

ANCO FAX News

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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.

This is the final *ANCO FAX News* for 2010.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
&
NEW YEAR TO ALL!**

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.]

Congress passed HR4994 that will delay for one year scheduled cuts to physicians' Medicare payments, blocking a 25% payment cut that would have taken effect on January 1st. The bill extends current Medicare reimbursement rates until 2012.

The ANCO FAX News has information for every member of your practice or organization. Pass it along!

- Physician Members
- Nurses & Office Managers
- Office Staff
- Colleagues & Representatives

**California Oncology Weekly
is coming in January 2011!**

The *Association of Northern California Oncologists* (ANCO) is an association of hematologists/oncologists dedicated to promoting high professional standards of cancer care by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas, data, and knowledge. The material contained in the *ANCO FAX News* is intended as general information for ANCO members. Because diagnostic, treatment, contracting, coding, and billing decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis, any such information contained in the *ANCO FAX News* may not apply in any given situation. Members are encouraged to contact their own consultants or advisors to obtain specific advice on matters relating to contracting, coding, and billing. The information contained in the *ANCO FAX News* should not be used as a substitute for such advice.

CMS's final version of the Medicare *Physician Fee Schedule and Revisions to Payment Policies for 2011* is available online at www.ofr.gov/OFRUUpload/OPFRData/2010-27969_PI.pdf. ASCO's initial analysis of the final rule indicates that hematology/oncology will not face any reduction in relative values assigned to oncology codes in 2011. This is an improvement over the 1% reduction in 2011 in the proposed rule CMS released last summer. Last year CMS announced that hematology/oncology would sustain a 6% reduction to be phased in over four years (2010-2013). It appears that much of the anticipated reduction for 2011 has been mitigated by the rebasing of the *Medical Economic Index* and other changes.

CMS released 2011 HCPCS codes on November 3rd to take effect on January 1st. Some chemotherapy drug codes have been added; some have been eliminated; and, some have been changed. Visit www.cms.gov/HCPCSReleaseCodeSets/ANHCPCS/list.asp#TopOfPage for more information.

Congress has passed legislation exempting physicians from the Federal Trade Commission's "Red Flag Rules". The rules require financial institutions and credit-extending businesses to submit written identity theft mitigation and prevention strategies. The rules covered medical practices until the *Congressional* exemption.

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. CMS has posted updated PQRI educational products to the PQRI webpage at www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI. **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-2010.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?cpsexcurrchannel=1](http://www.asco.org/ASCOv2/Public+Policy/Policy+Issues/Medicare+%26+Quality+Care/Regulations+%26+Resources/Information/Physician+Quality+Reporting+Initiative+%28PQRI%29+General+Information?cpsexcurrchannel=1)) includes relevant links and oncology-specific information.

CMS's eRx webpage at www.cms.hhs.gov/ERxIncentive includes updated *Electronic Prescribing Incentive (eRx) Program* educational products. For additional oncology-specific information, visit ASCO's e-prescribing website at www.asco.org/eprescribing.

CMS's three fact sheets summarizing meaningful use of EHRs and the Medicare and Medicaid EHR incentive programs are available at the EHR incentives website (www.cms.gov/EHRIncentiveprograms). ASCO's highlights of the CMS rule can be found at www.anco-online.org/ASCOonMeaningfulUse.pdf. **ASCO has identified the EHR as an important vehicle for advancing the quality of cancer care.** The *Oncology Electronic Health Record Field Guide: Selecting and Implementing an EHR* serves as the only comprehensive, oncology-specific handbook on the market. The *EHR Field Guide* has been developed to equip practitioners with the information and resources needed to select and implement current and future EHRs for clinical practice and management as well as quality-of-care measurement and improvement. An essential resource for evaluating and selecting EHRs, the *EHR Field Guide* includes information on the core functions of an oncology EHR, EHR selection, EHR implementation and customization, and ongoing EHR management and best practices. To purchase your copy of the *EHR Field Guide*, visit www.asco.org/ehrfieldguide. **ASCO has developed an EHR forum (at practice.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. **The California Medical Association (CMA) has established a Health Information Technology (HIT) Resource Center on its website designed to educate physicians about the HIT subsidies for physicians in the 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. The *California Health Information Partnership & Services Organization* (CalHIPSO; www.calhipso.org) is a joint venture between the *California Primary Care Association*, the *California Medical Association*, and the *California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems* that has been allocated a total of \$17.3M by the *United States Department of Health and Human Services* for helping primary care doctors and other health providers purchase and use technology for electronic health records. CalHIPSO is enrolling doctors for services to help them buy and install EHR systems and is offering EHR technology packages to doctors at a discount. Finally, the *California Medical Association* is also offering several EHR systems that meet CMS standards at a cost savings.

