

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. This *Special Edition* compiles ANCO's **Corporate Member Drug Reimbursement & Patient Assistance Program** information into a single source. It is also available online at www.anco-online.org/assistance.html. ANCO acknowledges the assistance of its Corporate Members and *Lash Group Healthcare Consultants* for their help in compiling this information. For general assistance information, also visit:

- *American Society of Clinical Oncology*
www.asco.org/asco/downloads/PhRMA_Brochure.pdf
- *CANCERCare*
www.cancercares.org/get_help/assistance/index.php.org
- *Chronic Disease Fund*
www.cdfund.org
- *HealthWell Foundation*
www.healthwellfoundation.org
- *National Organization for Rare Disorders*
www.rarediseases.org
- *National Patient Advocate Foundation*
www.colorectalcareline.org
www.copays.org
www.patientadvocate.org
- *NeedyMeds*
www.needymeds.com
- *Partnership for Prescription Assistance*
www.helpingpatients.org
- *Patient Access Network Foundation*
www.patientaccessnetwork.org
- *Patient Services Incorporated*
www.uneedpsi.org

CORPORATE MEMBERS

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*
Onmark, McKesson Specialty Care Solutions
Pfizer Oncology • *Roche Oncology*
Sanofi Aventis Oncology
Spectrum Pharmaceuticals
US Oncology Physician Services
Vidacare • *Wyeth Pharmaceuticals*

Drug Reimbursement & Patient Assistance Programs

(for regularly updated information, visit www.anco-online.org/assistance.html)

Abraxis Oncology

ARC of Support

(800) 564-0216;

Abraxane

The *ARC of Support* is a comprehensive program that provides a broad range of services (i.e., medical information, reimbursement and patient assistance, drug safety, product quality) for healthcare professionals caring for patients undergoing treatment with *Abraxane*.

Abraxis Patient Access Program (APAP)

(800) 564-0216, option 3;

8:00AM-8:00PM Eastern Time

Abraxane

APAP consists of two components—one for insured patients that have been treated with *Abraxane* where claims have been denied by their insurers, and the other for uninsured patients that receive treatment with *Abraxane*. More information can be obtained at www.abraxane.com.

AMGEN

The SAFETY NET Foundation

(888) 762-6436;

FAX (877) 549-7239;

9:00AM-8:00PM Eastern Time

Aranesp, Epogen, Neulasta, Neupogen,

Nplate, Sensipar, Vectibix

The *Foundation* helps qualified uninsured patients with limited or no financial resources and in limited cases qualified underinsured patients obtain access to *AMGEN* products. Patients apply for assistance through sponsoring health care professionals.

ENcourage Foundation

(888) 4Enbrel;

FAX (888) 508-8083;

8:00AM-8:00PM Eastern Time

Enbrel

The *Foundation* helps qualified, uninsured patients with limited or no financial resources obtain access to *Enbrel*.

AMGEN's Reimbursement Connection

(800) 272-9376;

FAX (888) 508-8090

9:00AM-8:00PM Eastern Time

The *Reimbursement Connection* provides help to take the confusion out of reimbursement, coverage, and patient assistance. Online assistance with insurance verification, patient assistance, and billing/claims support is available.

AstraZeneca

AstraZeneca Cancer Support Network

(AZ CSN)

(866) 922-9276;

FAX (866) 279-0709;

8:00AM-8:00PM Eastern Time

Arimidex, Casodex, Faslodex, Zoladex

AZ CSN is a comprehensive service platform for physicians and patients designed to meet informational needs, provide access to product, and address coverage issues. Specially trained Registered Nurses, Pharmacists, and Reimbursement Specialists are available to personally address customer needs including a gateway to the *AZ & Me Prescription Savings Program*. More information can be obtained by visiting www.azcsn.net.

Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals/

Onyx Pharmaceuticals

CamCare;

Leukine Reimbursement Support Program

(800) 473-5832;

FAX (800) 513-1824;

9:00AM-5:00PM Eastern Time

Campath, Fludara, Leukine

This *Program* provides patient assistance and reimbursement support. *CamCare's* nursing support line is available 24/7.

