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

Vol. 7, No. 24 November 21st, 2008

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.

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 *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 December 5th. 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.]

CMS issued a final rule for the *Medicare Physician Fee Schedule* (MPFS) for 2009. The final rule establishes payment rates and policy changes that will go into effect for services furnished by physicians and non-physician practitioners to people with Medicare on or after January 1st, 2009. The provisions of the most

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.

importance to oncologists include:

- **2009 Conversion Factor**. The conversion factor will be $36.0666, compared to the 2008 conversion factor of $38.0870. Although the updated conversion factor is an increase of 1.1% due to the passage of the *Medicare Improvements for Patients and Provider Act* (MIPPA) earlier this year, the conversion factor has been adjusted downward by 6.41% in a budget neutrality adjustment to account for relative value increases made as a result of the 5-year review of physician work relative values for all codes. CMS estimates that the net effect on hematology/oncology from this and other changes will be a 1%.
- **RUC Practice Expense Recommendations**. The *American Medical Association's Relative Value Update Committee* (RUC) recommended revising the practice expense relative values for several chemotherapy administration codes.
- **Payments for Drugs**. CMS will discontinue the pre-administration payment for IVIG for 2009. CMS is updating its regulations to reflect statutory changes in the calculation of average sales price (ASP) for drugs that went into effect April 1st, 2008. CMS had proposed several minor refinements to the *Competitive Acquisition Program* (CAP) for drugs. Because the CAP has been suspended, CMS did not finalize its proposals.
- **Coverage of Additional Preventive Services**. MIPPA authorizes CMS to extend coverage under Medicare Part B for additional preventive services through the national coverage determination process.
- ***Physician Quality Reporting Initiative*** (**PQRI**). MIPPA provides a 2% bonus payment in 2009 for participation in the PQRI. CMS will include several new quality measures related to cancer treatment.
- ***Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program***. For 2009, a "successful electronic prescriber" will receive a 2% bonus payment. After 2009, the payment incentive will decrease, and in 2012 physicians who do not e-prescribe will face a penalty.
- **Standards for Providing Diagnostic Services**. Medicare has deferred action on its proposal to apply *Independent Diagnostic Testing Facilities* (IDTF) standards to physician offices.
- **Anti-Markup Provisions**. CMS has modified the new "anti-markup" rules that prohibit physicians from charging Medicare more than the cost of diagnostic services that were either purchased or furnished by an employee or contractor at a site different from the office of the billing physician.

Detailed summaries of the regulations from ACCC, ASH, and ASCO are available online via www.anco-online.org/mma.html or at:

- ACCC www.accc-cancer.org/public_policy/pdf/2009physicianrulefinal.pdf
- ASH hematology.org/policy/news/112009MPFS.pdf.
- ASCO www.asco.org/ASCO/ArticleASCO/Cancer%20Policy%20and%20Clinical%20Affairs/Policy/MMA%20Regulation%20&%20Resources/Summary%20of%202009%20Medicare%20Physician%20Fee%20Schedule%20Final%20Rule.pdf

CMS has announced that it is postponing all activity involving the four permanent Medicare *Recovery Audit Contractors* (RACs) due to a "RAC protest and stay of performance." Furthermore, all outreach sessions in the first round of RAC states have been delayed until further notice. CMS said that, in the meantime, it continues to prepare for the permanent nationwide RAC program.

CMS has released information regarding the newly recognized drug compendia and how

information should be interpreted. According to CMS, acceptable indications are those that:

- are favorably listed in one or more of the approved compendia, or
- the contractor determines from a review of the peer-reviewed literature that it is a medically accepted indication, unless CMS has determined that the use is not medically accepted, or any of the recognized compendia list the use as not medically accepted.

