

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 October 10th. Send your comments or contributions to ANCO, P.O. Box 151109, San Rafael, CA 94915-1109; Voice: (415) 472-3960; FAX: (415) 472-3961; execdir@anco-online.org.

ADVOCACY

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

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

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

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

The *Competitive Acquisition Program (CAP)* will not be available in 2009. CMS will provide guidance for participating physicians on how to transition out of the program at www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcquisforBios/02_infophys.asp. The program never proved popular among physicians or vendors. Just 4,000

**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.

physicians are participating out of a potential 200,000. Conceived in 2003, the program allows physicians to obtain a drug from an approved vendor, rather than purchasing it from a distributor and then be reimbursed by Medicare. The vendor is responsible for billing Medicare for the drug, collecting the coinsurance from the beneficiary, and other administrative tasks. Under the current program, physicians could obtain close to 200 drugs, many of them injectables, on the CAP drug list. Physicians had to maintain separate inventories of CAP-acquired drugs and could not withdraw from the program except under special circumstances.

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)

ASCO sent [letters](http://www.asco.org/ASCO/ArticleASCO/Cancer%20Policy%20and%20Clinical%20Affairs/Policy/MMA%20Regulation%20&%20Resources/Off-Label%20Letter%20to%20Contractors.pdf) (available at www.asco.org/ASCO/ArticleASCO/Cancer%20Policy%20and%20Clinical%20Affairs/Policy/MMA%20Regulation%20&%20Resources/Off-Label%20Letter%20to%20Contractors.pdf) to all of the Medicare Part B *Carrier Medical Directors* and Part A/B *Medicare Administrative Contractor Medical Directors* on updates to the list of authoritative compendia used to determine off-label coverage of drugs used in anti-cancer chemotherapy regimens. ASCO urged the *Contractor Medical Directors* to start referencing the newly listed compendia without delay to ensure patient access to appropriate off-label therapies.

Beginning March 3rd and prior to March 1st, 2009 Medicare will accept either the current *Advance Beneficiary Notice* (ABN-G or L) or the revised ABN as valid notification. However, beginning March 1st, 2009, Medicare contractors will

accept only a properly executed revised ABN (CMS R-131) as valid notification. Visit www.cms.hhs.gov/bni/ for more information.

CMS's Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) provides 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. There are several new reporting options and incentive payments for physicians participating in the PQRI (see www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6104.pdf). For complete information on PQRI, including teleconference materials, qualified registries for data submission, quick reference charts, user guides, tool kits for successful reporting, updated submission methodologies, beneficiary letters, fact sheets, and FAQs, visit the recently updated 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.**

The 2007 PQRI Final Feedback Reports are available on a secure website. Two *MLN Matters* articles on accessing the reports are now available that can assist individual eligible professionals and group practices that reported valid 2007 PQRI quality measures data to Medicare. The reports are organized by *Tax Identification Number* (TIN). For eligible professionals reporting measures for 2007 PQRI under a group practice TIN, the group practice determines who can access the *Final Feedback Report* for the group practice or organization. The first article, "Steps for Individual Eligible Professionals to Access Their 2007 PQRI Feedback Reports Personally", SE0830, can be accessed at www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0830.pdf. The second article, "Steps for Organizations to Access Their 2007 PQRI Feedback Reports", SE0831, is available at www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0831.pdf. Once you are registered in the *Individuals Authorized Access to CMS Computer Services* (IACS) system and have access to the PQRI

feedback report application, any questions about the *Feedback Report* should be directed to the Report Delivery System Help Desk referenced at the end of the *MLN Matters* articles.

The House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee recently introduced legislation that would create a system of incentives for speedy adoption of health information technology and penalties for providers who delay. The incentive system would offer up to \$41,000 per physician to use electronic technologies for health records, prescriptions, and sharing data. Two other *Congressional* committees are working on health IT legislation.

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.
- The October 2008 quarterly update for the *Average Sales Price (ASP) Medicare Part B drugs pricing file*. There are a number of significant changes to drugs widely used in oncology practices (e.g., amifostine, carboplatin, bleomycin, etoposide, goserelin, granesitron, irinotecan, paclitaxel, pamidronate, vincristine).