Nexavar REACH Program

(866) NEXAVAR (639-2827);

FAX (866) 639-5181;

9:00AM-8:00PM Eastern Time

Nexavar

The *Program* provides clinical information, insurance information, reimbursement support, prescription processing, and patient assistance to uninsured patients who meet the program eligibility criteria.

biogenIDEC

RESULTS

(800) 386-9997;

FAX (800) 513-8095;

9:00AM-6:00PM Eastern Time

Zevalin

RESULTS (REimbursement SUpport Line Trained Specialists) provides access to *Zevalin* for patients who meet the program's eligibility criteria and reimbursement counseling to patients and their healthcare providers.

Single Point of Contact (SPOC)

(888) 249-4918;

FAX (888) 249-4919;

9:00AM-5:00PM Pacific Time

Rituxan

SPOC investigates benefits for new patients and those changing insurance or facing open enrollment; assists with coverage paperwork (e.g., prior authorization, medical reviews); helps with appeals and coverage denials; searches for alternative coverage for patients whose insurers do not provide adequate coverage; answers reimbursement questions; consults on coding and billing issues; tracks insurance claims; and, provides information on uninsured patient programs.

Zevalin Concierge Program

(866) 298-8433;

FAX (877) 264-8483;

8:30AM-8:00PM Eastern Time

Zevalin

The *Program* verifies insurance benefits and addresses reimbursement concerns; obtains patient assistance details and provides follow-up; assists with scheduling; coordinates financial

assistance when needed; tracks claims from submission to payment; provides access to medical information and assists with technical product information; and, serves as a point of contact for each physician and staff member involved in treatment.

Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology

Destination Access

(800) 861-0048;

FAX (888) 776-2370;

8:00AM-8:00PM Eastern Time

(Reimbursement specialists available live Monday through Friday)

All Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology products Destination Access provides prior authorization assistance, appeals assistance, benefits investigation, general reimbursement guidance, and patient assistance.

Celgene

Innohep Support Services

(866) 742-7646

Innohep

Innohep Support Services provides reimbursement and patient assistance support.

Patient Support Coordinator (PSC) Program

(800) 931-8691;

FAX (800) 822-2496;

www.celgenepsc.com;

patientsupport@celgene.com

5:00AM-4:00PM Pacific Time

The *Celgene Patient Support Coordinator (PSC) Program* was created to help patients and healthcare providers navigate the challenges of reimbursement, provide information about co-pay assistance, and answer general questions about *Celgene* products and their distribution. The *PSC* is a dedicated central point of contact who assists providers and patients who rely on *Celgene* products. The RevAssist/STEPS telephone number is (888) 423-5436.

Vidaza Support Services

(866) 742-7646;

FAX (866) 369-4333;
8:00AM-8:00PM Eastern Time
Vidaza
Vidaza Support Services provides reimbursement and patient assistance support.

Cephalon Oncology

FENTORA Patient Assistance Program

(877) 4FENTORA (433-6867);
FAX (866) 495-0657;
9:00AM-8:00PM Eastern Time
Patients who do not have prescription drug coverage could be eligible for the *FENTORA Patient Assistance Program*. The patient must not be eligible for public and private insurance reimbursement (including Medicare Part D), and must meet certain income restrictions and U.S. residency requirements.

CORE (Cephalon Oncology Reimbursement Expertise)

(866) 261-7730;
www.cephalononcologycore.com.
Trisenox
CORE services are provided to both healthcare professionals and patients. For oncology practices, *CORE* can provide benefit verifications, coding and claims support, letter of medical necessity templates, assistance in locating relevant medical literature, access to the *Cephalon Oncology Patient Assistance Program* and appeals support.

