

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 May 8th. 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.]

ASCO's *Practical Tips for the Oncology Practice* (5th edition) is now available. *Practical Tips* is a fully-indexed and spiral-bound reference guide to Medicare coverage, coding, and billing for the oncology practice. Order the latest edition at www.asco.org/practicaltips.

**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.

Legislation (HR1392) introduced in the House of Representatives would remove prompt-pay discounts extended to drug wholesalers from the calculation of the Average Sales Price (ASP) for Medicare Part B drugs. Drug manufacturers are currently required to net out prompt-pay discounts paid to wholesale distributors before reporting ASP figures to CMS, even though the wholesaler prompt-pay discount is not passed along to physicians. Physician drug reimbursements are lowered by approximately 2% by this provision in the ASP calculation. ASCO, along with members of the cancer community, supports this legislation. ASCO has long been working on *Capitol Hill* to make members of *Congress* aware that including prompt pay discounts in the ASP calculation threatens community oncology practices by artificially lowering the reimbursement rate for chemotherapy treatments, resulting in some cases to reduced patient access to treatment.

Senators Kennedy and Hutchison have introduced the **21st Century Cancer ALERT Act (S717)**, a bill designed to improve cancer care in the United States. ALERT stands for Access to Life-saving Early Detection, Research and Treatment. The bill includes funding for a variety of programs and is intended to promote:

- Greater coordination of care through the use of registries.
- Increased access to research and clinical trials.
- Increased cancer prevention programs through access to early detection and other screening programs.
- Improvements in the coverage of cancer by Medicare and Medicaid.
- Increased funding for survivorship programs.
- Qualified patient navigation programs.

The bill also includes provisions to develop a national biorepository network for collecting tissue samples that will advance cancer research efforts.

Senators Brown, Specter, and Whitehouse have introduced **The Access to Cancer Clinical Trials Act (S488)**. This legislation addresses gaps in insurance coverage and economic barriers faced

by cancer patients who participate in clinical trials. It would require insurance coverage in plans regulated by Federal and State law and would also set the standard for coverage in traditional insurance plans regulated by State law.

Representatives Capps and Boustany have introduced the **Comprehensive Cancer Care Improvement Act of 2009 (HR1844)**. This bill seeks to establish a new Medicare service for care planning, including a written care plan, treatment summary and survivor care plan that is communicated to survivors.

CMS has announced a National Coverage Determination (NCD) that expands coverage for positron emission tomography (FDG-PET) scans for the management of patients with cancer. Under the NCD, Medicare will cover one FDG-PET study related to initial treatment decisions for patients with essentially all types of solid tumors that are either biopsy proven or are strongly suspected based on other diagnostic testing. Prostate cancer is excluded from this coverage, and certain coverage limitations remain for breast and cervical cancer and melanoma. For more information, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/viewdecisionmemo.asp?from2=viewdecisionmemo.asp&id=218&.

CMS attempted to clarify the RAC review process of provider claims during a recent open door teleconference. According to CMS, there will be two types of reviews—automated reviews and complex reviews. Automated reviews will use data searches to identify misalignments in coding claims and will likely generate large volumes of re-payment requests in an automated format. These automated reviews may also then generate the complex review, in which the RAC identifies a claim issue and sends a written request for medical records. The provider has 45 days to reply and then the RAC has 60 days to send in the results. The RAC can also make another request during that time, starting a fresh clock. The demand letter, as well as further discussions, takes place between the provider and the RAC. The RACs will likely handle the appeals as well. With regard to the specifics of RAC requests to providers:

- The RAC can look backwards no more than three years from a period that begins on October 1st, 2007.
- RACs cannot accept records electronically (via EMR). They can only accept images of medical records on CDs or paper.
- There is a limit on the number of records RACs can request: Solo practice, 10 records; 2-5 docs, 20 records; 6-15 docs, 30 records; and 16+ docs, 50 records.

For further details, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/RAC.

