

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 sent to member practices (via FAX) and Corporate Member contacts (via e-mail). The next regular *ANCO FAX News* will be published on February 1st. Comments on and contributions to the *ANCO FAX News* are always welcome and encouraged at ANCO, P.O. Box 151109, San Rafael, CA 94915-1109; Voice: (415) 472-3960; FAX: (415) 472-3961; execdir@anco-online.org.

ADVOCACY

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

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

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

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

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

**There is information in the
ANCO FAX News
for every member of your practice
or organization.
Pass it along!**

- Physician Members
- Nurses & Office Managers
- Office Staff
- Colleagues & Representatives

The *Association of Northern California Oncologists* (ANCO) is an association of hematologists/oncologists dedicated to promoting high professional standards of cancer care by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas, data, and knowledge.

The material contained in the *ANCO FAX News* is intended as general information for ANCO members. Because diagnostic, treatment, contracting, coding, and billing decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis, any such information contained in the *ANCO FAX News* may not apply in any given situation. Members are encouraged to contact their own consultants or advisors to obtain specific advice on matters relating to contracting, coding, and billing. The information contained in the *ANCO FAX News* should not be used as a substitute for such advice.

effect at that time. In summary, S2499:

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

Since there was a change to the 2008 Medicare *Physician Fee Schedule*, CMS is extending the participation decision period an additional 45 days through February 15th. All participating status changes will be effective retroactive to January 1st. To become a participating physician, complete Form CMS-460 by February 15th. If you are changing your participation status to non-participating, please send your request in a letter to your local contractor, post-marked by February 15th.

CMS posted three important transmittals regarding coverage and payment for ESAs on January 16th. In summary:

1. Transmittal 1412 (**Reporting of Hematocrit or Hemoglobin Levels on All Claims for the Administration of ESAs, Implementation of New Modifiers for Non-ESRD Indications, and Reporting of Hematocrit/Hemoglobin Levels on all Non-ESRD, Non-ESA Claims Requesting Payment for Anti-Anemia Drugs**; www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R1412CP.pdf) makes effective a statutory requirement that all claims submitted for ESAs include reporting of hematocrit/hemoglobin. While Medicare contractors have until April 7th to prepare their systems, physicians MUST report on hematocrit/hemoglobin effective January 1st. ASCO will seek clarification from CMS on whether claims that have already

been submitted since January 1st must be resubmitted with this information. This transmittal also requires reporting of one of the following three new HCPCS modifiers on claims for ESAs:

EA—ESA administered to treat anemia due to anti-cancer chemotherapy.

EB—ESA administered to treat anemia due to anti-cancer radiotherapy.

EC—ESA administered to treat anemia not due to anti-cancer radiotherapy or anti-cancer chemotherapy.

The transmittal implements a CMS requirement that hematocrit/hemoglobin be reported in conjunction with claims for all anti-anemia drugs, not just ESAs.

2. Transmittal 1413 (**Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents (ESAs) in Cancer and Related Neoplastic Conditions**; www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R1413CP.pdf) provides instructions to carriers on the implementation of the July 30th ESA NCD. Carriers have until April 7th to implement the instructions. The effective date for the NCD policy continues to be July 30th, 2007, however.

3. Transmittal 80 (**Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents (ESAs) in Cancer and Related Neoplastic Conditions**; www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R80NCD.pdf) updates the Medicare *National Coverage Determinations Manual* to reflect provisions of the July 30th, 2007 ESA NCD.

A CMS/Medicare article on ESA claims submission requirements is now available at www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5699.pdf; in addition, NHIC/Medicare has prepared an article on the local implementation of these CMS transmittals (see below).

CMS's Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) establishes a financial incentive for eligible professionals to participate in a voluntary quality-reporting program. Eligible professionals who successfully report a designated set of quality measures on claims may earn a lump sum bonus

payment. You do not need to enroll to participate in the program. You must report the appropriate quality measure data on claims using G-codes and/or CPT codes. For complete information on PQRI, including a User Guide, Tool Kit for successful reporting, beneficiary letters, FAQs, and presentation materials from recent national provider calls, visit a newly reorganized (to facilitate access and navigation) www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI. For specific information on the 2008 PQRI, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/downloads/2008PQRIMPFSummary.pdf. 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 web site (www.asco.org/pqri) to include relevant links and a table of oncology-related measures.** The table includes links to AMA-developed worksheets and may be especially helpful in guiding practices' decision making regarding participation and measure reporting. As the 2008 PQRI program launched January 1st, practices choosing to participate must select measures and initiate claims-based reporting as soon as possible. Oncologists should note that the codes and specifications for 2008 PQRI measures 71 (Hormonal therapy for stage IC-III, ER/PR positive breast cancer), 72 (Chemotherapy for stage III colon cancer), and 73 (Plan for chemotherapy documented before administration) have changed and the 2007 codes for those measures can no longer be reported.

