

ANCO FAX News

Association of Northern California Oncologists
Post Office Box 151109, San Rafael, California 94915-1109
Voice: (415) 472-3960 • FAX: (415) 472-3961
execdir@anco-online.org • www.anco-online.org

Vol. 9, No. 3

February 8th, 2010

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 19th. 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.

**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.

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, 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. 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. 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. 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/ehrfieldguide. In addition, ASCO has developed an 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*, including video and slides from all the sessions, are available by calling (888) 273-3508 or (703) 519-1430. Finally, 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.

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.]

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

- *State Senator Mark Leno* is pushing ahead with SB810, which creates the *California Healthcare Agency* and provides universal care through a single payer system. The primary advocates for the legislation are the *California Nurses Association*, the *California Teachers Association*, and the *California Health Professional Students Association*. The *Appropriations Committee* reports the legislation will cost the state \$200B annually. Notwithstanding the state's budget gap of \$19.9B, SB810 passed out of *Appropriations Committee* and is pending in the *Assembly*. SB810 has until the end of April to pass out of the *Assembly Health Committee* and move to the full *Assembly*.

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.

13th ANNUAL CALIFORNIA HEALTH CARE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Era of Health Reform: Harnessing the Currents of Change

April 9-11, 2010 | San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina

- Hospital-Physician Alignment and New Models of Practice
- Health System Reform: Then and Now
- Leadership in a New Health Care Era
- and more...

New for 2010: **Academy Curricular Tracks**

- Health Information Technology
- Practice Management
- Leadership Development

MULTIPLE REGISTRATION DISCOUNTS

Save up to \$100 per person when two or more register together

SAVE \$100

Register by March 9th

TO REGISTER - call 800.795.2262 or visit our website at caleadershipacademy.com





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 to March 17th. Updated fee schedules for California are available online at www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7ZDQMR7321?opendocument.

Palmetto/J1MAC has been alerted of a problem with claims not crossing over to the *Coordination of Benefits Contractor (COBC)* since January 21st from a faulty file sent to the Common Working File (CWF) with incomplete data. As a result, no claims have been crossing over to the COBC. CWF is aware of this problem and is working with *Group Health Incorporated (GHI)*, the crossover company, to correct it. For more information, visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/829U6H4858?opendocument.

Palmetto/J1MAC has published an article entitled *Billing for Services Related to Voluntary Uses of Advance Beneficiary Notices of Non-coverage (ABN)*. Effective April 1st, two HCPCS modifiers have been updated to distinguish between voluntary, and required, uses of ABNs. Read the article at www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7ZWT6V2758?opendocument.

Palmetto/J1MAC has published an article entitled *Medicare Appeals: The Importance of Getting It to the Right Place at the Right Time*. This article was prepared by the *Qualified Independent Contractor (QIC)* and discusses the driving factor that caused a high rate of dismissal decisions and clarifies the correct request procedure and timelines. Read the article at www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7ZQLL81672?opendocument.

Palmetto/J1MAC informs ANCO that some claims for Lupron processed from January 4th and 19th were paid at the submitted charge amount instead of the allowed amount. All claims paid in error will be adjusted when the system is corrected. For more information visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7ZWVXY3046?opendocument.

Palmetto/J1MAC's February *Medicare Advisory* is available at www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/j1_medicare_advisory_

February2010.pdf/\$File/j1_medicare_advisory_February2010.pdf. Of specific relevance to oncology, the current edition features:

- Positron Emission Tomography (PET) (FDG) for **Cervical Cancer**
- Calendar Year (CY) 2010 Annual Update for **Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule** and Laboratory Services Subject to Reasonable Charge Payment
- Payment to Physician or Other Supplier for **Diagnostic Tests** Subject to the Anti-Markup Payment Limitation
- Repeat or **Duplicate Services** on the Same Day
- Tracking the **Hospice Attending Physician's National Provider Identifier (NPI)** for Validating Hospice Part B Payments
- J1 A/B MAC Palmetto GBA Assigned **ICD-9-CM Codes** for National Coverage Determinations
- Part B LCD Updates

UnitedHealthcare's Network Bulletin (Volume 35, January 2010) is now available at view.exacttarget.com/?j=fe591573726d037b7717&m=fec8167171640d7a&ls=fdec1273706303787317717d&l=fe9916707461017475&ts=fe561075706202757610&jb=ffcf14&ju=fe201576766d0174731272&r=0. Of specific relevance to hematology/oncology are the following items:

- Consultation code updates
- Hyperthermic chemotherapy
- Stereotactic radiosurgery
- Maximum dosage policy
- Remicade (infiximab)
- Sandostatin (oxtreotide acetate)
- Mammography and cervical cancer screening policies

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. 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.]

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.

The Mastery of Myeloma Course

ANCO encourages hematologists/oncologists to attend *The Mastery of Myeloma Course* at the *Vdara Hotel at CityCenter* in Las Vegas on Saturday, March 6th. This complimentary

continuing education activity features a national faculty. For more information and to register, visit www.myelomaconnection.com.

ASCO Annual Meeting

ASCO's *Annual Meeting* will take place June 4-8th in Chicago. You may now reserve your room and register at chicago2010.asco.org/Home.aspx.

