

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 20th. 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 *House of Representatives* released its comprehensive health care reform legislation and it does not address prompt pay discounts used in the calculation of *Average Sales Price* (ASP). All the major cancer care organizations have worked very hard to provide this solution for artificially low drug reimbursement based on ASP.

**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.

CMS released the final 2010 *Medicare Physician Fee Schedule* on October 30th. ASCO is analyzing the final *Schedule* to determine its full impact on oncology practices. A preliminary analysis finds that there will be a 1% reduction for oncology services in 2010. Oncology will still be subject to a 6% total cut to be phased in over four years. However, this is less drastic than the 6% cut for 2010 that CMS included in its proposed *Fee Schedule*. The reductions will be in reimbursement for drug administration, consultations, and diagnostic imaging. Other issues in the *Fee Schedule* that are of interest include:

- Radiation oncology was scheduled to receive a 19% cut based on the proposed *Fee Schedule*; instead, it received a 5% overall cut, largely due to a change in CMS estimates of utilization of imaging equipment. With the 4-year phase-in, this means radiation oncology will see a cut of 1% next year.
- Consultation codes have been eliminated entirely, in both the inpatient and outpatient/office setting. The work RVUs previously allotted to these services have been allocated to the work RVUs for new and established office visit services, initial hospital visits, and initial nursing facility visits.
- CMS agreed with ASCO that, by statute, the agency is required to use the 2003 supplemental survey data provided by ASCO. This decision softened potential cuts by about 2% over 4 years. For the 2010 *Fee Schedule*, CMS used ASCO's data and updated it for inflation using the *Medical Economic Index* (MEI).
- Beginning in 2010, CMS will no longer include drug costs in its calculation of the *Sustainable Growth Rate* (SGR). This is a change that ASCO has supported for many years, and CMS projects this change is more likely to result in subsequent annual updates that are positive, instead of the yearly cuts that have been the subject of annual *Congressional* intervention.

This analysis assumes that *Congress* will act to

correct the *Sustainable Growth Rate* (SGR) and avert the 21.5% general physician payment cut for 2010. *House* legislation (HR3961) would replace the SGR with a new formula that removes items such as drugs and laboratory services not paid directly to practitioners from spending targets; would allow the volume of most services to grow at the rate of the gross domestic product plus 1 percentage point per year; and, would allow the volume of primary and preventive care services to grow at GDP plus 2% per year. The *Senate Finance Committee* health care reform bill (S1796) would increase physician reimbursement by 0.5% in 2010. ACCC will host a teleconference on Thursday November 12th at 11AM to discuss the *Medicare Physician Fee Schedule* for 2010 and its impact. To participate in the teleconference, dial (888) 283-6452; passcode 6106472.

The *Federal Trade Commission* (FTC) is now enforcing its ruling that would consider physicians who regularly bill their patients (including co-payments and coinsurance) to be creditors. Physicians must develop and implement written identity theft prevention and detection programs for their practices in order to be in compliance with the FTC's *Red Flag Rule*. **The *American Medical Association* has developed guidance material** (available at www.ama-assn.org/ama/no-index/physician-resources/red-flags-rule.shtml) to help physicians comply with the *Rule*. **The *California Medical Association* (CMA) has published a tool kit to help physicians and their staffs understand the scope and requirements of the *Red Flag Rule*.** The tool kit provides guidance on designing and implementing an identity theft detection and prevention program for the physician practice. CMA's *Red Flag Rule Tool Kit* is free to members at the members-only website. **For a primer on the FTC's *Red Flag Rule*, please see the article at www.anco-online.org/RedFlagRule.pdf.** ANCO has also arranged for *Risk Mitigation Solutions* to offer compliance services to members (visit www.anco-online.org/RiskMitigationSolutions.pdf).