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:

- Among the nearly 900 bills on the *Governor's* desk awaiting his signature or veto is AB1945 (De La Torre), commonly known as the "recission bill." It requires a health service plan or health insurer to receive approval of its regulator prior to rescinding, canceling, or limiting an enrollee's contract or policy; and, it would also authorize regulators to suspend or revoke the insurer or plan's

license if they are found to be in violation of this prohibition. The bill also authorizes the regulator to assess administrative penalties to the plan or insurer. The *Governor* has until the end of September to sign or veto this legislation.

Nursing homes, hospitals, clinics and other health providers will be among the first state contractors and vendors to receive payments that were delayed because of the state budget impasse. The *Governor* signed the budget on Tuesday, September 23rd and the *Controller* said that DHCS/MediCal payments to health care facilities would be the first to be processed.

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.

Palmetto/J1MAC, MediCal, & Private Payors

[Editor's Note: ANCO communicates regularly with Palmetto/J1MAC that administers the J1MAC (Medicare) in California, and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) that administers MediCal in California.]

NHIC/Medicare shifted full responsibility for Northern California Part B providers to Palmetto/J1MAC on September 2nd. For the latest information from Palmetto/J1MAC, visit www.palmettogba.com/j1b.

Several weeks into the transition of the administration of Medicare Part B from NHIC to Palmetto, the CMA has been informed that Palmetto's phone lines are overwhelmed and people are having a hard time getting through. According to Palmetto, the answers to the majority of callers' questions are readily available

on the website. Physicians and their staff are urged to check the FAQ on the Palmetto website before calling so that the phone lines are freed up for those with urgent payment issues. CMA has been in close contact with Palmetto during this transition and continues to have weekly calls to discuss physician concerns. Because physicians have complained of busy signals and long wait times when calling Palmetto, CMS has authorized Palmetto to hire 35 additional call center staff and add more telephone lines. In a few weeks, after these new staff are hired and trained, you should experience significantly less hold time and get fewer busy signals. Here are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions (and answers) regarding the transition (and additional FAQs can be found at www.palmettogba.com/j1b):

How can I find out the status of claims I submitted before transition? *To check the status of a claim, call Palmetto's Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system at (866) 931-3903. If you have questions about the IVR, please see the user guide at the Palmetto website.*

I early boarded (or sent my submitter application prior to August 15) but did not receive my submitter number. When will I get it? *All passwords were emailed to early boarders/registrants before the transition. Check your junk or spam mail for a message from medicare.edi@palmettogba.com. If you still cannot find your password, e-mail medicare.edi@palmettogba.com with "Resend Password" in the subject and someone will respond as soon as possible with that information.*

I just submitted a new EDI submitter application. How do I find out if Palmetto received it and when will I receive my submitter number? *When your application is processed, you will receive an e-mail containing your submitter number. Given the current backlog of applications, you can expect to receive your password within 20 days of submission. If after 20 days you have not received your password, check your junk or spam filter for a message from medicare.edi@palmettogba.com. If you*

still cannot find your password, e-mail medicare.edi@palmettogba.com with the subject line "Resend Password" and someone will respond as soon as possible with that information.

When can I expect to get payments from Palmetto? *All claims that were still pending at the time of the transition were transferred to Palmetto and will be processed as usual (14 day hold for electronic claims, 29 days for paper). Palmetto has assured CMA that the volume and amount of claims being processed on a daily basis has not changed since the transition.*

Where can I get Palmetto's addresses and phone numbers? *All contact information for Palmetto is available at www.palmettogba.com/J1B.*

I have had trouble getting through to Palmetto by phone. What is the best time to call? *Because of an unusually high call volume due to the transition, Palmetto is asking physicians to first read the FAQ on its website before calling. If you have an urgent payment issue, the best time to call Palmetto is between 7AM and 9AM (operating hours are 7AM to 5PM). For EDI/EFT related questions, call (866) 749-4301. For all other issues, call the main customer service line at (866) 931-3901.*