An additional election period for the 2008 Medicare Part B Drug *Competitive Acquisition Program* (CAP) will began on January 15th and will conclude on February 15th. The CAP is a voluntary program that offers physicians the option to acquire many injectable and infused drugs they use in their practice from an approved CAP vendor, thus reducing the time they spend buying and billing for drugs. This additional election period is for physicians who have not already elected to participate in the CAP for 2008. Effective dates of participation for physicians who elect to join the CAP during this additional election period will be April 1st to December 31st. Once a physician has elected to participate in CAP, they must obtain all drugs on

the CAP drug list from the CAP drug vendor. Physicians can still continue to purchase and bill Medicare under the *Average Sale Price* (ASP) system for those drugs that are not provided by the physician's CAP vendor. Additional information about the CAP is available at www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcquisforBios/01_overview.asp. The designated CAP carrier (*Noridian Administrative Services* or NAS) will hold a 2008 Additional Election Ask the Contractor Teleconference on January 23rd at 1PM. Prospective CAP physicians will have an opportunity to learn more about the CAP and NAS staff will be available to answer questions. The call number is (888) 830-6260 (passcode 463742). A slide presentation to accompany the 2008 Additional Election Teleconference will be posted at www.noridianmedicare.com/cap_drug/train/act.html at least one day prior to the teleconference.

CMS has delayed until January 1st, 2009, the date of applicability of the anti-markup provisions described in the 2008 Medicare Final *Physician Fee Schedule*. The new rule would apply when a physician bills for a purchased diagnostic test or bills for a diagnostic test for which the professional or technical component was performed at a site other than the physician's office. If the test was purchased, the Medicare payment to the physician (including coinsurance and deductible) could not exceed the net charge that the physician paid for it. If either the technical component or the professional component were furnished outside the physician's office, then the anti-markup provision would apply to that component. In response to concerns from ASCO, the AMA, and other medical specialty societies, CMS has postponed implementation of the rule until January 1st, 2009 with the exception of its applicability to "anatomic pathology diagnostic testing services furnished in space that: (1) is utilized by a physician group practice as a 'centralized building'...and (2) does not qualify as a 'same building'" under the regulations. Also exempted from the delay is the provision that prohibits mark-up of the technical component of purchased diagnostic tests.

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 January 2008 quarterly update for the *Average Sales Price (ASP) Medicare Part B drugs pricing file.*

Members may also call/e-mail ASCO's billing and coding hotline at (703) 299-1054/practice@asco.org for up-to-date information on changes in coding for drug administration services, as well as billing and payments for drugs.

CMA, MOASC, and State Legislative & Regulatory Issues

[*Editor's Note:* ANCO and the *Medical Oncology Association of Southern California (MOASC)* are members of the *California Medical Association's (CMA) House of Delegates* and *Council on Legislation*. ANCO and MOASC coordinate advocacy activities in California.]

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

- The state's fiscal emergency demands \$3B in cuts this year and \$14B for the upcoming budget. To help accomplish this, the *Governor* has proposed eliminating \$1.1B in state funds from DHS/MediCal, in part through a 10% provider rate cut that would recover \$33.4M in FY2008 and \$602.4M in FY2009. After the state collects income tax revenue later this spring, the *Governor* will issue a revision of this budget based on those new numbers. However, tax projections do not seem favorable and an increase in state revenue is not expected. Therefore, the *Governor's* May revision will likely still contain devastating cuts.

The **California Oncology Political Action Committee** (or CalCancerPAC), formed by ANCO and MOASC, supports candidates sensitive to the needs of hematologists/oncologists and people living with cancer in California. ANCO

membership dues include a contribution to CalCancerPAC.