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. 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 “Spotlight” section on the PQRI webpage is updated frequently and alerts eligible professionals to the newest program information available on the PQRI webpage. The *American Medical Association* (AMA) has posted PQRI participation tools at www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/physician-resources/clinical-practice-improvement/clinical-quality/participation-tools-individual.shtml. In addition, ASCO’s PQRI website (www.asco.org/ASCOv2/Public+Policy/Policy+Issues/Medicare+%26+Quality+Care/Regulations+%26+Resources/Information/Physician+Quality+Reporting+Initiative+%28PQRI%29+General+Information?cpsectcurrchannel=1) includes relevant links and oncology-specific information.

The *Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act* (MIPPA) authorizes an incentive program for eligible professionals who are successful electronic prescribers, or “e-prescribers”. The incentive program, which began in January, 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. To be eligible for the e-prescribing bonus, the services linked to e-prescribing measures must make up at least 10% of your Medicare charges for the year. You must also use a certified e-prescribing system. 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. CMS will post updates to e-prescribing quality measures, such as specifications or reporting instructions, at www.cms.hhs.gov/ERXIncentive/. Medicare’s *Practical Guide to the E-Prescribing Incentive*

Program is available at www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Providers~Current%20News~Medicares%20Practical%20Guide%20to%20the%20E-Prescribing%20Incentive%20Program%20is%20now%20available%20online!?opendocument. The *Guide* explains the e-prescribing incentive program, how eligible professionals can participate, and how to choose a qualified e-prescribing system. **For additional oncology-specific information, visit ASCO’s e-prescribing website at www.asco.org/eprescribing.**

CMS has developed a number of on-line tools surrounding PQRI and ERx, including a web-based training course on the two programs. The course provides information on the completion, submission, and maintenance of the documentation that is required to successfully participate in the PQRI and ERx programs. To access the on-line tools, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNGenInfo, scroll down to “Related Links Inside CMS,” select “Web Based Training (WBT) Modules,” and then select the “Physician Quality Reporting Initiative and Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program” from the list provided.

Electronic health records (EHRs) are powerful tools that can streamline practice management and reduce errors in patient care. 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 *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. In addition, ASCO has developed a new EHR social networking site (ehr.ascoexchange.org/) to help oncologists and their practice staff connect and collaborate with other users of EHRs, as well as find information on EHRs and other health information

technology tools. Finally, a CMS website (www.cms.hhs.gov/Recovery/11_HealthIT.asp) is now available where you can find information pertaining to the Medicare and Medicaid incentives for EHR adoption.

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) Council on Legislation, House of Delegates, and specialty delegation. ANCO and MOASC coordinate advocacy activities in California.]

Sacramento can be a dangerous place for doctors. Many bills impacting medicine wind their way through the *Capitol* on their journey to the *Governor's* desk. And, many of these bills threaten the medical profession with the backing of powerful lobbyists and PACs. It's critical that **physicians have an advocate at work for them every day and who knows how to speak on their behalf. That advocate is the California Medical Association (CMA).** While physicians keep a close eye on their patients, CMA is keeping a close eye on those bills...and more. **Got payment delays? Feeling victimized by payors and overwhelmed by the process? Don't let the health plans mistreat you.** The CMA's *Center for Economic Services* has a team of reimbursement specialists available to assist ANCO's CMA members experiencing payment problems with third-party payors. For membership, contact Ron Lopp at (916) 551-2042 or rlopp@cmanet.org; for reimbursement assistance, call CMA's *Reimbursement Helpline* at (888) 401-5911.

The 2009 *Federal* economic stimulus package includes \$19B for health information technology (HIT), the vast majority of which will be directed to physicians to subsidize the purchase and usage of electronic health record (EHR) systems. Beginning in 2011, qualifying Medicare providers stand to gain up to \$44,000 under the program; qualifying MediCal providers stand to receive as much as \$64,000. CMA advises physicians to begin the process of assessing their EHR needs, with an eye on what will work best for their specialty, the size of their practice, the stage in their career, and their comfort level with technology. CMA has established a *Health Information Technology (HIT) Resource Center* on

the CMA website designed to educate physicians about the HIT subsidies for physicians in the recent *Federal* stimulus package. Visit www.cmanet.org/hit/ for the latest information focusing on materials to help physicians assess their HIT needs and begin the process of choosing an EHR system that works best for their practices and qualifies them to receive the *Federal* funds. CMA will also provide materials for physicians and practices that currently use EHR systems to help them know how to qualify for the funds as well. CMA members are invited to participate in their EHR *Best Practice Series*. Please call (800) 786-4262 for your unique coupon code to use when registering if a coupon code has not already been provided to you from your county medical society. Visit www.ehrbestpractice.com/register/regWebinar_CMA.php for more information and to register.