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 payers 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 payers. 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.

CMA Practice Resources (CPR) is a monthly e-mail bulletin from CMA's *Center for Economic Services* that is full of tips and tools to help physicians and their office staff improve practice efficiency and viability. Subscribing to CPR is free and open to anyone, but CMA membership is necessary to access the resources, toolkits, forms, and tools that are located on the members-only CMA website. Visit www.cmanet.org/news/cpr to subscribe. The current issue includes:

- Know Your Rights: Identify and Report Unfair Payment Practices
- Physician Guide to DMHC's New Timely Access Regulation
- CMA Timely Access Regulation Webinar
- Payor Contract Amendments: An Action Guide for Physicians

Visit www.cmanet.org/news/cpr to subscribe.

Palmetto/J1MAC, DHCS/MediCal, & Private Payers

[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 sent providers CD-ROMs last month containing an announcement, the resource and contact listing, and the CY2011 Medicare participation enrollment announcement and agreement. Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/ls/J1B-8AFF756066?opendocument for more information.

At this time CMS has not turned on the automated edits that would deny claims for services that were ordered or referred by a physician or other eligible professional simply for lack of an approved file in PECOS. CMS is working diligently to resolve backlog and other systems issues and will provide ample advance notice to the provider and beneficiary

communities before CMS begins any such automatic denials. CMS has not announced any date (January 3rd or otherwise) as to when ordering/referring edits will be turned on. Physicians or other eligible professionals not currently enrolled in PECOS should take the initiative to enroll sooner rather than later. There are three ways to verify that you have an enrollment record in PECOS:

- Check the Ordering Referring Report on the CMS website. If you are listed on that report, you have a current enrollment record in PECOS.
- Use Internet-based PECOS to look for your PECOS enrollment record. If no record is displayed, you do not have an enrollment record in PECOS.
- Contact your designated Medicare enrollment contractor and ask if you have an enrollment record in PECOS. Visit www.cms.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll for the *Medicare Fee-For-Service Contact Information* list (in the *Downloads* section).

If you are not yet in PECOS, the best way to submit your application is through internet-based PECOS. For more information, visit questions.cms.hhs.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/10038/kw/pecos/session/L3NpZC9qeG1GdDIaw%3D%3D.

Palmetto/J1MAC's December Medicare Advisory is available at [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.Nsf/files/j1_medicare_advisory_December2010.pdf/\\$File/j1_medicare_advisory_December2010.pdf](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.Nsf/files/j1_medicare_advisory_December2010.pdf/$File/j1_medicare_advisory_December2010.pdf).

The *UnitedHealthcare (UHC) Network Bulletin* (Volume 40, November 2010) includes the following oncology-related information:

- Avastin Use for Treatment of Cancer
- Proton Beam Radiation Therapy Policy
- Rituxan Coverage Policy

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 many millions of dollars 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. The independent dispute resolution process is described at dmhc.ca.gov/providers/clm/clm_idrp.aspx. 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.]

ANCO/MOASC's Business of Oncology 2010 and Beyond Webcast Series

ANCO and MOASC hosted a series of weekly webcasts in October/November focusing on the business of oncology. Speakers addressed patient financial counseling, treatment cost analysis and reimbursement, coding, revenue incentive

programs, and payer provider partnerships. These webcasts were supported by *Abraxis BioScience* and *Cephalon Oncology*. Download the presentations and/or listen to webcast recordings (for a limited time) online at www.anco-online.org/BusinessofOncology.html.

ANCO's Chemotherapy Safety: Preventing Oncology Medication Errors

ANCO hosted a webcast on December 1st entitled *Chemotherapy Safety: Preventing Oncology Medication Errors* with David Gammon, B.S.Pharm. Gammon discussed all aspects of chemotherapy safety and how it impacts oncology practice. The webcast was supported by *Abraxis BioScience*. Download the presentation and/or listen to the webcast recording online (for a limited time) at www.anco-online.org/chemosafety.html.

ASCO's Adapting to Changes in Medicare for 2011

ASCO will host a national audio teleconference entitled *Adapting to Changes in Medicare for 2011* on Tuesday, December 21st at 1PM. The call will discuss Medicare's 2011 *Physician Fee Schedule*, the sustainable growth rate (SGR), highlights from Medicare's 2011 *Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System*, details of the 2011 PQRI and e-prescribing programs, oncology-related coding updates, and ASCO's legislative activity. Find more information at asco.org/janaudiocall.

