplant: Practical Perspectives*; *Resource Guide for Stem Cell Transplant, Including Bone Marrow, Peripheral Blood, and Cord Blood*; and *Survivors' Guide for Bone Marrow/Stem Cell Transplant: What to Expect and How to Get Through It*. On the organization's website, visitors can search the Online BMT Library and watch webcasts on spousal caregiving and coping with chronic Graft vs. Host Disease (cGvHD). The nbmtLINK also hosts a *cGvHD Telephone Education and Support Group* in conjunction with staff from the *National Institutes of Health*. Please call (800) 546-5268 or email info@nbmtlink.org for more information or to find out how you can help.