"Medically accepted indications" are those in which 1) the indication is Category 1 or 2A in the *National Comprehensive Cancer Network* (NCCN*) Drugs & Biologics Compendium*, or Class I, Class IIa, or Class IIb in the Thomson Micromedex *DrugDex*; or, 2) the narrative text in the *American Hospital Formulary Service's Drug Information* (AHFS-DI) or Elsevier Gold Standard's *Clinical Pharmacology* is supportive. A use is not medically accepted if 1) the indication is Category 3 in the NCCN *Compendium* or a Class III in *DrugDex*; or, 2) the narrative text in AHFS-DI or *Clinical Pharmacology* is "not supportive." (Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Providers~Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B~Articles~Oncology%20Hematology~Compendia%20as%20Authoritative%20Sources%20for%20Use%20in%20the%20Determination%20of%20a%20%22Medically%20Accepted%20Indication%22%20of%20Drugs%20and%20Biologicals%20Used%20Off-Label%20in%20an%20Anti-Cancer%20Chemotherapeutic%20Regimen%20?opendocument 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 *Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act* (MIPPA) authorizes a new incentive program for eligible professionals who are successful electronic prescribers, or "e-prescribers". The incentive program, which will begin in January 2009, offers bonuses for e-prescribers, including a 2% increase in Medicare payment in 2009 and 2010, a 1% increase in 2011 and 2012, and a 0.5% increase in 2013. After 2013, the bonus program will be phased out and penalties will be assessed for physicians who have not adopted e-prescribing, including a 1% deduction of covered Medicare Part B charges in 2012, a 1.5% deduction in 2013, and a 2% deduction in 2014 and beyond. Physicians may face challenges with this new program because:

- Pharmacies are not obligated to accept the e-prescription.
- The estimated cost of adopting e-prescribing is $3,000 per doctor.
- The DEA requires an intricate system of checks and cross-checks under e-prescribing, both human and programmed, which could require one workflow for controlled substances and another for non-controlled substances.
- Practices with an existing EMR may find that their vendor products do not have a certified e-prescribing module.

CMS will post updates to e-prescribing quality measures, such as specifications or reporting instructions at www.cms.hhs.gov/EPrescribing/. For additional oncology-specific information, visit ASCO's e-prescribing Web site at www.asco.org/eprescribing.

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+(EHR)+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:

- 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.]

Thousands of California physicians continue to face problems getting paid for the care they provide to Medicare patients. The transition to NPI numbers earlier this year, followed by the switch in September from NHIC/Medicare to Palmetto/J1MAC has created a bureaucratic nightmare of red tape and rejected claims for doctors, delaying Medicare payments for months for some doctors. To help assess the full extent of the situation, CMA is asking physicians to complete a brief questionnaire about their Medicare payment problems at www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=BQrN5GYKE2zffE6tcd9tTQ_3d_3d. The data CMA gathers will assist them in their efforts to work with CMS and Palmetto/J1MAC to resolve these problems. **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.

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.]

October and November editions of the Palmetto/J1MAC *Medicare Advisory* are now available at www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/docsCat/Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B~Publications~Medicare%20Advisory?open. The October edition (published September 30th) features:

- Revised Form CMS-R-131 **Advance Beneficiary Notice** of Non-coverage
- **Advance Payments** to Providers of Part B Services: Summary of the Requirements
- October 2008 Quarterly **ASP** Medicare Part B Drug Pricing Files and Revisions to Prior Quarterly Pricing Files
- Part B Drug **Competitive Acquisition Program** (CAP) Quarterly Drug Update
- Revisions to the **CAP** for Part B Drugs and Biologicals
- Part B Annual FY2009 **ICD-9-CM** Code Updates
- **NPI** for Secondary Providers
- Update to the 2009 Medicare **Physician Fee Schedule** Database
- **PQRI** Establishment of Alternative Reporting Periods and Reporting Criteria
- HCPCS Codes for **Skilled Nursing Facility** (SNF) Consolidated Billing (CB)

The November edition (published October 31st) features:

- **Avastin** Coverage for Age-related Macular Degeneration
- **Claims Corrections and Appeals**: Tips for Faster Service
- Quarterly update to **Correct Coding Initiative** Edits
- **Drug Injections and Infusions**: Use of the Quantity Billed Field
- **Intravenous Fluids**
- **LHRH Analogues** in the Treatment of Prostate Cancer
- 2009 **Medicare Participation Enrollment** & Fee Schedule Information

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~Publications~Fee%20Schedules~2009%20J1%20Part%20B%20Fee%20Schedules?opendocument for more information.

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). 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 CMA'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* is located at www.Palmettogba.com/J1B/Enroll (Resources/Provider Enrollment).

