

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 regular *ANCO FAX News* will be published on November 7th. 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 *Department of Health and Human Services* (DHHS) *Office of the Inspector General* (OIG) recently released its *FY2009 Work Plan*. OIG is tasked with investigating and auditing DHHS programs to identify possible waste, fraud, and abuse. OIG is either already working on or plans to initiate investigations in several areas relevant

**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.

to oncology, including:

- Incident-to services—OIG plans to investigate the qualifications of non-physician staff that perform “incident-to” services to ensure that there is not overutilization or provision of care by unqualified personnel.
- Medicare payments for chemotherapy drug administration—OIG is looking at changes in payment for chemotherapy drug administration services before and after the passage of the *Medicare Modernization Act* of 2003.
- Medicare Part B drug prices—OIG will monitor Medicare Part B drug prices by comparing a) *Average Sales Price* (ASP) to *Widely Available Market Price* (WAMP), as well as b) ASP to *Average Manufacturers Price* (AMP).

ASCO is actively monitoring the OIG’s activities and will provide additional information and analysis on these studies as they develop.

The CPT codes for hydration and therapeutic/diagnostic/prophylactic administration have been renumbered and moved from the 90XXX series and added to the 96XXX series. The reassignment of code numbers reflects an effort to house all of the drug administration codes in one area of the *Medicine Section*. It is important to note that the chemotherapy administration codes will not change in 2009. ASCO has drafted a coding reference sheet that crosswalks the new 2009 hydration and therapeutic/diagnostic codes to the existing 2008 codes. It is available at www.anco-online.org/hydration2009.pdf.

ASCO has developed additional guidance for oncologists on the recent FDA label changes to erythropoiesis stimulating agents (ESAs). ASCO’s guidance is available at www.anco-online.org/ASCO_ESA_Doc_092508.pdf. The new ASCO resource is intended to provide oncologists with an overview of the August FDA label changes, explain the practical implications of these changes, and clarify how these changes relate to other guidance to physicians on the use of ESAs.

CMS recently released a special edition MedLearn article on the Medicare clinical trials policy entitled *Clarification of Medicare Payment for Routine Costs in a Clinical Trial*. This article provides clarification regarding Medicare payment of routine costs associated with clinical trials. Visit www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0822.pdf to read this article.

CMS has published an article with billing, drug ordering, claims processing, and other information for participating Competitive Acquisition Program (CAP) physicians on the transition from CAP to the ASP “buy and bill” methodology for 2009. This article is available at www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0833.pdf. Additional information on the CAP and the program’s postponement for 2009 is available at www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcquisforBios/01_overview.asp. Forthcoming online workshops will take place on October 22nd and November 24th. Visit www.noridianmedicare.com/cap_drug/train/schedule.html 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 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 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’s PQRI website (www.asco.org/pqri) includes 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 the 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.

CMS has announced that a new self-service look-up tool is now available on the PQRI Portal at www.qualitynet.org/pqri, which allows an eligible professional at the *Tax Identification Number* (TIN) level to see if their 2007 PQRI *Feedback Report* is available. Once on the site, go to the *Verify TIN Report Portlet*, enter the TIN, and a message appears that indicates if a 2007 PQRI *Feedback Report* is or is not available. This self-service look-up tool does not allow the eligible professional to view their 2007 PQRI *Feedback Report*. The availability of the 2007 PQRI *Feedback Report* is helpful for eligible professionals to know because it enables them to decide if they need to register for an IACS account at this time so that they can log into the PQRI Portal and view their 2007 PQRI *Feedback Report*. In addition, the eligible professional can call the *QualityNet Help Desk* in order to determine if a 2007 PQRI *Feedback Report* is available. The representatives at the *QualityNet Help Desk* can only inform the provider if a 2007 PQRI *Feedback Report* is available; they are unable to disclose the information on the 2007 PQRI *Feedback Report*. The *QualityNet Help Desk* can be reached via telephone at (866) 288-8912

from the hours of 7AM-7PM CST or via e-mail at Qnetsupport@ifmc.sdps.org.

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?cpsexcurrchannel=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/ehrfieldduide.