NHIC/Medicare, DHS/MediCal, & Private Payors

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

NHIC/Medicare published updated Medicare Physician Fee Schedules for January through June on its website on Thursday, January 3rd.

The updated fee schedules include the .5% increase to the *Physician Fee Schedule* conversion factor. Since there is a change in the fee schedule, CMS is extending the participation enrollment period for an additional 45 days to February 15th.

Effective January 1st, there are new claims submission requirements for the administration of physician administered anti-anemia drugs of ESAs (J0881, J0882, J0885, J0886 or Q4081) used in the treatment of cancer. **The hematocrit or hemoglobin level should be reported in item 19 of the Form CMS-1500.** For electronic claims (837P), providers should report the hemoglobin or hematocrit readings in Loop 2400 MEA segment (i.e., MEA01=TR (for test results; MEA02=R1 (for hemoglobin), or R2 (for hematocrit); and, MEA03=the test results). The test results shall be entered as follows: TR= test results (slash), R1=hemoglobin, or R2=hematocrit (slash), and the most current numeric test result figure up to 3 numerics and a decimal point[xx.x]). For example, for hemoglobin tests, TR/R1/9.0; for example, for hematocrit tests, TR/R2/27.0. **Effective January 1st, all non-ESRD claims billing HCPCS J0881 and J0885 must also begin reporting one of the following modifiers:**

Modifier EA—ESA, anemia, chemo-induced

Modifier EB—ESA, anemia, radio-induced

Modifier EC—ESA, anemia, non-chemo/radio

ESAs administered for more than one of the indicated therapies are to be billed as separate line items. Only one of the three ESA modifiers may be reported at the line item level. Providers

should continue to utilize modifier EJ to report subsequent administrations of ESAs.

NHIC/Medicare recently performed a mass adjustment on provider claims for J0881 (darbepoetin) submitted for Q1/2 2007 services. The mass adjustment was due to an adjustment in the ASP for darbepoetin. Providers should have received their adjustment on or before December 14th, 2007.

NHIC/Medicare's Monthly Medical Oncology Message follows:

You commonly receive the message *Claim not covered by this payer/contractor. You must send the claim to the correct payer/contractor. (CO192)* when the records of the Common Working File (CWF) reflect that the beneficiary is covered under an HMO. When this occurs you have to contact the beneficiary to obtain the correct information regarding the payer and eligibility and re-bill the appropriate party. To protect your business, we suggest that you verify eligibility with your patient annually. For new and existing patients, make every attempt to obtain the complete and most up-to-date information from the beneficiary or their family prior to rendering services. Once information is received you can verify the patient's eligibility by using our IVR (Interactive Voice Recognition) system, or through the 270/271 eligibility transaction available through our EDI department.

NHIC/Medicare recently mailed invitations to its Spring workshops. Unfortunately, due to a printer's error, the Northern California invitations contained the Southern California locations, and vice versa. Correct invitations are posted to their website, and they encourage providers to visit www.medicarenhic.com/cal_prov/seminars.shtml to register for the workshop of their choice.

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

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

DHS/MediCal has published various bulletin articles regarding the new billing requirements prohibiting use of Social Security Numbers (SSN). Effective for dates of service on or after February 1st most providers may no longer bill DHS/MediCal or the *Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP)* program using a recipient's SSN. Claims submitted with a recipient's SSN for a date of service on or after February 1st will be denied using RAD code 0046: *Social Security Number (SSN) not permitted for billing MediCal*. All providers are expected to use the 14-character DHS/MediCal identification number from the recipient's Benefits Identification Card (BIC) or paper ID card when submitting claims. The ID number is located on the front of the card and consists of a 9-digit Client Index Number, a Check Digit and a 4-digit issue date. The issue date is used to deactivate cards that have been reported as lost or stolen. Should any questions arise regarding this matter, please contact the DHS/MediCal Telephone Service Center (TSC) at (800) 541-5555.