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/852574020057022385 2574B4004E7114.

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-10-Clinical Modification/Procedure Coding System Fact Sheet*, which provides general information about the *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition, Clinical Modification/Procedure Coding System* (ICD-10-CM/PCS) including benefits of adopting the new coding system, structural differences between ICD-9 CM and ICD-10-CM/PCS, and implementation planning recommendations, is now available in downloadable format from the CMS *Medicare Learning Network* at www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/ICD-10factsheet2008.pdf . CMS recently hosted a series of national provider calls that provided an overview of ICD-10 and how it differs from ICD-9-CM. For those who were unable to attend, teleconference materials are available at www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10. **ASCO joined more than 100 health and medical associations in issuing comments on the adoption of ICD-10 as the standard code sets for diagnosis and inpatient hospital proce**dures. Moving from ICD-9 to ICD-10 code sets will be a significant change for the health care community. The organizations that signed onto the comments are concerned that the October 1st, 2011 compliance deadline proposed by HHS will not provide enough time for a smooth transition. In the letter, the organizations strongly urge HHS to:

- Provide at least 36 months from the date of publication of the final rule to adopt and implement the X12 version 5010 Technical Reports Type 3 for HIPAA electronic transactions, to accommodate all levels of testing.
- Require adoption of ICD-10 no sooner than 60 months after publication of the final rule and after industry readiness levels have reached at least 95 percent.
- Plan adequately for outreach and education to physicians to ensure a smooth transition.
- Track and analyze the true costs associated with ICD-10 implementation.

EDUCATION

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

Payer & Patient Payments for Oncology Services

ANCO is pleased to sponsor two talks for oncologists, oncology nurses, and oncology practice managers entitled *Payer & Patient Payments for Oncology Services*. In an era of reduced reimbursement for oncology goods and services, maximizing payer and patient collections is imperative to the survival of oncology practices. Brad Duke, *Practice Manger, East Bay Partners in Cancer Care*, will present *An Oncology Payer Checklist*. Michelle Weiss, *President, Weiss Oncology Consulting*, will present *Patient Collections and Navigating Patient Assistance Programs*. These programs will take place on December 2nd at *The Claremont Resort* in Oakland and December 3rd at *The Fairmont* in San José. ANCO thanks *Genentech BioOncology* and *Sanofi-Aventis Oncology* for supporting these programs. Representatives from these organizations will be present to exhibit patient and reimbursement assistance services. A meeting announcement was mailed on November 3rd and may be downloaded at www.anco-online.org/payerpatient.html.

New Important Clinical Advances in the Management of Chemotherapy Induced Neutropenia

ANCO will host an evening clinical education dinner meeting entitled *New Important Clinical Advances in the Management of Chemotherapy Induced Neutropenia* with Gary Herbert Lyman, M.D., *Duke University School of Medicine*, on Monday, December 8th, at the *Hyatt at Fisherman's Wharf* in San Francisco. Dr. Lyman will discuss the potential clinical and economic consequences associated with chemotherapy-induced neutropenia, how to assess the impact of first-cycle neutropenic events, and national guideline recommendations for febrile neutropenia risk assessment and colony-stimulating factor use. This meeting is supported by *AMGEN*. A meeting announcement was mailed November 5th and may be downloaded at www.anco-online.org/lyman.html.

Forthcoming ANCO Meetings

Additional ANCO meetings (e.g., *Medicare Reimbursement for Oncology 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:

December 3rd
Young Women with Breast Cancer: Treatment-specific Choices, Fertility, and Careers
Cancer*Care*
Telephone Education Workshop

December 4th
Update on Medicare Part D for People Living with Cancer
Cancer*Care*
Telephone Education Workshop

December 12th
For Caregivers: Coping with Holidays, Special Occasions, and Birthdays Throughout the Year
Cancer*Care*
Telephone Education Workshop

December 17th
The Latest Developments Reported at the 31st Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium
Cancer*Care*
Telephone Education Workshop

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

January 31st, 2009
Emerging Therapies for Blood Cancer Patients
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
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, ListServ, and Weblog.
- clinical trials information.
- links to affiliated organizations.
- updated physician, nurse, manager, and patient resources.