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

ANCO and ASCO continue to work towards ensuring that people with cancer have access to quality cancer care in the community. Practice resources are available at www.anco-online.org and www.asco.org/mma, including:

- ASCO's *Adapting to Changes in Medicare 2008 PowerPoint* presentation.
- The October 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:

- AB8 (Nunez) would have expanded the State's DHCS/MediCal and *Healthy Families Programs* to children and their parents up to 300% of the Federal poverty level, and to certain uninsured adults, created a health insurance purchasing pool, and implemented

insurance market reforms. The legislation would have been financed by redirecting existing resources and requiring an employer and employee contribution. The *Governor* vetoed AB8 stating that it "does not achieve coverage for all, a critical step needed to reduce health care costs for everyone. Comprehensive reform cannot leave Californians vulnerable to loss or denial of coverage when they need it most. Finally, to be sustainable, comprehensive reform cannot place the majority of the financial burden on any one segment of our economy. Unfortunately, AB8 falls short on all three accounts."

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.

To help physicians negotiate and manage complex third-party payor agreements, CMA has published a contracting tool kit entitled *Taking Charge: Steps to Evaluating Relationships and Preparing for Negotiations—A Focus on Payor Contracting* that is available free to CMA members at the members-only website. Nonmembers can purchase the tool kit for \$100 in the CMA bookstore (call (800) 882-1262). This tool kit joins several other CMA tool kits (i.e., *Back to Basics: A Step-by-Step Guide to Maximizing Your Cash Flow, Getting Paid: Strategies to Maximize Reimbursement*) aimed at empowering physician practices vis-à-vis their relationships with private payors.

CMA's 2008 California Physician's Legal Handbook (CPLH) is now available. CPLH—an annual publication of CMA's *Center for Legal Affairs*—answers the legal questions most frequently asked by physicians. CPLH 2008 offers more than 4,500 pages of comprehensive legal information including current laws, regulations, and court decisions related to medical practice in California. The *Handbook* is available in a 7-volume print format and on CD-ROM. The CD-ROM offers all of the content of

the print version, plus many enhancements including fully searchable content and hyperlinks that let you navigate within the CD-ROM and onto the web, as well as links to *Findlaw* for information on the cited court cases. The CD-ROM is priced at \$398 for members (\$480 for nonmembers), the print version costs \$798 (\$960 for nonmembers), and the CD-ROM/print combo combination costs \$898 (\$1,080 for nonmembers). To place an order, visit www.cmanet.org/bookstore or call (800) 882-1262. And, CMA members can access most of the CPLH content free via CMA On-Call, CMA's online library of medical-legal information at www.cmanet.org/member.

Palmetto/J1MAC, DHCS/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 DHCS/MediCal in California.]

Palmetto/J1MAC will distribute a CD-ROM with the 2009 Medicare participation enrollment form in November. However, updated fee schedule information will only be available on its website. Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Providers-Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B~Articles-General-2009%20Medicare%20Participation%20Enrollment%20Fee%20Schedule%20Information?opendocument for more information.

The transition from NHIC/Medicare to Palmetto/J1MAC is causing serious problems for all California physicians. CMA is receiving a very high number of complaints from members centering on busy customer/provider service telephone lines, re-enrollment/NPI-PTAN applications, and lack of reimbursement for claims submitted both before and after the transition. Several CMA members have been forced to access credit lines to meet payroll and business expenses, and CMA is now hearing from physicians who are fearful that the situation may cost them their practice. While CMA has been very successful in getting resolution for physicians who contact their *Center for Economic Services*, doctors who are going directly to Palmetto/J1MAC for assistance are finding it

impossible to get through on their phone lines. Practices that do get through are facing wait times of as much as three hours. CMA has compiled a list of common problems and fixes and posted it online at www.cmanet.org/palmetto. Physicians who are still experiencing payment problems are encouraged to review this list to see if their issues are addressed. If after doing so you still have questions or problems, please contact CMA's *Reimbursement Help Line* at (888) 401-5911 for assistance.

CMA continues to work with Palmetto/J1MAC and CMS on a global fix of the situation and has secured commitments from many Congressional offices to intervene in the situation. And, CMA is working with the media to publicize these problems and to put pressure on CMS to make many of the global changes to fix this crisis and to avoid all of the others that are, unfortunately, becoming commonplace in matters related to payment for Medicare services. CMA *Vice President of Communication* Ned Wigglesworth has asked that you share your horror stories with him (via e-mail to nwigglesworth@cmanet.org) so that he can relay them to his media contacts.

In response to concerns previously raised by CMA, CMS approved and Palmetto/J1MAC has added 35 additional staffed phone lines. In addition Palmetto/J1MAC has committed to take the following actions:

- Palmetto/J1MAC added an additional 15 phone lines that are dedicated to provider enrollment issues.
- Inquires that require research will be done off line and Palmetto/J1MAC has committed to returning calls within 24 to 48 hours.
- Palmetto/J1MAC has added an issues update to its website at www.palmettogba.com/J1B > *Alerts* (under *Self Service Tools and Top Links*) > *J1 Part B Claims Issues*. These links provide an up-to-date listing of claims issues, their status, and other common problems.
- Palmetto/J1MAC is working on an e-mail question and answer process to divert traffic from their clogged phone lines.