Several ANCO member practices have reported a lack of reimbursement from Palmetto/J1MAC for both claims originally submitted to NHIC/Medicare and to Palmetto/J1MAC (post transition). ANCO has discussed this situation with the *California Medical Association (CMA)* and with the *Palmetto/J1MAC Contractor Medical Director (CMD)*. CMA reports that this issue impacts all specialties, that the Palmetto/J1MAC payment floor expired on September 16th (i.e., they could not have paid any claims prior to that date), and that they have 30 days to pay electronic claims. The CMD has brought this situation to the attention of Palmetto's leadership and pledged to address it as soon as possible. In the meantime, ANCO has learned that some reimbursement has started to arrive at member practices. If your practice faces immediate and specific financial hardship, then please contact the ANCO office and we will

bring it to the attention of the CMA and Palmetto/J1MAC CMD.

Palmetto/J1MAC offers telephone claims correction. Do you need assistance to correct a simple error made on a claim? Please see the checklist at www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Providers~Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B~Resources~Appeals~Telephone%20Claim%20Correction%20Checklist?opendocument for the type of issues that can be corrected by telephone instead of filing a redetermination (1st level of appeal). Call (866) 669-5543, Monday-Friday, 7AM-3PM and be prepared to provide the provider's identifier and the patient's Medicare number, last name, and first initial. Three qualified requests are allowed per call.

The ICD-9-CM coding guidelines have been updated and are now available on the *National Center of Health Statistics Website* (www.cdc.gov/nchs/datawh/ftpser/ftpicd9/ftpicd9.htm#guidelines). Changes to ICD-9-CM go into effect October 1st.

An updated Medicare *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/MLNPproducts/downloads/eval_mgmt_serv_guide.pdf.

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.

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.medical.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.]

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

ANCO will host evening clinical education dinner meetings 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. These meetings are being supported by *Enzon Pharmaceuticals*. The meeting announcement/registration form was 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 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 4th
Mantle Cell Lymphoma: Advances in Biology and Treatment
Cancer Care
Telephone Education Workshop

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

ANCO suffered an interruption to its website, e-mail, and ListServ recently. We have moved to a new host and reestablished an operational website (www.anco-online.org), e-mail address (execdir@anco-online.org), and ListServ. However, the e-mail addresses of all previous ListServ subscribers were deleted. Therefore, you must re-subscribe to the ListServ in order to

continue e-receiving messages from ANCO. To resubscribe, visit www.anco-online.org and follow the links or visit www.anco-online.org/ListServ/mail.cgi/list/anco. Thank you for your patience during this interruption of service.

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
- Palmetto/J1MAC Website Updates

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

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 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

Deleted Jonathan Benjamin, M.D.

ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF NURSE & OFFICE MANAGER CONTACTS

Added Diana Ayala, Eleanor Cartwright

Deleted Jiang Zhang

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).

Kaiser Permanente's* cancer trial program in Northern California has become a full-fledged member the *Southwest Oncology Group, one of the largest cancer clinical-trial cooperative groups in the nation. *Kaiser* has participated in the SWOG cooperative for the last 17 years as an affiliate of *UC Davis*, providing its members with access to clinical trial through SWOG.

The *Kaiser Permanente Oncology Trials Program* is sponsoring an educational oncology research symposium on Saturday, November 8th at 9AM at the Jack Long Square (Oakland) *Waterfront Plaza Hotel*. For

additional information, please call (707) 651-2797.

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

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 **8th Annual UCSF Clinical Cancer Update** takes place at Lake Tahoe on January 23rd-25th, 2009. Visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU09006 for more information.

UCSF's ***Innovations in Prostate Cancer: What's New, What's Next*** takes place at San Francisco on February 13th-14th, 2009. Visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MUR09001 for more information.

***Stanford's 11th Annual Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-based Approach* (formerly the *Northern California Tumor Board at Silverado*)** will be presented on March 20th-22nd, 2009. For more information, contact Jennifer Schafer at (650) 724-2288 or schafer@stanford.edu.