CMS will be offering several informational sessions on the RAC program in California at the CMS San Francisco Regional Office located at 90 7th Street, San Francisco. On May 4th, CMS will offer two sessions each with a capacity for 200 participants—one at 9:30AM to 12:30PM and another at 2:00PM to 5:00PM. For questions and to register, please e-mail RAC@cms.hhs.gov.

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/pqri) includes relevant links and a table of oncology-related measures.

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. 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/. Resources at the e-prescribing website include:

- A 2009 E-Prescribing Incentive Program Made Simple Fact Sheet;
- A Sample E-Prescribing Claim; and,
- Information on how to access the audiotapes and slides from the national e-prescribing conference that was held in October 2008.

Medicare's *Practical Guide to the E-Prescribing Incentive Program* is now 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!?opendocument. The *Guide* explains the e-prescribing incentive program, how eligible professionals can participate, and how to choose a qualified e-prescribing system. Additional information is available at *eHealth Initiative's Clinician's Guide to Electronic Prescribing* at www.ehealthinitiative.org/erx/clinicians.msp (a how-to guide to help physicians make informed decisions about how and when to transition from paper to e-prescribing systems). **According to ASCO, however, physicians face challenges with this new program** because:

- Pharmacies are not obligated to accept the e-prescription.

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

For additional oncology-specific information, visit ASCO's e-prescribing website at www.asco.org/eprescribing.

An ASH webinar, entitled *PQRI and E-Prescribing: Nuts and Bolts* is scheduled for April 28th at 2PM PST. It will cover the basics of how to report the 2009 hematology-related PQRI measures through claims-based reporting and how to complete the e-prescribing measure. It will be useful for practitioners and office staff. Attending this session should help ensure that hematologists report appropriately and receive the incentive bonus. E-mail grassroots@hematology.org to register for this webinar.

Electronic health records (EHRs) are powerful tools that can streamline practice management and reduce errors in patient care. Members of ASCO's *EHR Workgroup* have provided commentary on several EHR topics via PodCast at [www.asco.org/ASCO/Practice+Resources/Electronic+Health+Records/EHR+Events/Electronic+Health+Records+\(EHR\)+Lab+at+the+2008+Annual+Meeting?](http://www.asco.org/ASCO/Practice+Resources/Electronic+Health+Records/EHR+Events/Electronic+Health+Records+(EHR)+Lab+at+the+2008+Annual+Meeting?cpsextcurrchannel=1)

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. Finally, 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.

ANCO and ASCO continue to work towards ensuring that people with cancer have access to quality cancer care in the community. Practice resources are available at www.anco-online.org/mma.html and www.asco.org/mma, including:

- ASCO's *Adapting to Changes in Medicare 2009 PowerPoint* presentation.
- The April 2009 quarterly update for the *Average Sales Price (ASP) Medicare Part B Drugs* pricing file.

Members may also e-mail ASCO's *Coding & Reimbursement Hotline* at practice@asco.org for up-to-date information on changes in coding for drug administration services, as well as billing and payments for drugs. Please include your ASCO member ID in your e-mail.

CMA, MOASC, and State Legislative & Regulatory Issues

[Editor's Note: ANCO and the Medical Oncology Association of Southern California (MOASC) are members of the California Medical Association's (CMA) House of Delegates and Council on Legislation. ANCO and MOASC coordinate advocacy activities in California.]

***Noteware Government Relations* represents ANCO (and MOASC) in Sacramento.** They report:

- In an effort to reform the DHCS/MediCal TAR process, *Assemblymember Beall* has introduced AB613 that would require DHCS/MediCal to perform a cost-benefit analysis of every procedure for which a TAR is required. It would further direct DHCS/MediCal to reduce the number of procedures needing a TAR. ANCO supports AB613.

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.

The *California Medical Association* will host a webinar entitled *Best Practices—Improving the Efficiency and Quality of Your Practice* on May 21st at 12:30PM. A practice cannot provide quality medical care unless it can keep its doors open, and even the most magnanimous physician can not support an unprofitable practice forever. Physicians who work in well-run practices can spend less time worrying about making ends meet, which, in turn, affords them more time for patient care. This webinar is based on CMA's new toolkit. Registration is free for CMA members and their staff. Visit www.cmanet.org/calendar/ 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.]