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 Help Line*, (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. These letters require specific information to be completed and returned to Palmetto/J1MAC in order for your claims to continue processing. For information on the Palmetto/J1MAC process, please visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Providers~Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B~Resources~NPI~NPI%20Development%20Letters:%20Rendering%20and%20Billing%20PTANs%20Needed?opendocument.

To assist providers in obtaining the status of their enrollment applications, Palmetto/J1MAC has announced a new provider self-service tool. The *Provider Enrollment Application Status Lookup Tool* will be located at www.Palmettogba.com/J1B/Enroll.

Palmetto/J1MAC and CMS will consider, in limited circumstances, an advance payment for Part B providers who are experiencing financial hardship due to claims that are unable to be

processed within established time limits. This applies to claims that have been submitted, but payment has not been made due to a system malfunction. This does not apply to claims that have not paid due to claims submission errors. For details, please visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/j1.nsf/DocsCat/8525740200570223852574B4004E7114.

Palmetto/J1MAC processes "reopenings" (claim corrections) and redetermination requests (first level appeals) including requests related to claims that were processed by the previous contractors. Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Providers~Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B~Resources~Appeals~Claim%20Corrections%20and%20Appeals:%20Tips%20for%20Faster%20Service?opendocument for tips for faster service. Include a copy of your original remittance notice and any other written communication from the previous contractor, such as an automated development request (letter), with all written requests for reopenings and redeterminations.

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/dataawh/ftpserv/ftp9/ftp9.htm#guidelines). Changes to ICD-9-CM went into effect October 1st. ASCO has complied a list of oncology-related changes at www.asco.org/ASCO/Downloads/Cancer%20Policy%20and%20Clinical%20Affairs/MMA%20Regulations%20and%20Resources/2009%20Oncology%20ICD-9-CM%20Code%20Updates.pdf.

The *ICD-10-Clinical Modification/Procedure Coding System Bookmark* is now available from the CMS Medicare Learning Network. This bookmark explains the *ICD-10-Clinical Modification/Procedure Coding System* (CM/PCS) including the benefits of adopting the system, recommended steps to be taken in order to plan and prepare for implementation of the system, and where additional information about the system can be found. To place your order, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/01_Overview.asp > Related Links Inside CMS > MLN Product Ordering Page. CMS will host a

series of national provider calls that will provide an overview of ICD-10 and how it differs from ICD-9-CM. The presentations will include the major impacts providers should consider when planning to update any systems with ICD-10 codes. For the provider, this overview will help them think about future reporting, system updates, and training, considering that ICD-10 may be implemented in the future. The national provider call for physicians is scheduled for November 17th (visit www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10/07_Sponsored_Calls.asp for more information). For those who are unable to attend, a transcript will be posted at www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10 shortly after the conference call.

CMS has published most of the edits utilized in its *Medically Unlikely Edit* (MUE) Program to improve the accuracy of claims payments. CMS established the MUEs to reduce payment errors for Medicare Part B claims. Claims processing contractors utilize these edits to assure that providers and suppliers do not report excessive services. The edits are applied during the electronic processing of all claims. View the MUEs at www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/08_MUE.asp#TopOfPage.

DHCS/MediCal no longer accepts legacy provider numbers on specific provider agreements and/or authorization forms. If the forms listed below are not submitted with a *National Provider Identifier* (NPI), they will not be processed and will be returned to the provider:

- Biller: MediCal Hardcopy Biller Application Agreement
- CHDP Telecommunications Provider and Biller Application/Agreement (DHCS 4431)
- Electronic Health Care Claim Payment/Advice Receiver Agreement (DHCS 6246)
- MediCal Eligibility Verification Enrollment Form
- MediCal Point of Service (POS) Network/Internet Agreement

- MediCal Telecommunications Provider and Biller Application/Agreement (DHCS 6153)
- Point of Service (POS) Device Usage Agreement
- Provider: MediCal Hardcopy Biller Notification Form

EDUCATION

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

Forthcoming ANCO Meetings

Additional ANCO meetings (e.g., an *Payer & Patient Payments for Oncology Services, New Important Clinical Advances in the Management of Chemotherapy Induced Neutropenia, Medicare Update 2009, SABCS Highlights 2008, ASH Highlights 2008*) are in the planning stages and will be announced as they are scheduled.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