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 • Alaven
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
Spectrum Pharmaceuticals
US Oncology Physician Services
Wyeth BioPharma • Vidacare*

We especially wish to thank and welcome *Alaven*, *ImClone Systems*, *Spectrum Pharmaceuticals*, 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.

The Community Oncology Alliance (COA) and the newly formed COA Administrators' Network (CAN), in conjunction with AMGEN and Ortho Biotech, will host a live webcast on Tuesday, September 30th moderated by Bobbi Buell focusing on the billing of and reimbursement for ESAs. Two webcast times will be available—9AM and 12PM. The discussion will include the

FDA's required *Medication Guide* and the *Risk Evaluation Mitigation Strategy* (REMS). To register for this training session, go to shp.webex.com/shp/k2/j.php?ED=112017747&UID=1029693472&FM=1. For assistance, please contact Dee Shook at dshook@sosacorn.com (901) 259-3220.

Genomic Health is hosting several web conferences entitled *Oncotype DX Update and Data Review*. These web conferences will take place on September 30th (focused on pathology) and October 3rd. For more information and to register, please call Nikki Detore at (770) 763-5694.

US Oncology Physician Services invites ANCO physician and nurses to the ***Healthcare Provider Conference 2008: Collaboration for Advancing the Quality of Community Cancer Care*** taking place on Saturday, October 25th, in San Francisco. Visit comp08.eventcenterlive.com/cfm/ec/register/reg.cfm?BID=18&RegID=04DF1F7A for more information and to register.

Publications, Services, & Surveys

ASCO has expanded its tools to improve documentation and coordination of cancer treatment and survivorship care by developing a "generic" chemotherapy treatment plan and summary template that can be customized for almost any cancer diagnosis. Developing a generic template was an important step for community practices that see patients with a variety of diagnoses. The new generic cancer treatment plan and summary template joins breast and colorectal cancer treatment templates, which have been available online at www.asco.org/treatmentsummary since 2007. Some of the core elements of every treatment plan and summary include:

- The patient's diagnosis, including the cancer site, histology, and stage.
- A summary of the chemotherapy and other treatment that is planned and actually delivered.
- The reason treatment was stopped or modified, if relevant.
- Information on appropriate follow-up care

and relevant providers.

- Information on evidence-based survivorship and surveillance guidelines from ASCO.

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.

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. The resource, available in both print and electronic formats, includes 19 chapters and a companion self-assessment tool with rationales that cover the full range of oncology topics, including major cancer types, epidemiology and cancer prevention, strategies for managing geriatric cancers, molecular biology, and an overview of biologic therapy. With this publication, ASCO provides a vehicle for users to validate their current knowledge base, as well as to improve their overall competency in oncology. Oncologists who use the program can earn continuing medical education (CME) credit for as many chapters as they complete, with a total of 43.5 *American Medical Association* Physician's Recognition Award Category 1 Credit(s)TM possible. ASCO-SEP is also a useful study tool for oncology trainees and practitioners preparing for certification exams or completing the maintenance of certification process. ASCO-SEP is available for purchase in two formats: online-only (which includes access to all material and questions in an interactive, electronic format) and online in combination with the print edition. Price and purchasing information can be found in

the ASCO Bookstore (at www.asco.org/ASCO/ASCO+Bookstore).

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.

The September (Vol. 4, Issue 5) issue of ASCO's *Journal of Oncology Practice* features articles on genetic risk assessment, SNFs, and EHRs. Visit www.jopasco.org for more information.

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 September/October (Vol. 23, No. 5) issue of ACCC's *Oncology Issues* features *ASCO 2008 Roundup*, *Medicare Reimbursement for New FDA-approved Drugs and Biologics*, and *Strategic Planning for Practices*. Visit oi.accc-cancer.org for more information.

The September 2008 issue of *Oncology Business Review* features articles on off-label communications, targeting cancer therapies, aligning quality care and reimbursement, and *Onmark's* 2008 benchmarking survey. Visit www.oncbiz.com for more information.