When a provider responds to a medical record request or ADR from Palmetto/J1MAC, it will mail or FAX separate responses for each request. Providers are also instructed to include a copy of the ADR with the medical records being submitted for the claim under review. However, it can be confusing when some providers are submitting responses to multiple ADRs in one envelope or as one FAX to Palmetto/J1MAC without including a copy of each ADR request for each respective set of records. To eliminate possible confusions and speed up processing, the following items are required when providers respond to multiple ADRs from Palmetto/J1MAC:

- A copy of each ADR request is required to accompany the corresponding set of medical records being mailed or FAXed so that there is a clear break between records in support of different claims.
- Also, providers are required to insert an ADR separator sheet (available at www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/docsCat/8525746A00550AA38525759E0067ABA8?opendocument) to distinctly separate medical records for multiple claims.
- Providers that are mailing multiple ADR request responses in one envelope should also separate each set of records with rubber bands and/or clips.

Palmetto/J1MAC has learned that California Medicaid (DHCS/MediCal) is not accepting claims in cases where the provider's Medicare *National Provider Identifier* (NPI) is not registered with DHCS/MediCal. Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/Providers.nsf/

DocsCat/Providers~Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B~Articles~General~California%20Medicaid%20Denying%20Claims%20If%20Providers'%20NPI%20is%20Not%20Registered%20with%20Medi-Cal?opendocument for information on resolving the issue.

Palmetto/J1MAC is pleased to announce the 2009 Understanding the Rules and Using the Tools workshop series designed for practice managers, billers, administrative staff, and other users to equip them with the tools they need to be successful with Medicare billing and documentation guidelines. Specific discussion topics will include provider enrollment, CMS 1500 form filing instructions, appeals, modifiers, Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT), top billing errors, website information, and Local Coverage Determinations. Future Northern California workshops will take place in Apple Valley (April 27th) and Sacramento (May 5th). For more information, please visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Providers~Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B~Learning%20Education~Workshops~2009%20Spring%20Workshop%20Series%20Continues%20Through%20May?opendocument.

The April edition of the Palmetto/J1MAC Medicare Advisory is now available at [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/J1_MedAd_April09.pdf/\\$File/J1_MedAd_April09.pdf](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/J1_MedAd_April09.pdf/$File/J1_MedAd_April09.pdf).

DHCS/MediCal's eTAR is an easy, effective, fast and free way to submit TARs. Providers that utilize the eTAR application are generally more successful when submitting TARs. Most DHCS/MediCal providers have been activated to use eTAR. To verify access, go to www.medical.ca.gov, select the Transactions tab, and log in with your NPI and PIN. An eTAR tab with options for Medical TARs will be available. If you do not have access or only see options for Inquire only, please contact DHCS/MediCal at (800) 541-5555 and follow the prompts for eTAR to request access. The eTAR training team would like to extend an invitation to access the free learning tools available to all DHCS/MediCal

providers. Tutorials are available online to provide step by step instructions on how to submit eTARs and attachments, update eTARs, as well as inquire on previously submitted TARs. These tutorials can be viewed at pro.medical.ca.gov/wct/etar/etarms05/etarms05default.asp or on the DHCS/MediCal website under "eLearning" and "eTAR Medical Services Tutorial." In addition, free DHCS/MediCal seminars where eTAR will be taught are scheduled for Fresno (May 12-14), San José (July 14-16), and Santa Rosa (September 10-11). For more information about Training seminars, please visit the DHCS/MediCal website.

EDUCATION

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

ASCO Annual Meeting

Registration and housing reservations for the 2009 ASCO *Annual Meeting* which takes place May 29th to June 2nd in Orlando, Florida is now open to all attendees. The deadline for registration with early registration rates is April 24th. Visit www.asco.org/ASCO+Annual+Meeting for more information and to register.