ANCO Online ListServ & Weblog

The ANCO *Online ListServ* is available to all ANCO physician members, nurses, practice managers, and Corporate Member representatives. It is a source for the latest ANCO news and other information impacting hematology/oncology practices. These postings are digested in the ANCO *Online Weblog* at anco-online.blogspot.com (see below). To subscribe to the ANCO *Online ListServ*, visit www.anco-online.org and follow the links or visit www.anco-online.org/ListServ/mail.cgi/list/anco.

The ANCO *Online Weblog* posts and archives important news sent on the *ListServ* 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 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. **A regularly updated online (.pdf) edition is available at www.anco-online.org/pubs.html**. Please verify your *Directory* entry and contact the ANCO office

with any corrections, additions, and/or deletions. The next *Directory* will be published in June 2009. **The following update(s) to the *Directory* were recently included in the online edition**:

ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF PHYSICIAN MEMBERS

Changed A. Richard Adrouny, M.D., Thomas P. Bradley, M.D., Ph.D., David L. Campbell, M.D., A. Dimitrios Colevas, M.D., Michael P. Sherman, M.D., Ph.D.

ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF NURSE & OFFICE MANAGER CONTACTS

Changed Michelle D'Arcy, Jeffrey Dresco, Shannon Horwood, Laura Jean, R.N, Jeanine Lee, R.N.

Added Rosie Jimenez, Barbara Smith, Bette Stanford, Angela Taylor

Deleted Judy Hensley, R.N.

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.

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

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. *Clarient Diagnostics, Genitope Corporation*, and *Schering-Plough Oncology* did not renew their Corporate Memberships for 2008.

Celgene* and *ION* are hosting *The Significance of Survival in MDS Patients: An Interactive Live Satellite Broadcast with Lewis Silverman, M.D., *Mt. Sinai School of Medicine* on Tuesday, December 2nd, at 6:30PM. The Northern California location for this meeting is in Sacramento. For more information and to register, please contact Doug Barefield at (469) 365-7316 or doug.barefield@iononline.com.

Cephalon Oncology* and *ION* are hosting a webcast entitled *New Treatment Advances in Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia with Wolfgang Knauf, Ph.D. on Friday, December 12th, at 11AM. For more information and to register, please contact Julie Goldberg at (888) 536-7697 x6826 or julie.goldberg@iononline.com.

***Millennium* informs ANCO that ICD-9 diagnosis codes for multiple myeloma have been expanded** effective October 1st. The new diagnosis codes are 203.00 (Multiple Myeloma, without mention of having achieved remission), 203.01 (Multiple Myeloma, in remission), and 203.02 (Multiple Myeloma, in relapse).

Clinical Trial News

ANCO member, Robert W. Weber, M.D., reports that the *Northern California Melanoma Center*, now open at *St. Mary's Medical Center* in San Francisco, is pleased to announce the opening of an exciting adjuvant program for Stage III melanoma involving transgenic lymphocyte infusions. This study compliments the other studies available for metastatic melanoma including an ongoing phase II open label Abraxane/Avastin study and an intralesional allovectin trial. For questions about enrollment to these studies or other clinical trials please call the *Center* at (415) 750-5660.

Publications, Services, & Surveys

ACCC is suspending publication of its *Compendia-Based Drug Bulletin* as it analyzes the newly recognized Medicare drug compendia. ACCC will notify members when they can expect an updated 2009 publication that reflects indications within these newly recognized compendia.

The November/December (Vol. 23, No. 6) issue of ACCC's ***Oncology Issues*** features articles entitled *Hospital & Medical Oncology Practice Integration, Watch Out: ICD-10-CM is Coming,* and *Meeting the Psychosocial Needs of Cancer Patients*. Visit oi.accc-cancer.org for more information.

The November 2008 issue of ***Oncology Business Review*** features articles on oncology compendia, comparative effectiveness policies, and clinical trials. Visit www.oncbiz.com for more information.

Membership Dues for 2009

Membership renewal notices for 2009 will be mailed to all members in early December 2008. Be sure to provide ANCO with your e-mail address and the name(s) and e-mail addresss of office and/or nurse manager contact(s).