ANCO's Oncology Reimbursement 2011

ANCO will host its annual *Oncology Reimbursement* programs in Sacramento, San José, and Fresno on January 4-6th. Roberta Buell, M.B.A., *onPoint Oncology*, will provide a complete update of changes for Medicare reimbursement. Arthur Lurvey, M.D., *Contractor Medical Director, Palmetto/JIMAC*, will provide an update from the perspective of northern California's Medicare contractor. A meeting announcement was mailed in late November. Visit www.anco-online.org/OncReimb2011.html for more information and to download the registration form.

ANCO's SABCS Highlights 2010

ANCO's annual *SABCS Highlights* will take place on January 18th at the *Four Seasons Hotel* in San Francisco. Faculty from *Stanford University*, *UC Davis*, and *UC San Francisco* will present and review the clinically most relevant results presented at December's *San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium*. Meeting announcements were mailed the week of December 6th; visit www.anco-online.org/sabcs.html for more information and to download a meeting registration form.

ASCO's Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium

ASCO's *Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium* takes place on January 20th-22nd at the *Moscone West Building* in San Francisco. Visit gicasymposium.org for more information and to register.

ASH's Highlights of ASH

ANCO is pleased to partner with the *American Society of Hematology* (ASH) to bring the only official *Highlights of ASH* to San Francisco on January 28-29th. This exceptional educational opportunity will feature leading hematology experts who will present unbiased analysis from the 52nd *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 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*. ANCO members receive a special discounted registration rate to attend this meeting. Contact ANCO at execdir@anco-online.org or ASH directly at cme@hematology.org for more information about this discounted registration rate. For more information about *Highlights of ASH*, visit www.hematology.org/Meetings/Highlights/4310.aspx.

ASCO Annual Meeting

Registration and housing is now open for both ASCO members and nonmembers for the 2011

ASCO Annual Meeting, June 3rd-7th at McCormick Place in Chicago. Reserve your room for best hotel selection and to register for your first choice of ticketed sessions at chicago2011.asco.org.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

January 13th

The Latest Developments in the Treatment of Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML) Reported at the 2010 ASH Annual Meeting

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

January 21st

Understanding and Managing Chemotherapy Side Effects

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

January 22nd

Emerging Therapies for Blood Cancer Patients: Highlights from the ASH Meeting
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

San Francisco

(www.lls.org/sf/ash)

January 25th

Update on Metastatic Breast Cancer from the 33rd Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

January 27th

Caring for Your Bones When You Have Multiple Myeloma

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

February 3rd

Treatment Update on Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

February 9th

Cancer Treatments and the Risk of Blood Clots: What You Need to Know

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

February 10-12th

17th Annual NOCR Meeting

Imedex

Las Vegas

February 11th

Caring for Your Bones When You Have Breast Cancer: What's New?

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

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

MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES

ANCO Online, ListServ, & Weblog

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 resources); clinical and professional education meeting announcements and distributed materials; survey reports, publications, ListServ, and Weblog posts; clinical trials information; links to affiliated organizations; updated physician, nurse, manager, and patient resources; and, updated Corporate Member drug reimbursement and patient assistance program information.

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.

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 January 18th. Please call José Luis González, *ANCO Executive Director*, at (415) 472-3960 if you wish to participate in a future teleconference/meeting.

Payer Provider Partnerships

Over the past several months, the ANCO *Board of Directors* has educated itself and considered its role in **payer provider partnerships**, learning about the available compliance models used by vendors in the payer provider partnership space, and exercised its due diligence with respect to the various vendors in this space. As a result, the *Board* has adopted a payer provider partnership strategy and identified *Innovent Oncology* and *Via Oncology* as preferred vendors. For full details and additional information please visit www.anco-online.org/P3.html.

Innovent Oncology's presentation (slides and recording) entitled ***Realizing Pay for Performance: Moving from Fee-for-Service to Value-Based Reimbursement*** is now posted at www.anco-online.org/P3Innovent.html.

Via Oncology recommends that practices study these two articles as you consider pathways:

- ***All Pathways Are Not Created Equal***, *Oncology Times* (May 25, 2010; viaoncology.com/downloads/va_times.pdf). In this article, Peter G. Ellis, M.D., *Deputy Director of Clinical Services, UPMC Cancer Centers* and *Medical Director, Via Oncology*, sets forth 12 important questions that oncology groups should ask when evaluating pathway solutions.
- ***Clinical Pathways Programs: Selecting the Appropriate Pathways Program***, *Journal of Multidisciplinary Cancer Care* (August 2010; viaoncology.com/downloads/Via_JMOCC_Aug2010.pdf). Dawn Holcombe, *President of DGH Consulting* and frequent contributor to oncology publications, discusses how oncology groups should review and select a pathways program.