October 30th

Advances in the Treatment of Multiple Myeloma CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

November 4th

Mantle Cell Lymphoma: Advances in Biology and Treatment CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

November 8th

2nd Annual Cancer Survivorship Conference Now What? The New Normal of Cancer Survivorship After Treatment
Northern California Cancer Center
San Francisco

November 20th-21st

5th International Conference: Integration Across the Spectrum of Cancer Care
Society for Integrative Oncology
Atlanta

December 3rd

Young Women with Breast Cancer: Treatment-

specific Choices, Fertility, and Careers

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

December 4th

Update on Medicare Part D for People Living with Cancer

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

December 12th

For Caregivers: Coping with Holidays, Special Occasions, and Birthdays Throughout the Year

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

December 17th

The Latest Developments Reported at the 31st Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

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

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 ListServ* is available to all ANCO physician members, nurses, practice managers, and Corporate Member representatives. It is a source for the latest ANCO news and other information impacting hematology/oncology practices. These postings are digested in the ANCO *Online Weblog* at anco-online.blogspot.com.

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 at the end of September.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Annual Election

Four seats on the ANCO *Board of Directors* are up for election in 2008. ANCO seeks nominations for candidates for these seats. This year's election will be conducted via mail ballot in December. Candidates with the top four vote totals will serve for three years (i.e., from 2009-2011, inclusive). Nominate an ANCO member (including yourself) to stand for election to the *Board* via FAX to the ANCO office at (415) 472-3961 no later than November 21st.

Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* teleconferenced on October 16th to discuss and/or act upon the following issues:

- California public (Medicare/MediCal) payor, private (Brown & Toland) payor, and legislative advocacy issues
- Clinical and professional education meetings
- Member practice meetings
- 2008 Annual Election

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 December 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

Peter Paul Yu, M.D., a past ANCO *President*, has been nominated to the ASCO *Board of Directors*. In addition, Barbara L. McAneny, M.D., has been nominated to the ASCO *Nominating Committee*. ANCO urges you to vote for Drs. McAneny and Yu during the ASCO *Board* election. Voting for the 2009 ASCO *Election* opened on October 15th and will close on November 24th. Visit www.asco.org/ASCO/About+ASCO/2009+Election for more information.

The ANCO Directory of Members 2008 was mailed to ANCO physician members; nurse and office manager contacts; and, Corporate Member representatives the week of July 7th. Additional copies are available from the ANCO office upon request. **An updated online (.pdf) edition is available at www.anco-online.org/pubs.html.** Please verify your *Directory* entry and contact the ANCO office with any corrections, additions, and/or deletions. The next *Directory* will be published in June 2009. **The following update(s) to the *Directory* were recently included in the online edition:**

ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF PHYSICIAN MEMBERS

Added Elwyn Cabebe, M.D.

Deleted Lisbeth Suyehira, M.D.

ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF NURSE & OFFICE MANAGER CONTACTS

Added Paula Merryweather

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).

The Kaiser Permanente Oncology Trials Program is sponsoring a **Research Symposium on Saturday, November 8th** at 8AM at the Jack London Square (Oakland) *Waterfront Plaza Hotel*. The *Symposium* features faculty from TPMG as well as the Mayo Clinic, NCI, Stanford, and UCLA. For additional information and to register (\$75 for non-TPMG MDs; \$50 for non-TPMG RNs), please contact Desiree Goldstein, R.N., at (707) 651-2798 or desiree.goldstein@kp.org.

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, to register, or to submit a case study, visit cancer.stanford.edu/calendar/events/2009/2009Silverado.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 • 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 • OneOncology
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.

Eisai informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has approved an efficacy supplemental biologics license application (sBLA) for *Ontak* solution for intravenous injection for the treatment of patients with persistent or recurrent cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL) whose malignant cells express the CD25 component of the interleukin (IL)-2 receptor.

Pfizer Oncology will host a meeting entitled *Integrating Clinical Pathways in Oncology Practice* with Linda Bosserman, M.D., *President, Wilshire Oncology Medical Group*, on November 13th at the *Hotel Nikko* in San Francisco. Dr. Bosserman will provide a rationale for clinical pathways; describe their development and implementation; and, discuss the evaluation and outcomes associated with clinical pathways in oncology practice. Resources for oncologists to use to integrate clinical pathways into their practice will also be described and discussed. For more information and to register, please contact your *Pfizer Oncology* representative or *Advance Health Media* at (866) 292-6204 (ID #EZ008266 5130523).

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.