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 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

February 27th
4th Annual Sobrevivir Conference
Northern California Cancer Center
Oakland

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

March 6th
Beyond Breast Cancer: 9th Annual Allison Taylor Holbrooks/Barbara Jo Johnson Breast Cancer Conference
Northern California Cancer Center
San Francisco
(www.nccc.org/site/c.foJNIXOyEpH/b.5731825/k.45E0/9th_Annual_ATH_Breast_Cancer_Conference__030610.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 18-20th
2010 Oncology/Hematology Practice Management Conference
Medical Group Management Association

Indianapolis

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 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.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* met on January 20th to discuss and/or act upon the following issues:

- 2010 ANCO *Board of Directors*
- Elected L. Wayne Keiser, M.D., as *President* for a two-year term (2010-2011)
- Elected Jeffrey Cronk, M.D., as *Vice President* for a two-year term (2010-2011)
- FY2009 results & FY2010 budget
- Advocacy issues
- 2010 meeting/teleconference schedule

Contact the ANCO office for additional information on any of these items.

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

A regularly updated online (.pdf) edition of *The ANCO Directory of Members* 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 and distributed 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.

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

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 • bioTheranostics
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*

We especially wish to thank and welcome *bioTheranostics* as a new Corporate Member in 2010.

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

Genomic Health informs ANCO that **Oncotype DX Colon Cancer Assay is now available**. ODX-Colon is a 12-gene assay that predicts the risk of recurrence for stage II colon cancer patients following surgery. For more information, visit investor.genomichealth.com/ReleaseDetail.cfm?ReleaseID=439184.

Millennium is supporting an online educational activity entitled *Considerations in Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma: T-Cell Lymphomas* with Andrei Shustov, M.D., *University of Washington*,

and Nora M. Mueller, Pharm.D., *Fox Chase Cancer Center*, through December 23rd, 2010.

Visit www.coexm.com/Activity.asp?ActivityID=79&utm_source=Center+of+Excellence+Media&utm_campaign=5b52daa228-NHL0509_Launch-1_27_2010&utm_medium=email for more information.

Sanofi Aventis Oncology is supporting an online educational activity entitled *New Directions in the Treatment of Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer* with Rebecca Elizabeth Greene, Pharm.D., *South Texas Veterans Healthcare System*, and Jean Held-Warmkessel, R.N., *Fox Chase Cancer Center*, through November 30th 2010. Visit www.coexm.com/Activity.asp?ActivityID=77&utm_source=Center+of+Excellence+Media&utm_campaign=81847f51ee-COE0809_Launch-1_25_2010&utm_medium=email for more information.

US Oncology Physician Services is organizing a webcast entitled *What to Look for When Selecting an HER on February 18th at 11AM*. Cindy Chavez, *Vice President of iKnowMed*, will present. To register, visit www.opspharmacist.com/opes.

Clinical Trial News

There is a short-term trial opportunity for triple negative metastatic breast cancer at the *Permanente Medical Group, Stanford University, and UCSF*. Hi, the Phase III BiPar PARP inhibitor trial, will close to enrollment after February 19th. Eligibility includes up to two prior chemotherapy regimens in the metastatic setting, and triple negative breast cancer. Patients must not have had prior gemcitabine, or platinum salts. Patients are randomized to receive gemcitabine and carboplatin with or without BSI-201. Cross-over to BSI-201 is allowed for patients who disease is progressing on the control arm. For more information, please contact, Hope Rugo, M.D., *UCSF*, at hruغو@medicine.ucsf.edu; Robert Carlson, M.D., *Stanford*, at rcarlson@stanford.edu; or, Lou Fehrenbacher, M.D., *Permanente Medical Group*, at lou.fehrenbacher@kp.org.

Publications, Resources, Services, & Surveys

Results from ANCO's 2009 staff salary survey are now available at www.anco-online.org/salsrvy.html.

ASCO and the *State/Regional Affiliate Program* are excited to introduce **Oncology Practice** at practice.ascoexchange.org, a social networking site where practice administrators can easily connect, collaborate, and exchange information about day-to-day issues facing oncology practice. Enroll in Oncology Practice at practice.ascoexchange.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. Recent issues featured:

- ASCO's Coding & Reimbursement Services

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 Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (Volume 8, Number 2) features articles entitled *NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology: Prostate Cancer*. Visit www.nccn.org/JNCCN/default.asp for more information. **NCCN has updated their *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology* and/or *Drugs & Biologics Compendium* for malignant pleural mesothelioma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and thymic malignancies.** Visit www.nccn.org for the latest information. **Need instant access to the NCCN Compendium and NCCN Guidelines updates as they happen? Subscribe to NCCN Flash Updates** to have changes delivered straight to your inbox. *NCCN Flash Updates* provide

immediate notification of changes and updates to published *NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium* chapters and *NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology*. Subscribers receive an e-mail as soon as updates or changes occur. Visit www.nccn.org/network/business_insights/flash_updates/default.asp to learn more about *NCCN Flash Updates*.

The January issue of *Oncology Business Review* features articles entitled *Collaborative Efforts Speed Outcomes in Cancer Clinical Trials* and *2010 Forecast: Experts Provide Perspective on the Coming Year in Oncology*. Visit www.oncbiz.com for more information.

Individual Membership Dues for 2010

Second notices of membership renewal were mailed the week of February 1st. If you have not yet done so, then please return your 2010 membership dues to ANCO now to ensure your inclusion in *The ANCO Directory of Members 2010*. 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!