Please contact Kathy Lokay, *President, Via Oncology*, at kathy.lokay@viaoncology.com or (877) 484-2435, to answer any questions about pathways at your practice.

Individual Member News

The following information is provided by Howard Kleckner, M.D., an ANCO member:

the *second opinion* is a 501c3 nonprofit organization which provides second opinions for cancer patients both with respect to diagnosis and treatment at no cost. We consist of over 50 Bay Area volunteer cancer subspecialty physicians in active practice and retired. We meet as a panel three times a month, either Wednesdays or Fridays 12:15PM to about 2:15PM reviewing 3 cases each session. We obtain all records in advance along with imaging studies on CD ROM and pathology slides. Information is sent to panel members in advance. Patients come with their families and we answer their questions, give our opinion, and send a summary letter to providers and the patients along with a tape of the session. Each panel takes about 1 1/2 to 2 hours and lunch is served. The sessions resemble a Tumor Board with the patient and family present. Patients are incredibly grateful for our service.

All funding is through contributions and grants from foundations, organizations, and gracious individual donors. There is no cost to the patient. We have several recently retired and active physicians as volunteers. Many of our patients do have insurance; many do not. Patients hear of us by word of mouth, their own physicians, referral from cancer coordinators, support groups, internet, *American Cancer Society*, and other sources. We get patients from all over California. Malpractice insurance is provided by the organization to all participants. We have been in existence for over 30 years and are located at Geary Boulevard and Gough Street in San Francisco.

You may read more about us at www.thesecondopinion.org. The site also lists some of our current volunteers. All cases are summarized and you would receive information about a week in advance for your review. Each panel consists of a medical oncologist, radiotherapist, pathologist, radiologist and surgical subspecialists as needed. You may participate as frequently as you wish. We will call you and offer you dates well in advance of the Panel days.

I hope you will consider joining us. If you are interested in seeing a panel before deciding let me know. Feel free to call or email me at (415) 775-9956 or howardkleckner@thesecondopinion.org.

The ANCO Directory of Members is now available online at www.anco-online.org/pubs.html as a .pdf document. We urge all ANCO members to download and print their own edition of *The ANCO Directory of Members*. The online edition will be regularly updated. Therefore, please verify your *Directory* entry and contact the ANCO office with any corrections, additions, and/or deletions.

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.

ANCO initiated a **Multi Site Group Membership** in 2010 to encourage all physicians (medical and radiation oncologists) from multi-site and multidisciplinary practices to join. ANCO thanks *California Cancer Care, East Bay Partners in Cancer Care, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Redwood Regional Oncology Center, and Valley Medical Oncology Consultants* for their multi site group memberships.

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 **10th Annual UCSF Clinical Cancer Updates** takes place in North Lake Tahoe on January 28-29th. For more information, visit www.lungcancermeetings.com/ucsf_10/index.html.

Stanford's Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-based Approach returns on Friday and Saturday, March 25-26th. Formerly the *Northern California Tumor Board at Silverado*, this meeting will now take place at the *Li Ka-Shing Center for Learning & Knowledge* on the campus of *Stanford University*. Branimir (Brandy) Sikic, M.D., and A. Dimitri Colevas, M.D., will co-direct this meeting, presented by the *Stanford Cancer Center*. For more information, visit cancer.stanford.edu/calendar/events/2008/events2011asmmc.html.

For information on **Institutional Member clinical trials** (also see below), please visit:

- cancertrials.stanford.edu/
- ccresources.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/csr/content/ctsactiveprotocollisting.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 BioScience • Agendia
 Alexion Pharmaceuticals • Allos Therapeutics
 AMGEN • AstraZeneca
 Bayer Healthcare/Onyx Pharmaceuticals
 biogenIDEC • bioTheranostics
 Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology
 Celgene • Centocor Ortho Biotech
 Cephalon Oncology • Clariant Diagnostics
 Eisai • Genentech BioOncology
 Genomic Health • Genzyme Oncology
 GlaxoSmithKline Oncology
 Lash Group Healthcare Consultants
 Lilly Oncology • Merck • Millennium
 Myriad Genetics • Novartis Oncology
 Oncology Supply/ION • OSI Pharmaceuticals
 Onmark,
 a McKesson Specialty Care Solutions Company
 Pathwork Diagnostics • Pfizer Oncology
 Response Genetics • 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.

Allos Therapeutics informs ANCO that CMS has assigned HCPCS code J9307 to Folutyn (1mg) effective for claims with dates of service on or after January 1st, 2011.

