

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 February 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.]

President Obama signed legislation that provides for a 0% update to the 2010 Medicare *Physician Fee Schedule* for a two-month period, January 1st through February 28th. The legislation maintains 2009 Medicare physician payment for this two-month period. However, CMS announced that it will hold claims for services by Medicare

**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.

providers for the first ten business days of 2010 in order to allow its intermediaries to receive and test updated payment files. CMS instructed contractors to begin processing claims at the new rates no later than January 19th.

Visit www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN/MattersArticles/downloads/MM6740.pdf for more information regarding the elimination of consultation codes as of January 1st. Highlights include:

- Effective for dates of service on or after January 1st, Medicare will no longer recognize AMA CPT consultation codes (ranges 99241-99245, and 99251-99255) for inpatient facility and office/outpatient settings where consultation codes were previously billed.
- Physicians may employ the 2009 consultation service codes, where appropriate, to bill for consultative services furnished up to and including December 31st.
- Physicians who bill a consultation after January 1st will have the claim returned with a message indicating that Medicare uses another code for the service. The physician must bill another code for the service and may not bill the patient for a non-covered service.
- Conventional medical practice is that physicians making a referral and physicians accepting a referral would document the request to provide an evaluation for the patient. In order to promote proper coordination of care, these physicians should continue to follow appropriate medical documentation standards and communicate the results of an evaluation to the requesting physician.
- In the inpatient hospital setting and nursing facility setting, any physicians and qualified NPPs who perform an initial evaluation may bill an initial hospital care visit code (CPT code 99221-99223) or nursing facility care visit code (CPT 99304-99306), where appropriate.
- The principal physician of record (the admitting physician) will append modifier

–AI, Principal Physician of Record, to the E/M code when billed. This modifier will identify the physician who oversees the patient's care from all other physicians who may be furnishing specialty care. However, claims that include the -AI modifier on codes other than the initial hospital and nursing home visit codes (i.e., subsequent care codes or outpatient codes) will not be rejected and returned to the physician or provider.

- In all cases, physicians will bill the available code that most appropriately describes the level of the services provided.
- A new patient is a patient who has not received any professional services (E/M or other face-to-face service) from the provider or a member of their specialty in the practice within the previous three years. This means that a provider may not bill a new visit for a consultation/evaluation of a new problem.

The *California Medical Association* (CMA) has published a billing guide to consultation codes (visit www.calphys.org/html/dd028.asp). For a complete review of Medicare's *Physician Fee Schedule* impact hematology/oncology, visit www.anco-online.org/AdaptingToChanges2010.pdf.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has once again extended its enforcement date (to June 1st) of its ruling that would consider physicians who regularly bill their patients (including co-payments and coinsurance) to be creditors. Physicians must develop and implement written identity theft prevention and detection programs for their practices in order to be in compliance with the FTC's *Red Flag Rule*. **The American Medical Association has developed guidance material** (available at www.ama-assn.org/ama/no-index/physician-resources/red-flags-rule.shtml) to help physicians comply with the *Rule*. **The California Medical Association (CMA) has published a tool kit to help physicians and their staffs understand the scope and requirements of the Red Flag Rule.** The tool kit provides guidance on designing and implementing an identity theft detection and prevention program for the

physician practice. CMA's *Red Flag Rule Tool Kit* is free to members at the members-only website. **For a primer on the FTC's Red Flag Rule, please see the article at www.anco-online.org/RedFlagRule.pdf.** ANCO has also arranged for *Risk Mitigation Solutions* to offer compliance services to members (visit www.anco-online.org/RiskMitigationSolutions.pdf).

CMS's Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) provides a financial incentive for eligible professionals to participate in a voluntary quality-reporting program. Eligible professionals who successfully report a designated set of quality measures on claims may earn a lump sum bonus payment. There are several reporting options and incentive payments for physicians participating in the PQRI. For complete information on PQRI, including teleconference materials (the next teleconference is scheduled for February 2nd), qualified registries for data submission, quick reference charts, user guides, tool kits for successful reporting, updated submission methodologies, beneficiary letters, fact sheets, and FAQs, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri. The "Spotlight" section on the PQRI webpage is updated frequently and alerts eligible professionals to the newest program information available on the PQRI webpage. **The American Medical Association (AMA) has posted PQRI participation tools** at www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/physician-resources/clinical-practice-improvement/clinical-quality/participation-tools-individual.shtml. In addition, **ASCO's PQRI website (www.asco.org/ASCOv2/Public+Policy/Policy+Issues/Medicare+%26+Quality+Care/Regulations+%26+Resources/Information/Physician+Quality+Reporting+Initiative+%28PQRI%29+General+Information?cpsextcurrchannel=1)** includes relevant links and oncology-specific information.