Eisai

Eisai Reimbursement Assistance Program

(877) 644-6270;
FAX (888) 644-7236;
8:00AM-8:00PM Eastern Time
Aloxi, Dacogen, Gliadel, Hexalen, Salogen
(866) 613-4724;
FAX (866) 573-4724;
Ontak, Panretin, Targretin
(866) 272-8804;
FAX (866) 272-8805;
Fragmin
The *Eisai Reimbursement Assistance Program* provides patient assistance and reimbursement support for *Aloxi*,

Dacogen, Fragmin, Gliadel, Hexalen, Ontak, Panretin, Salogen, and Targretin. A customer service representative will assist with *Eisai* product information, indigent programs, reimbursement questions, prior authorizations, referral to co-pay assistance programs, insurance verification, billing/coding questions, appeal assistance, referral to disease-state assistance programs and letters of medical necessity.

Genentech BioOncology

Genentech Access Solutions

(888) 249-4918;
www.genentechaccesssolutions.com;
Avastin, Herceptin, Rituxan, Tarceva
Genentech Access Solutions provides one-stop access to a broad array of reimbursement information, and support and services for patients so that they can focus on treatment. In addition to providing information about co-pay assistance through independent public charities, *Genentech Access Solutions* can also help with common reimbursement challenges, insurance appeals and coverage denials, and referrals to the *Genentech Access to Care Foundation*. For coverage and reimbursement services, visit www.genentechaccesssolutions.com/docs/av/ASEEnrollment.pdf for patient assistance, visit www.genentechaccesssolutions.com/docs/av/GATCFEnrollment.pdf.

Avastin Patient Assistance Program

(888) 249-4918;
FAX (888) 249-4919;
6:00AM-5:00PM Pacific Time
The *Avastin Patient Assistance Program* is designed to limit the overall annual cost of *Avastin* for eligible patients receiving treatment for FDA-approved indications. Participation in the *Program* provides a voluntary opportunity for physicians and eligible patients who reach an annual charge of 10,000mg to receive free *Avastin* from *Genentech* for the remainder of the 12-month period. The *Program* is open to all patients receiving *Avastin* (regardless

of insurance coverage) with a household adjusted gross income of up to \$100,000. Patients must be receiving *Avastin* for an FDA-approved indication.

Genzyme Oncology

Clolar Direct Response Program

(800) RX-CLOLAR (800-792-5652);
FAX (866) 617-3001;
www.clolar.com/hcp/resources/
cl_hc_re_direct.asp
9:00AM-5:00PM EST

Clolar

This support program provides a one-stop information resource for reimbursement and patient access questions. Staffed with specialists with expertise in public and private health insurance, the program offers assistance in securing payer coverage requirements, providing coding and billing information, verifying patient benefits, and accessing patient assistance resources.

GlaxoSmithKline Oncology

Tykerb Cares

(866) 489-5372;
www.tykerb.com

Tykerb

The *Tykerb Cares* support program helps patients and the healthcare providers who treat them. All patients who are prescribed *Tykerb* are eligible for the *Tykerb Cares* program. It is a one stop point of contact for arranging to have your prescription filled through a specialty pharmacy, researching your insurance coverage, including benefits verification, determining the lowest co-pay available, alternative coverage options, accessing the patient assistance program, and obtaining enrollment forms for *Tykerb*.

GSK Reimbursement Resource Center

(800) 745-2967;
www.rrc.gsk.com

The *GSK Reimbursement Resource Center* is a toll-free reimbursement support program available to assist patients and healthcare professionals in the United States with drug coverage, coding, and

reimbursement issues for certain GSK products.

Commitment to Access

www.commitmenttoaccess.com

Commitment to Access, GlaxoSmithKline's patient assistance program for oncology medicines, provides GSK prescription medicines to eligible low-income patients without third party prescription drug benefits. Enrollment forms and information can be obtained at www.commitmenttoaccess.com.

ImClone Systems

BMS/ImClone Destination Access

(800) 861-0048;
FAX (888) 776-2370;
www.destinationaccess.com;
7:00AM-7:00PM

Erbix

The *BMS/ImClone Destination Access* program helps with benefit investigation (appeals for physicians and patients, pre- & post-treatment appeals, Medicare Part B appeals, appeal FAQs) and patient assistance.