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

Palmetto/J1MAC, 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 mail 2010 Medicare participation enrollment and fee schedule information in November. For more information, visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7X2L3Y4207?opendocument.

The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003

established the *Medicare Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) program to identify fraud and waste in the Medicare system*. Audit contractors are expected to focus on companies and individuals whose billings for specific Medicare services are higher than the majority of providers in their communities. Auditors cannot request more than 10 patient records from a practice in any 45-day period. **The California Medical Association (CMA) has developed a tool kit to help physicians understand the program** and, if necessary, navigate the audit process. The tool kit is available free to CMA members.

Palmetto/J1MAC has published an article entitled *Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) Program* and added a new RAC category under *Articles* on the Palmetto/J1MAC website. Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7T6K7W3608?opendocument or www.anco-online.org/MedicareRACs.pdf for more information on the RAC program.

HealthDataInsights (HDI), the Medicare RAC for Region D (that includes California), has posted the first group of CMS-approved audit issues for RAC review on its website (racinfo.healthdatainsights.com), including:

- Pegfilgrastim claims not billed with the 6mg unit of service
- Excessive units (IV hydration)

Palmetto/J1MAC's Medicare Advisory is available at www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/docsCat/Providers~Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B~Publications~Medicare%20Advisory?open&expand=1. Of specific relevance to oncology, the current edition features:

- Crossover process
- Part B LCD updates
- FDG PET for Solid Tumors and Myeloma

Anthem Blue Cross has notified physicians of changes to its Prudent Buyer physician fee schedule that will take effect January 1st, 2010. In a letter to physicians, *Blue Cross* informed physicians that it would be modifying payment levels for many CPT codes, some being decreased and others being increased. The new fee schedule also incorporates a site of service rate differential. Physicians are reminded that before accepting a

new health plan contract or a material change to an existing contract, it is important to know what value it will bring to their practice. You do not have to accept contracts that are not mutually beneficial. If you have questions about the new contract terms, contact *Blue Cross Provider Relations* at (800) 933-6633. Physicians are urged to calculate the financial impact the fee schedule changes will have on their practices. The new rates are available at www.anthem.com/ca/ (log in to ProviderAccess and select the "Prudent Buyer Fee Schedule Update Effective 1/1/2010" link under the "What's New" section). You can also request the new rates via FAX (visit www.cmanet.org/upload/pricing_request_form.pdf for the request form or call *Blue Cross Provider Relations*). You should also be aware that you have the right to terminate an agreement if any "material change" to the contract terms is not acceptable to your practice. If you choose to terminate, you must do so before November 11th (for a termination date of January 1st, 2010). Termination letters can be mailed to *Anthem Blue Cross*, Prudent Buyer Plan Contract Processing, Mail Station 8A, P.O. Box 4330, Woodland Hills, California 91365-4330. To help physicians understand the impact these changes will have on their practices, CMA has published a *Blue Cross* tool kit containing information on each of these changes, including important dates and links to important documents and sample letters. The tool kit is available free to CMA members at the members-only website.