DHS/MediCal records indicate that almost 50% of providers have not registered their NPIs. As a result, electronic claims submitted through Computer Media Claims (CMC) cannot be accepted for processing. **To ensure uninterrupted claim payments, all providers must register their NPI with DHS/MediCal as soon as possible.** Notifications are being made to the submitters, billers, and/or clearinghouses; however, it is the provider's responsibility to ensure their NPI is registered with DHS/MediCal. Once NPI registration is completed, claims previously submitted without NPIs must be submitted again. Providers can register their NPI with DHS/MediCal using the National Provider Identifier Collection (NPIC) tool on the DHS/MediCal website or through hardcopy or bulk registration. Providers who obtained subpart NPIs from NPPES must register each NPI with the appropriate DHS/MediCal provider number at a one-to-one ratio. Failure to use the corresponding NPI registered for a DHS/MediCal provider number may result in

denial of claims. For more information or assistance please contact the NPI Helpdesk at (800) 541-5555 (option 16 and then option 18 for NPI registration).

EDUCATION

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

San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Highlights 2007

ANCO's *San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Highlights 2007* took place on Wednesday evening, January 9th at the *Hotel Nikko* in San Francisco. Faculty from *Stanford* (Kathleen Horst, M.D., Ph.D.), *UC Davis* (Richard J. Bold, M.D.), and *UC San Francisco* (Michelle Melisko, M.D., and Hope S. Rugo, M.D.) reviewed the clinically most important research results presented at December's *Symposium*. This meeting was moderated by Hope S. Rugo, M.D., *UC San Francisco*, and accredited by *Indiana University*. The presentations are now available at www.anco-online.org/sabcs.html.

ASH Highlights 2007

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

ASCO's 2008 Genitourinary Cancers Symposium

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

Society of Urologic Oncology. Visit www.asco.org/meetings for more information.

ACCC's 34th Annual National Meeting: Quality Cancer Care—Strategies and Solutions

The *Association of Community Cancer Centers* (ACCC's) *34 Annual National Meeting* will take place April 2nd-5th at the *Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel*. Are you contemplating your next move to enhance quality cancer care, improve quality reporting, and bolster efficiencies? Are you looking for innovative strategies to better serve your patients, your staff, and your community? Then attending ACCC's *34th Annual National Meeting: Quality Cancer Care—Strategies and Solutions* is the only game in town. Register today at www.accc-cancer.org/meetings/meetings_annual08.asp

ASCO Annual Meeting

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

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

January 23rd
Treatment Update on Sarcoma
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

January 30th
Update on Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML) from the American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

February 4-6th
CHF Regulatory Boot Camp
 California Hospice Foundation
 San Diego

February 8-9th
Colorectal Cancer: New Frontiers in Surveillance, Diagnosis, and Treatment
 John Muir Cancer Institute
 Walnut Creek

February 15th
Caring for Your Bones When You Have Lung Cancer
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

February 16-19th
28th Annual Conference: Clinical Hematology and Oncology 2008
 Scripps Cancer Center
 San Diego

February 19th
I Have Had Many Treatments for Metastatic Breast Cancer: What's New For Me?
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

February 20th
Medical Update on Bladder Cancer
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

March 1st
8th Annual Allison Taylor Brooks/Barbara Jo Johnson Breast Cancer Conference
 Northern California Cancer Center
 San Francisco

March 5th
Living with Metastatic Colorectal Cancer: Update from the 2008 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

March 7th
Advances in the Treatment of Dry Mouth (Xerostomia)
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

March 11th
Caring for Your Bones When You Have Prostate

Cancer
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

March 13th
Treatment Update on Glioblastoma
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

March 19th
Questions and Answers About Managing Chemotherapy-Related Anemia
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

April 2nd
Caring for Your Bones When You Have Multiple Myeloma
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

April 2nd-5th
34th Annual National Meeting
Quality Cancer Care: Strategies and Solutions
 Association of Community Cancer Centers
 Baltimore

April 11th
Caring for Your Bones When You Have Breast Cancer
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

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

MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES & BENEFITS

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

ANCO On-Line

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

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

- survey reports, publications, and ListServ.
- clinical trials information.
- links to affiliated organizations.
- updated physician, nurse, manager, and patient resources.