Lilly Oncology

Lilly Patient One

(866) 4PatOne;
FAX (866) 472-8663

Alimta, Gemzar

Lilly Oncology's Patient One program provides reliable and individualized treatment support that addresses financial, access, and claim issues for patients who are candidates for *Lilly's* oncology products. More information is available at www.lillypatientone.com/index.jsp.

Millennium

Velcade Reimbursement Assistance Program

(866) VELCADE;
9:00AM-8:00PM Eastern Time

Velcade

The *Program* provides product, clinical trials, and reimbursement information.

Novartis Oncology

Exjade Patient Assistance & Support

Services (EPASS)

(888) 90EPASS;

9:00AM-8:00PM Eastern Time

Exjade

EPASS provides access to *Exjade* as well as product, clinical, and reimbursement support. There is also evaluation for financial assistance available.

Reimbursement Hotline**for Femera & Zometa**

(866) 4FEMERA;

(866) 4ZOMETA;

9:00AM-8:00PM Eastern Time

Femera, Zometa

The *Hotline* provides product, clinical trials, and reimbursement information.

Reimbursement & Clinical Trials for Gleevec

(877) GLEEVEC;

9:00AM-8:00PM Eastern Time

Gleevec

The *Hotline* provides product, clinical trials, and reimbursement information.

Reimbursement Hotline**for Sandostatin & Sandostatin LAR****Depot**

(877) LAR-HELP;

8:00AM-5:00PM Eastern Time

Femara, Gleevec, Sandostatin, Zometa

The *Hotlines* assist health care providers in identifying payment sources.

Reimbursement specialists review and clarify all insurance payment policies, identify correct billing codes, explain reimbursement limitations, and assist with reimbursement difficulties.

Reimbursement specialists also identify alternative sources of coverage and evaluate eligibility for the *Novartis Patient Assistance Program*.

Oncology Supply/ION

(888) 536-7697

OS/ION offers a unique value to pharmaceutical companies, service providers, and physician practices. Access provided by *OS/ION* empowers health care providers and industry companies to

improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and quality of health care delivery to patients while enabling them to satisfy their respective missions. The collective portfolio of services and solutions from *OS/ION* include *OS/ION Coding Workshops*, monthly Web/teleconference workshops specifically for *OS/ION* members, which address pertinent topics such as basic coding rules and standards, and evaluation and management documentation requirements; *OS/ION Medical Advisory Panel (MAP)*, comprising industry thought leaders with collective expertise in disease states, community-based practice, and business administration with an ongoing mission to deliver quality pharmaceutical products to patients as well as creative practice solutions to physicians; *OS/ION Protocol Analyzer*, a preloaded software program, complete with standard drug pricing from *Oncology Supply* and CMS's most recent reimbursement data, which is available online at www.iononline.com, and calculates the overall cost of delivering chemotherapy in the practice; the *OS/ION Pharmacy & Dispensing Program*, with two distinct drug dispensing models that can be used to distribute medication for payment under the pharmacy benefits portion of a patient's insurance and enables close analysis of each practice's prescription-writing habits to determine which model is most suitable for use; *OS/ION Practice Reimbursement Series*, a series of reimbursement webinars that are designed to help network members stay abreast of breaking issues related to reimbursement and how it impacts them; *OS/ION Vital Reimbursement Resources*, a feature on the *OS/ION* Web site through which members are directed to an array of reimbursement material including CMS and Medicare enrollment forms, and timely news updates pertaining to reimbursement and legislation are posted in this section; and the overall *OS/ION GPO Function*, whereby the country's largest diversified services organization for

the community-based practitioner is designed to contract directly with pharmaceutical and biotech companies to support their products within the organization's membership.

Onmark, McKesson Specialty Care Solutions

Regimen Profiler

(866) 686-8340

Onmark, McKesson Specialty Care Solutions, is the leading national group purchasing organization for community-based practices. *Onmark* delivers cost savings through its premier contract portfolio, plus innovative business and clinical solutions that empower members to operate more efficiently and deliver cost-effective, high-quality patient care.

Regimen Profiler is a Web-based tool that helps oncology practices and their patients understand financial and clinical information for many oncology treatment regimens. It is available free of charge to *Onmark* members. Visit www.onmarkservices.com and click on the *Practice Management* tab to learn more.