Did you know that the California has a quick, easy, and free way for physicians to get help with claims payment problems? The *Department of Managed Health Care's (DMHC) Provider Complaint Unit (PCU)* has recovered more than \$16M in additional payments owed by health plans to physicians since it was created in 2005. The DMHC PCU was created as an alternative way for physicians to resolve claims payment issues without having to go to court. An online *Provider Complaint System* evaluates claim reimbursement disputes such as timely submission and payment of claims, failure to pay according to contracts, coding disputes, and enforcement of the provider bill of rights. The PCU investigates and addresses individual claims

problems and also systemic unfair payment or billing patterns among health plans. The DMHC is the *State* agency that regulates all California HMOs, and *Anthem Blue Cross* and *Blue Shield* PPOs. If you are a physician and would like to report a problem regarding claims payment, please contact DMHC at (877) 525-1295 or visit www.healthhelp.ca.gov. DMHC is especially interested in current preauthorization/certification, claims processing, and payment problems facing the hematology/oncology community. Visit www.anco-online.org/Resources.pdf for specific instructions on how to report your issues to DMHC.

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., *Medicare Reimbursement for Oncology 2010—January 12-14*, *SABCS Highlights 2009—January 20*) are in the planning stages and will be announced as they are scheduled.. ANCO's *ASH Highlights 2009* is being superseded in February 2010 by ASH's *Highlights of ASH*. ANCO's *ASCO/ONS Highlights 2010* is being superseded in July 2010 by ASCO's *Best of ASCO*. These meetings will take place in San Francisco.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

November 12-13th

6th International Conference: Revitalizing Cancer Care—Comprehensive Interdisciplinary Programs and Whole Systems Research

Society for Integrative Oncology
New York

November 12-14th

2009 Annual Conference

California Hospice and Palliative Care Association
San Francisco

November 13th

NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology Symposium: Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

National Comprehensive Cancer Network
Palo Alto
(www.nccn.org/professionals/meetings/symposia.asp)

November 14th

3rd Annual Cancer Survivorship Conference

Northern California Cancer Center
San Francisco
(www.nccc.org)

November 19th-22nd

Food As Medicine: Professional Nutrition Training Program

Center for Mind Body Medicine
Miami

December 5-8th

51st ASH Annual Meeting and Exposition

American Society of Hematology
New Orleans

(www.hematology.org/meetings/annual-meeting)

December 9th

Clinical Trials: Improving Treatment Options and Care for People Living with Cancer

CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

December 10th

Update on Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML) from the 2009 ASH Annual Meeting

CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

December 15th

Update on Lymphoma Treatment from the 2009 ASH Annual Meeting

CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

December 16th

The Latest Developments Reported at the 32nd Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium

CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

January 15th

Understanding Adjuvant Therapy for Early-Stage Lung Cancer

CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

January 20th

Current Trends in Managing Chemotherapy-Related Nausea and Vomiting

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

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

- ASH Practice Updates
- CMA Alerts
- CMS/Medicare Website Updates
- DHCS/MediCal Updates
- Palmetto/J1MAC Website Updates

MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES**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.
- updated Corporate Member drug reimbursement and patient assistance program information.

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. To subscribe to the ANCO *Online ListServ*, send an e-mail to ListServ@anco-online.org.

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

ASSOCIATION NEWS**Annual Election**

Four seats on the ANCO *Board of Directors* are up for election in 2009. 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 2010-2012, inclusive). Nominate an ANCO member (including yourself) to stand for election to the *Board* via e-mail/FAX to the ANCO office at execdir@anco-online.org/(415) 472-3961 no later than November 20th.

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 November 24th. Please call José Luis González, ANCO *Executive Director*, at (415) 472-3960 if you wish to participate in a future meeting.

Individual Member News

Need vacation coverage? Mike Turbow, M.D., ANCO member, *Past President*, and retired oncologist, is interested in doing *locum tenens*. Contact Dr. Turbow at mturbowmd@mac.com or (650) 759-9861.

The ANCO Directory of Members 2009 was mailed to ANCO physician members; nurse and office manager contacts; and, Corporate Member representatives the week of August 3rd. 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 July 2010.

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.

Kaiser Permanente's cancer trial program in Northern California is 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 initiated an **Institutional Membership** in 2002. *Department(s) of Hematology and/or Oncology* of accredited, degree-granting teaching universities or research institutions are eligible for institutional membership. 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 **11th Annual UCSF/UCD Thoracic Oncology Conference** takes place in San Francisco on November 21st. Visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/

[CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU10004](http://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU10004) for more information.