CMS has announced the posting of 2010 Electronic Prescribing Incentive (eRx) Program educational products to the eRx webpage at www.cms.hhs.gov/ERxIncentive. They include:

- 2010 eRx Measure Specifications and Release Notes

- Claims-Based Reporting Principles for the 2010 eRx Incentive Program
- 2010 EHR Measure Specifications for eRx and Release Notes
- Group Practice Reporting Option (GPRO) Requirements for Submission of 2010 eRx Data

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%20EPrescribing%20Incentive%20Program%20is%20now%20available%20online!?opendocument. The *Guide* explains the e-prescribing incentive program, how eligible professionals can participate, and how to choose a qualified e-prescribing system. **For additional oncology-specific information, visit ASCO's e-prescribing website at www.asco.org/eprescribing.**

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

Electronic health records (EHRs) are powerful tools that can streamline practice management and reduce errors in patient care. ASCO has developed *The Oncology Electronic Health Record Field Guide: Selecting and Implementing an EHR*—the only oncology-specific consumer manual designed to guide oncology practices in selecting current and future oncology-specific EHRs for clinical practice management and quality-of-care measurement and improvement. The *Field Guide* is available in hard copy as well as PDF. Electronic users can print worksheets and forms as they go through the *Field Guide's* material. Both formats of the *Field Guide* can be

purchased by e-mailing support@articleworks.com or calling (800) 804-1425. More information is available at www.asco.org/ehrfieldduide. In addition, ASCO has developed a new EHR social networking site (ehr.ascoexchange.org) to help oncologists and their practice staff connect and collaborate with other users of EHRs, as well as find information on EHRs and other health information technology tools. Materials from ASCO's 2009 EHR Symposium are now available, including video and slides from all the sessions. 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.

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 2010 PowerPoint* presentation.
- The January 2010 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) Council on Legislation, House of Delegates, and specialty delegation. ANCO and MOASC coordinate advocacy activities in California.]

The *California Oncology Political Action Committee* (or CalCancerPAC), formed by ANCO and MOASC, supports candidates sensitive to the needs of hematologists/oncologists and people living with cancer in California. ANCO

membership dues include a contribution to CalCancerPAC.

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 mailed 2010 Medicare participation enrollment and fee schedule information in November. For more information, visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7X2L3Y4207?opendocument. CMS has extended the 2010 *Annual Participation Enrollment Program* end date from December 31st to March 17th. Updated fee schedules for California are available online at www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7ZDQMR7321?opendocument.

The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 established the Medicare Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) program to identify fraud and waste in the Medicare system. Audit contractors are expected to focus on companies and

individuals whose billings for specific Medicare services are higher than the majority of providers in their communities. Auditors cannot request more than 10 patient records from a practice in any 45-day period. The *California Medical Association* (CMA) has developed a tool kit to help physicians understand the program and, if necessary, navigate the audit process. The tool kit is available free to CMA members. Palmetto/J1MAC has published an article entitled *Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) Program* and added a new RAC category under *Articles* on the Palmetto/J1MAC website. Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7T6K7W3608?opendocument or www.anco-online.org/MedicareRACs.pdf for more information on the RAC program. **HealthDataInsights (HDI), the Medicare RAC for Region D (that includes California), has posted the first group of CMS-approved audit issues for RAC review at racinfo.healthdatainsights.com), including:**

- Excessive units (IV hydration)
- Pegfilgrastim claims not billed with the 6mg unit of service
- SNF consolidated billing
- Pumps and their supplies
- Services to hospice patients
- New versus established patients

Palmetto/J1MAC's January Medicare Advisory is available at [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/j1_medicare_advisory_january2010.pdf/\\$File/j1_medicare_advisory_january2010.pdf](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/j1_medicare_advisory_january2010.pdf/$File/j1_medicare_advisory_january2010.pdf).

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. Practices can review past DMHC enforcement actions at www.hmohelp.ca.gov/healthplans/enf/enf_default.aspx; or past independent medical review findings at www.hmohelp.ca.gov/dmhc_consumer/pc/pc_imrdec.aspx.

EDUCATION

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

Oncology Reimbursement 2010

Materials from ANCO's *Oncology Reimbursement 2010* meetings are available for download at www.anco-online.org/OncReimb2010.html.

SABCS Highlights 2009

Materials from ANCO's annual *SABCS Highlights* are available for download at www.anco-online.org/sabcs.html.