Ortho Biotech

DOXILine

(800) 609-1083;

FAX (800) 987-5572;

www.DOXILine.com;

9:00AM-8:00PM Eastern Time

Doxil

DOXILine provides access to reimbursement information and support—patient assistance program to patients without insurance coverage (based on financial need); access to insurance guidelines for private, federal, and state plans; verification of insurance coverage; and, coding and billing assistance.

ProcritLine

(800) 553-3851;

FAX (800) 987-5572;

www.procritline.com;

9:00AM-8:00PM Eastern Time

Leustatin, Procrit

ProcritLine provides easy access to reimbursement information and support—patient assistance program to patients without insurance coverage (based on financial need), coding and billing assistance, verification of insurance coverage, and assistance with appeals.

OSI Pharmaceuticals

(866) 435-2524;

Gelclair

(866) 374-8906;

Novantrone

(888) 249-4918;

Tarceva

These hotlines provide medical information and patient assistance.

Pfizer Oncology

FirstRESOURCE

(877) 744-5675;

FAX (877) 744-5473;

9:00AM-7:00PM Eastern Time

Aromasin, Camptosar, Ellence, Sutent

FirstRESOURCE provides insurance benefit verification, prior authorization, payer cover policy, appeals assistance, alternative sources of coverage, and patient support program information.

Roche Oncology

Oncoline

(800) 443-6676;

8:30AM-5:00PM Eastern Time

Kytril, Roferon-A, Vesanoïd, Xeloda

Oncoline offers a range of reimbursement and literature search services, including third-party payer reimbursement information, coverage and benefits verification, billing codes and claims procedures, assistance with appeals, clinical literature searches, and enrollment information for *Roche's Medical Needs Program*.

Sanofi Aventis Oncology

Eligard Reimbursement Hotline

(877) 354-4273;

FAX (866) 354-4273;

9:00AM-8:00PM Eastern Time

Eligard

The *Hotline* provides patient assistance and reimbursement support.

Hyalgan Reimbursement Hotline

(800) 992-9022;
FAX (866) 354-4273;
9:00AM-8:00PM Eastern Time

Hyalgan

The *Hotline* provides patient assistance and reimbursement support.

PACT+ Program

(800) 996-6626;
FAX (800) 996-6627;
www.pactplusonline.com;
9:00AM-8:00PM Eastern Time
Anzemet, Elitek, Eloxatin, Nilandron, Taxotere

The *PACT+ Program* provides patient assistance, alternative resources, and reimbursement support to oncology patients and providers. The *PACT+ Provider Portal* is a secure web site accessible only to healthcare providers and reimbursement personnel who participate in the *PACT+ Program* on behalf of their practice's needy patients. This tool is the first of its kind in oncology and offers improved workflow processes related to reimbursement and patient assistance program (PAP) information, such as the ability to streamline and prioritize PAP caseload, complete enrollment applications online, receive alerts and reminders about specific patient cases, track PAP product shipments, and easily access all patient related information including patient history, alerts/reminders, insurance benefit summaries, shipments, attachments, and case histories. To register for the *PACT+ Provider Portal*, visit www.pactplusonline.com or call (800) 996-6626.

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals***TORISEL Reimbursement Support Program***

(866) WYETH-ONC (993-8466);
FAX (866) 993-8411;
www.wyeth.com/hcp/torisel/billing-reimbursement;
9:00AM-6:00PM Eastern Time

Torisel

One call connects you to your dedicated *Regional Reimbursement Consultant (RRC)* who is ready to handle your reimbursement questions about *Torisel*.

ASSOCIATION NEWS***Individual Membership Dues for 2009***

Membership renewal notices for 2009 were mailed to all members in late November. If you have not yet done so, then please return your 2008 membership dues to ANCO now to ensure your inclusion in *The ANCO Directory of Members 2009*. Be sure to provide ANCO with your e-mail address and the name(s) and e-mail address(es) of office and/or nurse manager contact(s). Those not renewing their membership by June 1st, 2009 will be deleted from the *Directory of Members*, and will no longer be eligible for any ANCO benefits. Contact the ANCO office if you did not receive or misplaced your membership dues renewal notice.