Benefits

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

- **McKesson Specialty Oncology Services** (formerly *National Oncology Alliance* or NOA); contact Scot Wagner at (866) 466-2462 or swagner@noainc.com; or Patrick Walsh at (415) 793-8736 or patrick.walsh@mckesson.com)
- **Oncology Pharmaceutical Services (OPS)**, a division of *US Oncology*; contact Sean Taylor at (415) 235-4673 or sean.taylor@usoncology.com
- **Oncology Supply (OS)/International Oncology Network (ION)**; contact Doug Storer at (650) 219-9282 or douglas.storer@iononline.com; or Paul Sullivan at (602) 391-9166 or paul.sullivan@iononline.com
- **Onmark/OTN**; contact Jennifer Semanik at (415) 497-2750 or Tony Policani at (509) 995-0280 or anthony.policani@otnnet.com; or Monique Weston at (650) 871-2108 or monique.weston@onmarkservices.com

Onmark presents a webcast entitled *Oncology Reimbursement in 2008: Understand How Changes Will Affect Your Practice* on Tuesday, January 22nd (at 9AM) and Wednesday, January 24th (at 12PM). The webcasts will cover 2008 oncology coding updates, drug administration coding review, 2008 *Physician Fee Schedule* changes, PQRI, and practice administrator perspectives. Enroll for these webcasts at www.onmarkservices.com (Events).

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* met on January 9th to discuss and/or act upon the following issues:

- Diamond Level Corporate Member issues
- 2007 *Annual Election* results
- Election of *Officers* (Richard A. Bohannon, M.D., *President*; Norman Cohen, M.D., *Vice President*; Bradley Ekstrand, M.D., *Secretary*; L. Wayne Keiser, M.D., *Treasurer*)
- 2008 *Presidential* initiatives
- ANCO's 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 February 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

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

The ANCO Directory of Members 2007 was published and mailed to ANCO physician members; nurse and office manager contacts; and, Corporate Member representatives at the end of June 2007. Additional copies are available from the ANCO office upon request. Please verify your *Directory* entry and contact the ANCO office

with any corrections, additions, and/or deletions. The next *Directory* will be published in June 2008.

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

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Institutional Member News

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

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

For information on **continuing medical education meetings organized by our**

Institutional Members, please visit:

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

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

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

Corporate Member News

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

*Abraxis Oncology • Alexion Pharmaceutical
AMGEN • AstraZeneca
Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals
biogenIDEC
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology
Celgene • Cephalon Oncology
Clariant Diagnostics • Eisai
Enzon Pharmaceuticals*

Genentech BioOncology
Genotope Corporation • Genomic Health
Genzyme Oncology • Hospira
ImClone Systems
Lash Group Healthcare Consultants
Lilly Oncology
McKesson Specialty Oncology Services
MGI Pharma • Millennium
Novartis Oncology
Oncology Pharmaceutical Services
Oncology Supply/ION • Onmark
Ortho Biotech • OSI Pharmaceuticals • OTN
Pfizer Oncology • Pharmion
Roche Oncology • Sanofi Aventis Oncology
Schering-Plough Oncology • Vidacare

We especially wish to thank and welcome *ImClone Systems* as a new Corporate Member in 2008.

AMGEN informs ANCO that Vectibix (panitumumab) has a new HCPCS code (J9303, 10mg) effective January 1st.

Genomic Health informs ANCO that Oncotype DX, used to predict the likelihood of disease recurrence and the likelihood of chemotherapy benefit for a large portion of early-stage breast cancer patients, has been included in the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) 2008 Breast Cancer Treatment Guidelines. These guidelines are published online at www.nccn.org.

Clinical Trial News

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

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

Publications, Services, & Surveys

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

The January (Vol. 4, Issue 1) issue of ASCO's *Journal of Oncology Practice* features articles on patient guides and ASCO's clinical practice guidelines, ASCO's library of treatment plans and summaries, ASCO and EHRs, MGMA's AOHA, and updated ASCO ESA guidelines. Visit www.jopasco.org to view these articles.

Membership Dues for 2008

Membership renewal notices for 2008 were mailed to all members in early December. Return your 2008 membership dues to ANCO to ensure your inclusion in *The ANCO Directory of Members 2008*. Be sure to provide ANCO with the name(s) of office and/or nurse manager contact(s). Those not renewing their membership by June 1st will be deleted from the *Directory of Members*, and will no longer be eligible for any ANCO benefits. Contact the ANCO office if you did not receive or misplaced your membership dues renewal notice.

ANCO seeks new members. **All members of a practice should join ANCO.** Provide the ANCO office with the names and addresses of colleagues you would like invited to join ANCO.

A larger ANCO is a stronger ANCO!