

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 December 4th. 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 released a final rule that updates payment policies and rates under the *Medicare Physician Fee Schedule* (MPFS) for calendar year 2010, beginning January 1st, 2010. Current law requires that CMS adjust the MPFS payment rates annually based on an update formula, which requires application of the *Sustainable Growth*

**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.

Rate (SGR). The formula has provided negative updates every year since 2002, and each year *Congress* has averted these cuts. For 2010, Medicare payments to doctors are scheduled to drop 21.2%, resulting in a conversion factor of \$28.3769 unless *Congress* intervenes. CMS and the *White House* have said that they remain committed to working with *Congress* to avert the physician payment cut. Currently, accompanying legislation (HR3961) to the *House* health reform bill would provide permanent reform of the Medicare physician payment system and would repeal the 21% reduction scheduled for 2010; the *Senate Finance Committee* health reform bill would create a one year fix. In the final rule, CMS is also adopting several refinements to Medicare payments to physicians that will impact hematology/oncology:

- There is anticipated to be a 1% reduction in oncology services for 2010. This is part of a four-year phase-in of a 6% total cut in payment attributed to other changes in reimbursement for allocation of practice expenses.
- CMS will not use the AMA's *Physician Practice Information Survey* data to determine the practice expenses for medical oncology, but instead will continue to use the specialty supplemental survey data. This change will help to avoid further decline in reimbursement.
- CMS is finalizing the proposal to stop making payments for consultation codes other than the G codes for telehealth services. Instead of consultation codes, hematologists/oncologists will need to rely on existing evaluation and management services. The result will most likely be less reimbursement to specialists and increased reimbursement to primary care physicians.

The final rule contains several provisions to promote quality-of-care improvement through revisions to the *Physician Quality Reporting Initiative*, including the provision of more reporting options for practitioners and group practices and simplified electronic reporting. Read ACCC's analysis of the final 2010 MPFS at www.accc-cancer.org/advocacy/pdf/

2010_physician_finaladditionalcomments.pdf.

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and American Regent are notifying healthcare professionals that anaphylactic-type reactions, including fatalities, have followed the parenteral administration of iron dextran injection. The *Boxed Warning* has been modified to include the following new information:

- Administer a test dose prior to the first therapeutic dose; if no signs or symptoms of anaphylactic-type reactions follow the test dose, administer the full therapeutic dose.
- Observe for signs or symptoms of anaphylactic-type reactions during administration of Dexferrum.
- Fatal reactions have occurred following the test dose and have also occurred when the test dose was tolerated.
- Patients with a history of drug allergy or multiple drug allergies may be at increased risk of anaphylactic-type reactions.

The complete *MedWatch 2009* safety summary is available at www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm186899.htm including links to the *Dear Healthcare Professional* letter and the revised prescribing information.

CMS has begun distribution of 2008 PQRI payments. These payments will be issued to the tax ID number by Medicare carrier via paper check or electronically. It will take at least one month to distribute all 2008 PQRI incentive payments. For those eligible professionals who were initially found unsuccessful under the 2007 program, 2007 PQRI re-run payments will be distributed in November 2009. Both 2007 re-run and 2008 PQRI feedback reports were made available on October 30th. CMS has created an alternative process that individual eligible professionals may use to request 2007 re-run and 2008 PQRI feedback reports based on their NPI. This additional option is not applicable to group practices. Individual PQRI participants can call their respective Medicare Provider Contact Center to request 2007 re-run and 2008 PQRI

feedback reports that will contain data based on their individual NPI. For additional information regarding this alternative PQRI feedback report request process, please read www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/SE0922.pdf. CMS has posted two educational guides on understanding the PQRI incentive payments for the 2007 re-run and for 2008. To access *A Guide for Understanding the 2007 Re-Run PQRI Incentive Payment*, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI and click on the *2007 PQRI Program* link. To access *A Guide for Understanding the 2008 PQRI Incentive Payment*, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI and click on the *2008 PQRI Program* link.

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-Medicare%20Practical%20Guide%20to%20the%20E-Prescribing%20Incentive%20Program%20is%20now%20available%20online!%3Fopendocument. 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/MLN GenInfo, 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. **Materials from ASCO’s 2009 EHR Symposium are now available, including video and slides from all the sessions.** Covered topics include:

- Harnessing the EHR for Meaningful Use
- Implementation Project Management
- Personal Health Records and Patient Health Data Aggregators

Please call (888) 273-3508 or (703) 519-1430 to place your order. 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 the 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 is mailing 2010 Medicare participation enrollment and fee schedule information in November. For more information, visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7X2L3Y4207?opendocument. Due to recent revisions that were made to the 2010 *Medicare Physician Fee Schedule* (MPFS), CMS has

extended the 2010 *Annual Participation Enrollment Program* end date from December 31st, 2009, to January 31st, 2010.