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

A larger ANCO is a stronger ANCO!

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

AMGEN informs ANCO that DHCS/MediCal now requires J1440 on claims for filgrastim (300mcg) and J1441 on claims for filgrastim (480mcg). Local codes (X7046 and X7048) will now be denied. In addition, DHCS/MediCal

now requires J2505 for pegfilgrastim (6mg) and will deny X7652. This information was published in the *MediCal Update* (Part 2, Billing and Policy) in November 2008.

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.

GlaxoSmithKline Oncology has informed ANCO that the ***United States Food and Drug Administration*** has approved Promacta tablets for the treatment of thrombocytopenia in patients with chronic immune (idiopathic) thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP) who have had an insufficient response to corticosteroids, immunoglobulins, or splenectomy. Eltrombopag is an orally-administered thrombopoietin receptor agonist that stimulates bone marrow megakaryocytes to produce platelets.

Sanofi Aventis Oncology informs ANCO that ***Teva*** and ***Bedford*** have announced a shortage of leucovorin calcium powder for injection due to manufacturing delays. Additionally, ***Bedford*** has announced a shortage of leucovorin calcium solution for injection. Leucovorin is indicated for palliative treatment of advanced colorectal cancer in combination with 5-fluorouracil, rescue treatment after high-dose methotrexate therapy in osteosarcoma and the treatment of megaloblastic anemia due to folic acid deficiency when oral therapy is not feasible. For more information, visit www.fda.gov/cder/drug/shortages/default.htm#Leucovorin.

Spectrum Pharmaceuticals informs ANCO that CMS has established a product-specific billing code, J0641, for FUSILEV (0.5mg). The J-code becomes effective on January 1st, 2009.

US Oncology Physician Services is hosting a webcast entitled ***Legislative, Regulatory, and Community Action Update*** on Thursday, December 11th, at 12PM. This interactive webcast will discuss the impact of the new administration on healthcare and oncology; provide an update on policy, laws, and regulations; and, highlight changes to expect in

2009. Visit www.opspharmacist.com/opes for more information and to register.

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 recently sponsored 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 Manager, East Bay Partners in Cancer Care*, presented *Strategic Health Insurance Contracts: Do Not Fear Any Contract!*. Michelle Weiss, *President, Weiss Oncology Consulting*, presented *Maximizing Patient Collections and Navigating Patient Assistance Programs*. Meeting materials 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.

Medicare Reimbursement for Oncology 2009

ANCO is pleased to sponsor three talks for oncologists, oncology nurses, and oncology practice managers entitled *Medicare Reimbursement for Oncology 2009*. Roberta Buell, M.B.A., *Managing Partner, Sausalito Healthcare Partners*, and Arthur Lurvey, M.D., *Contractor Medical Director, Palmetto/J1MAC*, will present the latest information impacting Medicare's reimbursement for oncology in 2009. Buell will provide a complete update of changes for 2009—coding, PQRI, ESAs, e-prescribing, underinsured patients and what to do about them, and strategies for the future. Lurvey will address the transition from NHIC/Medicare to Palmetto/J1MAC in California. He (or Palmetto/1MAC staff) will also be available after the presentation to help resolve specific claims issues. These programs will take place in Fresno on January 6th, in Oakland on January 7th, and Sacramento on January 8th. Support for these meetings is provided by *Abraxis Oncology, Celgene, Novartis Oncology, Onmark-McKesson Specialty Care Solutions, Sanofi Aventis Oncology, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals*, and possibly others. The final list of supporters will be announced at the meeting. A meeting announcement was mailed on December 2nd and may be downloaded at www.anco-online.org/MedicareUpdate2009.html.

Forthcoming ANCO Meetings

Additional ANCO meetings (e.g., *SABCS Highlights 2008* in San Francisco on January 14th, 2009, *ASH Highlights 2008* in San Francisco on February 10th) are in the planning stages and will be announced as they are scheduled.