UCSF's **9th Annual UCSF Clinical Cancer Update** takes place in North Lake Tahoe on January 29-30th, 2010. Visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU10006 for more information.

For information on **Institutional Member clinical trials**, please visit:

- cancertrials.stanford.edu/
- ccresources.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/csr/content/clinicaltrialspublicreport.csr
- clinical-trials.ucsf.edu:8000/trials/index.php

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 • Agendia • Alaven
Alexion Pharmaceuticals • Allos Therapeutics
AMGEN • AstraZeneca
Bayer Healthcare/Onyx Pharmaceuticals
biogenIDEC
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology
Celgene • Centocor Ortho Biotech
Cephalon Oncology • Eisai
Enzon Pharmaceuticals
Genentech BioOncology
Genomic Health • Genzyme Oncology
GlaxoSmithKline Oncology • ImClone Systems
Lash Group Healthcare Consultants
Lilly Oncology • Merck • Millennium
Novartis Oncology
Oncology Supply/ION • OSI Pharmaceuticals
Onmark,
a McKesson Specialty Care Solutions Company
Pathwork Diagnostics • Pfizer Oncology
Response Genetics • Roche Oncology
Sanofi Aventis Oncology
Spectrum Pharmaceuticals
US Oncology Physician Services
Wyeth Pharmaceuticals • Vidacare*

We especially wish to thank and welcome *Allos Therapeutics*, *Merck*, *Pathwork Diagnostics*, and *Response Genetics* as new Corporate Members in 2009. *Hospira* and *OneOncology* did not renew their Corporate Memberships for 2009.

Please visit www.anco-online.org/assistance.html for updated Corporate Member drug reimbursement and patient assistance program information.

GlaxoSmithKline Oncology informs ANCO the *United States Food & Drug Administration* has granted accelerated approval to *Arzerra* for the treatment of patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) refractory to fludarabine and glemtuzumab. Full prescribing information, including clinical trial information, safety, dosing, drug-drug interactions, and contraindications is available at www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2009/125326lbl.pdf.

US Oncology Physician Services will host a webcast entitled *Research in the Community Oncology Setting* on Friday, November 13th. Visit www.opspharmacist.com/opes for more information and to register.

Clinical Trial News

Stanford seeks patients with thyroid cancer (papillary, follicular, Hurtle cell, or medullary types) for two clinical trials:

- XL 184-301—a Phase III clinical trial for patients with medullary thyroid cancer that is unresectable, locally advanced, or metastatic. XL 184 is an oral drug known to target RET, the oncogene thought to be responsible for most medullary thyroid cancers. Travel expenses are covered for those participants who live more than 50 miles from the research site, including reimbursements for some mileage, parking, lodging and meals.
- Sorafenib—a Phase III clinical trial for patients with iodine refractory differentiated thyroid cancer not amenable to surgical resection. Sorafenib targets VEGFR, RAF, and PDGFR kinases and has shown promising activity

in early studies in thyroid cancer. All patients enrolled will be eligible to receive Sorafenib on this early crossover trial design.

For more information, call A. Dimitrios Colevas, M.D., at (650) 724-9707 or Ruth Lira at (650) 723-1367. Additional information is available at cancertrials.stanford.edu/.

UCSF's BreastCancerTrials.org is a free, non-profit website and clinical trial matching service exclusively dedicated to breast cancer. It is intended to be an easy-to-use, one-stop solution to finding a breast cancer clinical trial. Patients looking for trials may enter detailed information about their cancer history into a completely confidential and secure online database. The patient's *Personal Health Record* (PHR) is used to match the patient with breast cancer trials that medical researchers have registered with BCT. Visit www.breastcancertrials.org for more information.