CMS has defined *not usually self-administered by the patient*, according to how the Medicare population as a whole uses the drug, not how an individual patient or physician may choose to use a particular drug. Medicare provides limited benefits for outpatient prescription drugs. The program covers drugs that are furnished *incident-to* a physician's service provided that the drugs are *not usually self-administered by the patient*. For purpose of this exclusion, Palmetto/J1MAC defines *usually* as more than 50% of the time for all Medicare beneficiaries who use the drug. Therefore, if a drug is self-administered by more than 50% of Medicare beneficiaries, the drug is excluded from coverage and Palmetto/J1MAC will make no payment for the drug. For further information, please visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B~Articles-General-8525746A00550AA3852575920067876E.

The list of HCPCS codes for radiopharmaceutical drugs that require an invoice for pricing has been updated. An invoice is required with each claim in order for the service to be priced for radiopharmaceuticals that Palmetto/J1MAC does not have pricing available for. Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7RAQMD6147?opendocument for more information.

A recent Palmetto/J1MAC article announces instructions for the use of modifiers in association with *Advance Beneficiary Notices* (ABN). Effective April 1st, 2010, two HCPCS level-2 modifiers have been updated to distinguish between voluntary and required uses of liability notices. Those modifiers are –GA (redefined to mean Waiver of Liability Statement Issued as Required by Payer Policy, to be used to report when a required ABN was issued for a service) and –GX (defined as Notice of Liability Issued, Voluntary Under Payer Policy, to be used to report when a voluntary ABN was issued for a service). Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7XGMNE6600?opendocument for more information.

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 at 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.

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*). 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 in early December. 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:

December 4th
Unifying Practice Patterns Among Academic and Community Clinicians: Focus on Myeloma
 MediCom Worldwide
 New Orleans
 (Live Web Simulcast
www.managingmyeloma.com/meetings/webcast)

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

February 5-6th
Community Oncology Conference
 Community Oncology Alliance
 Scottsdale
 (www.communityonc.com/en/Home/
 ?campaignid=61537599&iusercampaignid=
 58225281)

February 10th
*Advances in the Treatment of Chronic Lymphocytic
 Leukemia (CLL)*
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

February 13-16th
*30th Annual Conference:
 Clinical Hematology & Oncology*
 Scripps Cancer Center
 San Diego

February 19-20th
16th Annual Conference
 NOCR
 Las Vegas
 (www.nocrannualmeeting.com)

February 24th
Progress in the Treatment of Multiple Myeloma
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

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

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 a regular 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
- DHCS/MediCal Updates

- Palmetto/J1MAC Website Updates

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 December 9th. 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

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.

Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology announces updated labeling for Sprycel to include

indications for the treatment of adults in all phases of chronic myeloid leukemia with resistance or intolerance to prior therapy including Gleevec. Visit www.sprycel.com for more information.

Lilly Oncology is sponsoring a national satellite webcast entitled *The Role of Histology and Developing Treatment Strategies for Advanced NSCLC* on December 8th at 7PM. The faculty includes Chandra P. Belani, M.D., Philip David Bonomi, M.D., M.S., and Paul A. Bunn, Jr., M.D. Visit www.theoleofhistology.com for more information and to register.

Participate in *Onmark's* CORE webcasts on December 1st and 2nd to hear the latest in healthcare reform and how it will affect oncology care, learn details of the CMS final rule for physician payment in 2010, and understand how to maximize incentives for EHR and e-prescribing. Visit onmarkevents.webex.com/onmarkevents/mywebex/default.php?Rnd4777=0.5385947847041572 for more information and to register.

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 Presents New Set of Decision Aids (Stage IV NSCLC)
- FTC's Red Flags Enforcement Date Extended Again (to June 1st, 2010)

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.

Thomson Reuters DrugDex will no longer be available to ACCC members. ACCC is planning to launch its new "Drug Information Guide" in early 2010.

The Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (Volume 7, Number 10) features the updated *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology* for Breast Cancer Screening and Diagnosis. Visit www.nccn.org/JNCCN/toc/2009november.asp for more information. **NCCN has updated their *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology* and/or *Drugs & Biologics Compendium*, for anal carcinoma, colorectal cancer screening, distress management, hepatobiliary cancers, kidney cancer, and melanoma.** 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. Registration and participation in these webinars are free of charge. Please check www.nccn.org/professionals/meetings/webinars/default.asp for more information.

Keep up with the latest cancer treatment news and breaking research results with an online subscription to the NCI *Cancer Bulletin* (www.cancer.gov/ncicancerbulletin). Every two weeks, you will receive consolidated content from all major cancer research journals, meetings, and NCI programs delivered right to your email inbox. The latest issue highlights:

- Expedite Clinical Trials Contract Negotiations with NCI's START Clauses
- Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events v4.0 (CTCAE)

The November issue of *Oncology Business Review* features articles on eOncology (*An Insider's Guide to Using Oncology-Specific EMRs*, *Oncology-Specific EMRs Gain Traction: Suppliers Weigh In*) and entitled *Panel Advises on Clinical Pathways: What, Why, and How*. Visit www.oncbiz.com for more information.