AMGEN informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* (FDA) has approved Xgeva (denosumab), the first and only RANK Ligand inhibitor, for the prevention of skeletal-related events (SREs) in patients with bone metastases from solid tumors. Xgeva was approved following a 6-month priority review by the FDA, a designation reserved for drugs that offer major advances in treatment or provide a treatment where no adequate therapy exists. XGeva is not indicated for the prevention of SREs in patients with multiple myeloma.

Centocor Ortho Biotech invites ANCO members to participate in an informational teleconference entitled *Year-End Medicare Physician Payment*

Update. The goal of the teleconference is to provide medical oncology practices with a concise overview of the 2011 *Final Rule* on Medicare physician office payments. The teleconference will be approximately 30 minutes in length and will be offered at a variety of times from now through January 11th. Call Colleen Flanders at (202) 416-5064 for more information and to register.

Merck informs ANCO that Emend (150mg) is now available. The J-code for the 150mg vial will remain the same as that used for the existing 115mg vial (i.e., J1453). However, when using the J code for the new formulation, the units box on the claim form should reflect the vial size of 150mg. The ASP for both vials remains the same on a per mg basis. Contact the ACT Program at (866) 363-6379 for more information. ANCO conversations with Palmetto/J1MAC indicate that the maximum allowed units (MAUs) for J1453 will be increased from 115mg to 150mg at the beginning of 2011 (for current MAUs, visit [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.Nsf/files/January_2011_MAU_Update_111610.pdf/\\$File/January_2011_MAU_Uupdate_111610.pdf](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.Nsf/files/January_2011_MAU_Update_111610.pdf/$File/January_2011_MAU_Uupdate_111610.pdf)).

Sanofi Aventis Oncology informs ANCO that CMS has assigned HCPCS code C9276 (1mg) to Jevtana and HCPCS code J8562 (10mg) to Oforta.

Clinical Trial News

Stanford University Medical Oncology brings the following oncology clinical trials to the attention of the ANCO membership:

- Treatment of Refractory Renal Cell Carcinoma with Bevacizumab and RAD001 (Everolimus). PIs: Lauren Harshman, M.D., & Sandy Srinivas, M.D.; Study Coordinator: Sarah Barbeau (650) 723-6286, sbarbeau@stanford.edu
- A Phase II Study of Pazopanib (Votrient) in Combination with Weekly Paclitaxel in Refractory Urothelial Cancer. PI: Sandy Srinivas, M.D.; Study Coordinator: Denise Haas (650) 736-1252, dhaas@stanford.edu
- Temsirolimus to Reverse Androgen Insensitivity for Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer. PIs: Sandy Srinivas, M.D., & Lauren Harshman, M.D.; Study Coordinator: Denise Haas (650) 736-1252, dhaas@stanford.edu

In addition, **Provenge (sipuleucel-T)** was recently approved by the FDA for metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer and is the first FDA-approved, active cellular immunotherapy for cancer. In addition to the trials listed above, **Stanford also has ongoing correlative laboratory studies aimed at improving this novel treatment.** Keep Provenge in mind for your patients with asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic metastatic disease that has progressed on first line hormones.

Finally, **Stanford's *Clinical Research Newsletter for Colleagues in the Community*** is available online at cancer.stanford.edu/documents/ClinicalTrialsWinter2011.pdf.

Publications, Resources, Services, & Surveys

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.

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 current issue features:

- Important Information on the Timely Claims Filing Requirement
- ASCO Alert on Ongoing Drug Shortages

ACCC has updated its new **Part B Drug Information Guide**. This publication is available online at www.accc-cancer.org/druginfo, is designed as an easy-to-use listing of drug information and coverage, is a compilation of oncology drugs from the nationally recognized drug compendia, and provides a method of determining whether there is evidence on the appropriateness of use of an oncology drug for a

specific oncology-related condition.

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.

The Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (Volume 8, Number 12) focuses on the **NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology—Cervical Cancer Screening and Cervical Cancer**. Visit www.jnccn.org/content/current for more information. **NCCN has updated their Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology and/or Drugs & Biologics Compendium** for CNS cancers, melanoma, multiple myeloma. **NCCN is offering on-line and live educational activities.** Visit www.nccn.org/professionals/meetings/default.asp for more information and to register for these NCCN meetings.

Individual Membership Dues for 2011

Membership renewal notices for 2011 were mailed to all members on December 1st, 2010. Accompanying the membership renewal notices was the 2010 *Annual Report* (visit www.anco-online.org/AR2010.pdf) and annual election materials. 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!