

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 18th. 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 has decided to cover positron emission tomography (PET) scans for beneficiaries diagnosed with cervical cancer in order to determine the best therapy. CMS stated that the available evidence is adequate to determine that the results of FDG (fluorodeoxyglucose) PET scans for beneficiaries diagnosed with cervical

**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.

cancer “are used by the treating physician to make meaningful changes in therapeutic management and improve health outcomes, and thus are reasonable and necessary.” For additional information concerning this new *National Coverage Determination* (NCD), visit www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/media/press/release.asp?Counter=3436.

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 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. (The *House of Representatives* has passed HR3961 would block the 21% cut in Medicare’s payment rate for physician services; the *Senate* is addressing the physician payment cut in its version of health care reform.) 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; read ASH’s analysis at www.hematology.org/News/2009/4528.aspx.

The *Federal Trade Commission* (FTC) has once again extended its enforcement date (to June 1st, 2010) for 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 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/MLNMMattersArticles/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.

CMS will host a national provider conference call on the 2009 PQRI at 10:30AM on Thursday, December 10th. Visit www.eventsvc.com/palmettogba/register/5fed696e-7aa2-4c07-9c5d-4c44a2ca4ece to register for the call.

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/ehrfielddguide. 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.]

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.]

Here are some new HCPCS J-codes for 2010:

- J0461 (Atropine sulfate, 0.01mg)
- J0718 (Certolizumab pegol, 1mg)
- J2796 (Romiplostim, 10micrograms)
- J7185 (Factor VIII (antihemophilic factor, recombinant) (xyntha), 1iu)
- J9171 (Docetaxel, 1mg)
- J9328 (Temozolomide, 1mg)

Please note the new HCPCS code and unit denomination for docetaxel; the old one (J9170)

will be deleted for dates of service after January 1st, 2010.

Palmetto/J1MAC mailed 2010 Medicare participation enrollment and fee schedule information in November. For more information, visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7X2L3Y4207?opendocument. However, 2010 Medicare *Physician Fee Schedule* amounts are currently unavailable. 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.

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 December *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:

- **Bevacizumab Off-Label Ophthalmologic Use**
- **Part B LCD Updates**
- **F-18 Flouro-D-Glucose (FDG) Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scans for Solid Tumors and Myeloma**
- **Radiopharmaceutical Drugs that Require an Invoice for Pricing**

DHCS/MediCal reports that an erroneous payment correction (EPC) affecting certain Medicare Part B crossover claims is scheduled for installation the first week of December 2009. All affected providers are being notified via letter and telephone calls. In summary, a system error was discovered that resulted in the incorrect reimbursement of certain Medicare Part B crossover claims. These claims should have utilized the DHCS/MediCal maximum allowable rate instead of the Medicare allowable for the service and modifier combination billed. EDS is reprocessing the affected Medicare Part B crossover claims with Remittance Advice Details (RAD) dates April 1st through October 29th to correct the paid amount, resulting in a recovery in most cases.

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.

***UnitedHealthcare* recently sent mailings to its contracted medical oncologists. These mailings represent the first edition of their quality data using cancer stage information from the oncologist, claims data from *UnitedHealthcare*, and guidelines from the NCCN.** The mailings included an introductory letter, a sample physician report, and *UnitedHealthcare*’s national results for breast, lung and colorectal cancers. *UnitedHealthcare* is excited about the potential of this approach to advance the quality agenda for oncology care.

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.]

Adapting to Changes in Medicare for 2010

ASCO will offer the *Adapting to Changes in Medicare for 2010* teleconference on Thursday, January 7th, 2010. Registration information and call details will be forthcoming soon.

Oncology Reimbursement 2010

ANCO’s annual Medicare update programs have been expanded. *Oncology Reimbursement 2010* will present the latest information impacting oncology reimbursement in 2010. Roberta Buell, M.B.A., will provide a complete update of changes for Medicare reimbursement—fee schedule, coding/billing, PQRI, ERx. Sandra Siddall, R.N., M.S.N., *Palmetto/J1MAC*, will review the *Palmetto/J1MAC* medical review/appeals process. Her objectives will be to differentiate between reopenings and redeterminations; develop an understanding of the Medicare appeals process; present the requirements for filing each level of appeal; and, describe what to submit with appeals. CMA’s

advocacy staff will review the rules and regulations governing claims processing and payment from third-party payers and resources available to ANCO CMA members to help resolve issues between practices and third-party payers. Drew Brereton, *Department of Managed Health Care*, will review how to use DMHC resources and processes to help resolve issues between third-party payers, patients, and practices. These meetings will take place in San José on January 12th, Sacramento on January 13th, and Fresno on January 14th. Meeting announcements were mailed the week of November 30th; visit www.anco-online.org/OncReimb2010.html for more information and to download a meeting registration form.