Highlights of ASH 2009

ANCO's annual *ASH Highlights* will be superseded in 2010 by ASH's *Highlights of ASH*. ANCO is pleased to partner with ASH to bring *Highlights of ASH* to the *Westin San Francisco Market Street* on February 5-6th. 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. ASH is accredited by the

Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians and has designated this educational activity for a maximum of 10.5 AMA PRA Category 1 CreditsTM. As a member of ANCO you receive a special discounted registration rate to attend this meeting by using ANCOHOA10 (all upper case) as your registration code. 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.

ASCO Annual Meeting

ASCO's *Annual Meeting* will take place June 4-8th in Chicago. You may now reserve your room and register at www.asco.org/annualmeeting.

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; www.asco.org/boa). Watch for an ANCO event at ASCO's *Best of ASCO*.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

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 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

March 3rd
Emerging Treatments for Colorectal Cancer: What's New?
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

March 6th
9th Annual Allison Taylor Holbrooks/Barbara Jo Johnson Breast Cancer Conference
 Northern California Cancer Center
 San Francisco
 (www.nccc.org/site/c.foJNIXOyEpH/b.2620151/k.C7FF/Events.htm)

March 10th
Medical Update on Ovarian Cancer
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

March 10-14th
15th Annual National Conference: Clinical Guidelines & Quality Cancer Care
 National Comprehensive Cancer Network
 Hollywood, FL
 (www.nccn.org/professionals/meetings/15thannual/default.asp)

March 17-20th
36th Annual National Meeting: Efficiency & Excellence in the New Economic Reality
 Association of Community Cancer Centers
 Baltimore
 (www.accc-cancer.org/mainevent)

March 25th
Caring for Your Bones When You Have Prostate Cancer
 CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

April 13th
The Eighth Annual Cancer Survivorship Series: Living With, Through, and Beyond Cancer, Part I—Trouble Sleeping, Sleep Better to Feel Better, and Tips You Can Use
 CancerCare
 Telephone Education Workshop

April 30th
Advances in Bone Health for People Living with Cancer
 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

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

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* meeting will take place on February 18th. 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 in August 2009. 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. 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 • Vidacare*

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

AMGEN informs ANCO that CMS has assigned HCPCS code J2796 (10mcg) for Nplate.

Merck informs ANCO that CMS has assigned HCPCS code J9328 (1mg) for Temodar for injection.

Millennium is supporting *New Directions in Optimizing Bone Health in Patients with Multiple Myeloma* with G. David Roodman,

M.D., Ph.D., *University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine*, John D. Shaughnessy, Jr., Ph.D., *University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences*, and Noopur Raje, M.D., *Harvard Medical School*, on February 11th and 16th. Visit us1.campaign-archive.com/?u=3817d2fb738c409c292e315d9&id=158199502a&e=5fa2fc09d3 to register for this webcast.

Clinical Trial News

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

ANCO members can search information about Institutional Member's clinical trials at www.anco-online.org/trials.html.

Learn more about **California's law requiring the coverage of routine care costs for patients enrolled in clinical trials at www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cancer/clinical_trials/bigc/** where you can download ANCO's patient education brochure on SB37.

Patient News

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

Publications, Resources, Services, & Surveys

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.

To keep up with the ever-increasing advances in genetic science, ASCO issued its latest **recommendations for genetic testing for cancer susceptibility**. The updated statement addresses new developments over the past seven years, including the availability of genetic tests of unproven clinical benefit and direct-to-consumer (DTC) genetic testing. Check out information for your patients on Cancer.Net or read the statement in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

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

The January (Vol. 6, Issue 1) issue of ASCO's *Journal of Oncology Practice* features articles entitled *Filling the Gap: Development of the Oncology Nurse Practitioner Workforce*, *Ensuring Quality Cancer Care Through the Oncology Workforce*, and *Basic Steps to Building a Research Program*. Visit www.jopasco.org for more information.

The *Community Oncology Alliance's* (COA) *Administrators' Network* (CAN) website is available at communityoncology.info. Bobbi Buell is the CAN Web Mistress. The site includes a variety of presentations, tools, resources, and copies of her newsletter. Registration is required to access this website.

NCCN has updated their *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology* and/or *Drugs & Biologics Compendium* for non-small cell lung cancer. Visit

www.nccn.org for the latest information. 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 webinar will cover kidney cancer on January 26th.

Individual Membership Dues for 2010

Membership renewal notices for 2010 were mailed to all members in early December 2009. Accompanying the membership renewal notices was the 2009 *Annual Report* (visit www.anco-online.org/AR2009.pdf). 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!