Best of ASCO

Those who will wish to revisit or initially view the cutting-edge science presented at the 2009 ASCO *Annual Meeting* can now register and reserve housing for the upcoming *Best of ASCO* meeting in Los Angeles. This meeting will feature high-impact abstracts on scientific findings in primary disease sites, as well as practice-changing advances in cancer prevention and treatment. *Best of ASCO* takes place in Los Angeles on June 19-20th, at the *Hyatt Regency Century Plaza*. Visit www.asco.org/ASCO/Meetings/ASCO+Symposia+%26+Workshops/Best+of+ASCO+Meetings/Best+of+ASCO+Los+Angeles for more information and to register. Please note that ANCO will organize its *ASCO/ONS Highlights 2009* in late August or early September.

5th Annual Oncology Congress

The 5th Annual Oncology Congress will take place September 24-26th at the *Hilton San Francisco*. This event is an interactive CME conference providing practicing oncologists with the latest clinical data, best practices, and new technologies that are directly applicable to the practice of oncology today. The Congress agenda and registration information will be posted over the next few weeks. Please visit www.oncologycongress.com for more information

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

April 29th

*Breast Cancer and African American Women
CancerCare*

Telephone Education Workshop

April 30th

*Updates and Treatment Decisions About Lung
Cancer*

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 2nd

*5th Annual African American Breast Cancer
Conference*

Northern California Cancer Center

South San Francisco

May 8th

*NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines Symposium:
Colon and Rectal Cancers*

National Comprehensive Cancer Network

San Francisco

May 14th

*For Parents, Caregivers, and Professionals: Helping
Brothers and Sisters of Children Living with Cancer*

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 15th

Managing Treatment-Related Rash and Dry Skin

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 19th

*The 7th Annual Cancer Survivorship Series—Living
With, Through, and Beyond Cancer Part 2: The*

Importance of Nutrition and Physical Activity

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

June 9th

Breast Cancer and Hispanic Women

Telephone Education Workshop

June 10th

Emerging Treatments for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

June 17th

Medical Update on Lung Cancer from the 2009

American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)

Annual Meeting

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

June 18th

Medical Update on Breast Cancer from the 2009

American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)

Annual Meeting

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

June 19-20th

Great Debates and Updates in Breast Cancer

Imedex

San Francisco

June 23rd

*The 7th Annual Cancer Survivorship Series—Living
With, Through, and Beyond Cancer Part 3:*

Survivors, Too, Family, Friends, and Loved Ones

Managing the Fatigue of Caregiving

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

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

MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES & BENEFITS

ANCO Online

ANCO's website, www.anco-online.org, features:

- a general description and introduction to the *Association*, its activities, leadership, and membership benefits.
- advocacy information (including ANCO and ASCO Medicare resources).
- clinical and professional education meeting announcements and distributed materials.
- survey reports, publications, ListServ, and Weblog.
- clinical trials information.
- links to affiliated organizations.
- updated physician, nurse, manager, and patient resources.

ANCO Online ListServ & Weblog

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

The ANCO *Online Weblog* posts and archives important news sent on the *ListServ* for hematology/oncology practices on an almost daily basis. Among the additional news topics covered at anco-online.blogspot.com are:

- ACCC Alerts
- ANCO Meeting Announcements
- ASCO e-News and Cancer Policy Today
- ASH Practice Updates
- CMA Alerts

- CMS/Medicare Website Updates
- DHCS/MediCal Updates
- Palmetto/JIMAC Website Updates

ANCO urges its members to bookmark anco-online.blogspot.com (or subscribe to anco-online.blogspot.com/feeds/posts/default using your favorite news reader software; e.g., RssReader for Windows or NetNewsWire for Macintosh) and refer to it often.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* meets regularly by teleconference and occasionally in person to discuss issues affecting the *Association*, clinical and professional education, and ways to better serve the membership. *Board* meetings are open to individual physician members. The **next regularly scheduled ANCO Board of Directors teleconference** will take place on May 12th. 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 2008 was mailed to ANCO physician members; nurse and office manager contacts; and, Corporate Member representatives the week of July 7th, 2008. 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 2009. **The following update(s) to the *Directory* were recently included in the online edition:**

ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF PHYSICIAN MEMBERS

Changed Steven Ferronato, M.D., Michael L. Figueroa, M.D.

**ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY
OF NURSE & OFFICE MANAGER
CONTACTS**

Changed Shelley Larsen, R.N., Jennifer Stahl

Added Shari Bluband, Kristi Chatham, Kym May, R.N.

Group Member News

ANCO initiated a **Group Membership** in 2008 based on a mutual set of perceived values and benefits and a mutual set of interests. The ANCO *Board* believes that the *Association* and *The Permanente Medical Group* (TPMG) will each receive value from Group Membership. ANCO thanks *The Permanente Medical Group* for joining ANCO.

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 3rd **International Symposium on Cancer Metastasis and the Lymphovascular System: Basis for Rational Therapy** takes place at the *Intercontinental San Francisco Hotel* on May 6-9th. For more information, please visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU09002.

Stanford's 3rd Annual GI Cancers meeting takes place July 31st-August 2nd at the *Mauna Lani Bay Resort* in Hawaii. Visit www.cme.stanfordhospital.com for more information and to register.

Corporate Member News

ANCO thanks the following **Corporate Members** for their generous support that enables ANCO to provide services to the hematology/oncology community in Northern California, and to provide its members and their patients with substantial benefits in the areas of advocacy, education, and information dissemination:

*Abraxis Oncology • Alaven
Alexion Pharmaceuticals • AMGEN
AstraZeneca
Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals/
Onyx Pharmaceuticals
biogenIDEC
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology
Celgene • Cephalon Oncology • Eisai
Enzon Pharmaceuticals
Genentech BioOncology
Genomic Health • Genzyme Oncology
GlaxoSmithKline Oncology • Hospira
ImClone Systems
Lash Group Healthcare Consultants
Lilly Oncology • Millennium
Novartis Oncology
Oncology Supply/ION • OneOncology
Ortho Biotech • OSI Pharmaceuticals
Onmark,
a McKesson Specialty Care Solutions
Company
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 *Response Genetics* as a new Corporate Member in 2009.

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

Novartis Oncology has informed ANCO that the **United States Food and Drug Administration** has approved Afinitor tablets for patients with advanced renal cell carcinoma (RCC) after failure of treatment with Sutent or Nexavar.

Pfizer Oncology's SUTENT Patient Call Center is an additional resource for patients receiving SUTENT. The *Center* is staffed by dedicated oncology nurse consultants who have been trained by *Pfizer* personnel. While these consultants do not provide medical advice, they do reinforce general information about SUTENT treatment and its potential side effects. *Center* staff is available from 8AM-7PM CST at (877) 5-SUTENT.

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. The latest issue was published on April 20th and includes:

- Informed Consent for Chemotherapy Administration
- ASCO Annual Meeting Program Announcement
- AMA Announces Physician Class Action Against WellPoint/Anthem
- NCCN Compendium
- Availability of Internet-Based PECOS
- Medicare Expands Coverage of PET Scans
- ASP Drug Pricing Files April 2009 Update
- From the practice manager's desk...

- CORRECTION: AMA Resource: "Internal collections in the physician practice
- Billing and Coding Q&A

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) has announced that it will require a paid subscription of \$499/year for access to its *NCCN Drugs and Biologics Compendium*. This compendium had been free for all registered users. All compendia now require a fee.

The Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (Volume 7, Number 4) features the updated NCCN *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology: Hepatobiliary Cancers and Palliative Care*. Visit www.nccn.org/JNCCN/toc/2009apr.asp for more information.

Individual Membership Dues for 2009

Final notices of membership renewal will be mailed the week of April 27th. If you have not yet done so, then please return your 2009 membership dues to ANCO now to ensure your inclusion in *The ANCO Directory of Members 2009*. Be sure to provide ANCO with your e-mail address and the name(s) and e-mail address(es) of office and/or nurse manager contact(s). Those not renewing their membership by 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.** Provide the ANCO office with the names and addresses of colleagues you would like invited to join ANCO.

A larger ANCO is a stronger ANCO!

Please Note: The ANCO Office will be closed from June 11th through June 27th while the *Executive Director* is out of the country.