Patient News

The *Stanford University School of Medicine* is sponsoring an online program and study with support from the *Stanford Cancer Center* that teaches the skills needed in the day-to-day management of life after cancer and gives patients skills to take control of their health. Patients will learn ways to manage fatigue, difficult emotions, and after effects of cancer treatment. The program/study is now recruiting and enrolling patients. For more information and to enroll, visit cancersurvivors.stanford.edu (or call Katy Plant, *Study Manager* at 800-366-2624, cancersurvivors@stanford.edu).

Publications, Resources, Services, & Surveys

ANCO's 2009 staff salary survey was mailed to all ANCO community-based physician members and their office/nurse managers at the end of August. Completed surveys (one per practice) should be returned to the ANCO office no later than November 27th. Visit www.anco-online.org/salsrvy.html to download the survey instrument.

ASCO's *Oncology Practice Insider* is an

interactive biweekly communication specifically devoted to oncology practice management issues and for practice managers. Subscribe to the *Oncology Practice Insider* via e-mail to practice@asco.org. Recent issues featured:

- ASCO Preparing to Develop Two New Provisional Clinical Opinions (on EGFR testing and Hepatitis B screening)
- ASCO Provides Testimony to HIT Policy Committee
- CMS Issues Instructions to MACs Concerning OIG Reports (including Medicare Part B Chemotherapy Administration: Payment and Policy)

ASCO and ONS have released a set of national, consensus-driven standards to guide oncologists in the safe administration of chemotherapy to adult patients in the outpatient setting. The standards, which were published in the online edition of the *Journal of Oncology Practice* on September 28th, are intended to reduce the risk of errors when providing patients with chemotherapy and provide a framework for best practices in cancer care. To help practices achieve compliance with the standards, ASCO has developed an online guide available at www.asco.org/safety.

ASCO's Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI) is designed to promote excellence in cancer care by helping oncologists create a culture of self-examination and improvement. ASCO is now offering the QOPI Certification Program to recognize QOPI participants who achieve rigorous standards for cancer care. The QOPI Certification designation can be used by certified practices to demonstrate an advanced commitment to quality. For more information or to register, go to qopi.asco.org.

The November/December (Vol. 24, No. 6) issue of ACCC's *Oncology Issues* features articles entitled *Staffing an Oncology Practice: Art or Science?* and *CSOs—Certified Specialists in Oncology Nutrition*. Visit www.accc-cancer.org/mediaroom/newsletters/2009/media_OIFL_novdec2009.html for more information.

The Community Oncology Alliance's (COA) Administrators' Network (CAN) website is

available at communityoncology.info. Bobbi Buell is the CAN Web Mistress. The site includes a variety of presentations, tools, resources, and copies of her newsletter. Registration is required to access this website.

NCCN has updated their *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology and Drugs & Biologics Compendium*, for:

- Uterine Neoplasms
- Cervical Cancer

Visit www.nccn.org for the latest information. **Need instant access to the NCCN *Compendium* and NCCN *Guidelines* updates as they happen? Subscribe to NCCN *Flash Updates* to have changes delivered straight to your inbox.** NCCN *Flash Updates* provide immediate notification of changes and updates to published NCCN *Drugs & Biologics Compendium* chapters and NCCN *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology*. Subscribers receive an e-mail as soon as updates or changes occur. Visit www.nccn.org/network/business_insights/flash_updates/default.asp to learn more about NCCN *Flash Updates*. **NCCN has also created a new educational initiative designed to quickly communicate updates to the NCCN *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology* via 45-minute webinars.** The NCCN *Guidelines Update Webinar Series* will provide participants with an inside look to recent NCCN *Guidelines* updates hosted by a faculty member from the corresponding NCCN *Guidelines Panel* and followed by a live Q&A session. The online format allows for a convenient learning platform with no associated travel fees. The inaugural NCCN *Guidelines Update Webinar Series* will focus on recent updates to the NCCN *Guideline for Kidney Cancer* featuring Robert A. Figlin, M.D., from *City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center*. These webinars are scheduled for the week of November 9th. Registration and participation in these webinars are free of charge. Please check www.nccn.org/professionals/meetings/webinars/default.asp for more information.