SABCS Highlights 2009

ANCO's annual *SABCS Highlights* will take place on January 20th, 2010 at *The Claremont Resort* in Oakland. The meeting announcement will be mailed the week of December 7th and available online at that time.

Highlights of ASH 2009

ANCO's annual *ASH Highlights* will be superseded in 2010 by ASH's *Highlights of ASH* taking place at the *Westin San Francisco Market Street* on February 5-6th, 2010. This exceptional educational opportunity will feature leading hematology experts who will present unbiased analysis from the 2009 *ASH Annual Meeting* abstracts and sessions, evolving therapies, and the latest treatment options and their clinical applications. As an ANCO member you receive a special discounted registration rate to attend this meeting. Use ANCOHOA10 as the registration code when you visit www.hematology.org/Meetings/Highlights/4310.aspx for more information and to register. Or, download the meeting brochure and registration at www.anco-online.org/HOA2010.pdf. ANCO encourages all members to attend this highly informative meeting.

Forthcoming ANCO Meetings

ANCO's *ASCO/ONS Highlights 2010* is being superseded in July 2010 by ASCO's *Best of ASCO*

(San Francisco, July 16-17th, 2010). Watch for an ANCO event at ASCO's *Best of ASCO*.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

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 14th

Update on Peripheral T-Cell Lymphoma
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&usercontentid=

58225281)

February 10th*Advances in the Treatment of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)*

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

February 11th*Advances in the Treatment of Breast Cancer*

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

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* meets regularly by teleconference and occasionally in person to discuss issues affecting the *Association*, clinical and professional education, and ways to better serve the membership. *Board* meetings are open to individual physician members. The **next regularly scheduled ANCO Board of Directors teleconference** will take place on December 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

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** (also see below), 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**.

Agendia informs ANCO that Palmetto/J1MAC has established coding guidelines for MammaPrint, the FDA-cleared breast cancer recurrence test. Patients across the United States can now submit claims for MammaPrint directly to Palmetto/J1MAC. The coding guidelines for healthcare providers are available at www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/viewlcd.asp?lcd_id=30376&lcd_version=5&show=all.

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.theroleofhistology.com to register.

Clinical Trial News

Stanford seeks patients with metastatic colorectal cancer for a clinical trial entitled *A Phase I Trial of Vandetanib Combined with Capecitabine, Oxaliplatin and Bevacizumab for the First-Line Treatment of Metastatic Colorectal Cancer*. For more information including inclusion/exclusion criteria, please contact Heidi Kaiser, CRA, Stanford Cancer Center, at (650) 724-0079 or visit med.stanford.edu/clinicaltrials/publicCancerDisplayDetails.do?studyId=842&age=adul.

Publications, Resources, Services, & Surveys

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 Statement on Screening for Breast and Cervical Cancers (see www.cancer.net/patient/Cancer+News+and+Meetings/Expert+Perspective+on+Cancer+News/ASCO+Statement+on+

Screening+for+Breast+and+Cervical+Cancers)

ASCO has published new *Decision Aid* tools to assist clinicians in discussing treatment options with people with stage IV NSCLC and their caregivers, based on its recently updated guideline. The *Decision Aid* tools enable clinicians to present basic information on benefits and risks of stage IV NSCLC treatment with questions and answers and visual aids. They also provide help for patients to think over the decision after the office visit. All data used is from the new *American Society of Clinical Oncology Clinical Practice Guideline Update on Chemotherapy for Stage IV Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer*. The *Decision Aid* tools were prepared by guideline authors, including a palliative care expert and patient representatives. The tools, new guideline update, and additional resources are available at www.asco.org/guidelines/nsclc.

The November (Vol. 5, Issue 6) issue of ASCO's *Journal of Oncology Practice* features articles focusing on improving cancer care, including *The QOPI Certification Program: Overview, Measure Scoring Methodology, and Site Assessment Standards; Origins of the Quality Oncology Practice Initiative; Improving the Quality of Cancer Care: Crossroads or Convergence?;* and, *Partnering with Payers for Success*. Visit www.jopasco.org for more information.

NCCN has updated their *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology* and/or *Drugs & Biologics Compendium*, for non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. 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. The next series of webinars will provide an update on acute myeloid leukemia by B. Douglas Smith, M.D. starting on December 15th.

Individual Membership Dues for 2010

Membership renewal notices for 2010 were mailed to all members in early December 2009. Accompanying the membership renewal notices will be the 2009 *Annual Election* materials and 2009 *Annual Report*. 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 July 1st 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.** And, ANCO seeks to enroll radiation oncologists as members, so please send us contact information for the radiation oncologists within your practice and/or to whom you refer patients.

Remember, a larger ANCO is a stronger ANCO!