

# 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 March 19<sup>th</sup>. 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.]*

**On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, President Obama signed into law the *Temporary Extension Act of 2010* that extends through March 31<sup>st</sup> the 0% update to the *Medicare Physician Fee Schedule* that was in effect for claims with dates of service of January 1<sup>st</sup> through February 28<sup>th</sup>. The 21% Medicare physician payment cut that began on March 1<sup>st</sup>**

**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.

**has been stopped.** Consequently, effective immediately, claims with dates of service of March 1<sup>st</sup> and later that were being held by Medicare contractors will be released for processing and payment. However, physicians still face a 21% payment cut on April 1<sup>st</sup> unless further legislation providing another temporary or permanent *Sustainable Growth Rate* (SGR) fix is passed this month. For more information, please visit [www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/837QLR4218?opendocument](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/837QLR4218?opendocument).

**The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is requiring erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (ESAs; i.e., Aranesp, Epogen, Procrit) to be prescribed and used under a risk evaluation and mitigation strategy (REMS), to ensure the safe use of these drugs.** The FDA is requiring a risk management program because studies show that ESAs can increase the risk of tumor growth and shorten survival in patients with cancer who use these products. Studies also show that ESAs can increase the risk of heart attack, heart failure, stroke, or blood clots in patients who use these drugs for other conditions. As part of the REMS, a *Medication Guide* explaining the risks and benefits of ESAs must be provided to all patients receiving ESAs. In addition to the *Medication Guide*, AMGEN was required to develop the *ESA Assisting Providers and Cancer Patients With Risk Information for the Safe Use of ESAs* (APPRISE *Oncology Program* for health-care professionals who prescribe ESAs to patients with cancer. Under the *ESA APPRISE Oncology Program*, AMGEN will ensure that only those hospitals and health-care professionals who have enrolled and completed training in the *Program* will prescribe and dispense ESAs to patients with cancer. AMGEN is also required to oversee and monitor the *Program* to ensure that hospitals and health-care professionals are fully compliant with all aspects of the *Program*. The goals of the REMS for the ESAs are:

- To support informed decisions between patients and their health-care professionals who are considering treatment with an ESA by educating them on the risks of ESAs.

- To mitigate the risk of decreased survival and/or poorer tumor outcomes in patients with cancer by implementing the part of the REMS called the *ESA APPRISE Oncology Program*.

The *ESA APPRISE Oncology Program* requires that all health-care professionals who prescribe ESAs for patients with cancer do the following:

1. Complete a training module that covers the use of ESAs. Completion of the training module is required for enrollment in the *ESA APPRISE Oncology Program*.
2. Sign the patient/health-care professional acknowledgement form prior to the patient receiving an ESA. The acknowledgment form attests that the health-care professional and patient have discussed the risks of using an ESA.
3. Re-enroll in the *ESA APPRISE Oncology Program* every three years.

Health-care professionals not enrolled in the *ESA APPRISE Oncology Program* will not be able to prescribe ESAs for use in patients with cancer. As part of the enrollment in the *ESA APPRISE Oncology Program*, health-care professionals must attest to their understanding of the following:

- ESAs shortened overall survival and/or increased the risk of tumor progression or recurrence in clinical studies in patients with breast, non-small cell lung, head and neck, lymphoid, and cervical cancers.
- To decrease the risks of ESAs, the lowest dose needed should be used to avoid red blood cell transfusion.
- ESAs should be discontinued following completion of a chemotherapy course of treatment.
- Aranesp is indicated for the treatment of anemia due to the effect of concomitantly administered chemotherapy, based on studies that have shown a reduction in the need for red blood cell transfusions in patients with metastatic, non-myeloid malignancies.
- Epogen/Procrit is indicated for the treatment of anemia due to the effect of concomitantly administered

chemotherapy, based on studies that have shown a reduction in the need for red blood cell transfusions in patients with metastatic, non-myeloid malignancies receiving chemotherapy for a minimum of two months.

- ESAs are not indicated for use in patients receiving hormonal agents, therapeutic biologic products, or radiotherapy unless receiving concomitant myelosuppressive chemotherapy.
- ESAs are not indicated for patients receiving myelosuppressive therapy when the anticipated outcome is cure.
- ESA use has not been demonstrated in controlled clinical trials to improve symptoms of anemia, quality of life, fatigue, or patient well-being.

Health-care professionals who prescribe ESAs for anemia not caused by cancer chemotherapy are required to provide a copy of the *Medication Guide* to each patient or their representative when an ESA is dispensed. Health-care professionals who use ESAs only for non-cancer uses are not required to enroll in the ESA APPRISE *Oncology Program*. AMGEN will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the *Program*, as follows:

- AMGEN will conduct real-time monitoring of prescribing and purchases in private-practice settings and clinic audits.
- Hospitals in the *Program* will be audited to ensure compliance with the ESA APPRISE *Oncology Program*.
- Failure to comply will result in a suspension of access to ESAs.

The *American Society of Hematology* (ASH) has been informed that AMGEN will be distributing additional information to health-care professionals by March 24<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, health-care professionals should begin to receive mailings from AMGEN on how to register, enroll in the APPRISE *Program*, and obtain copies of the *Medication Guide*. **If you have any questions about the ESA APPRISE *Oncology Program*, visit [www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/PostmarketDrugSafetyInformationforPatientsandProviders/ucm109375.htm](http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/PostmarketDrugSafetyInformationforPatientsandProviders/ucm109375.htm); contact your**

local AMGEN or *Centocor Ortho Biotech* representative; or, call the ESA APPRISE *Oncology Program Call Center* at (866) 284-8089.

Visit [www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6740.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6740.pdf) for more information regarding the elimination of consultation codes as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. Visit [www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE1010.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE1010.pdf) for FAQs (and answers) on reporting physician consultation services. **The *California Medical Association* (CMA) has published a billing guide to consultation codes** (visit [www.calphys.org/html/dd028.asp](http://www.calphys.org/html/dd028.asp)).

**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 March 10<sup>th</sup>), 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](http://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](http://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](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?cpsextcurrchannel=1)) includes relevant links and oncology-specific information.

CMS has posted 2010 *Electronic Prescribing Incentive (eRx) Program* educational products to the eRx webpage at [www.cms.hhs.gov/ERxIncentive](http://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

For additional oncology-specific information, visit ASCO's e-prescribing website at [www.asco.org/eprescribing](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:support@articleworks.com) or calling (800) 804-1425. More information is available at [www.asco.org/ehrfieldduide](http://www.asco.org/ehrfieldduide). In addition, ASCO has developed an EHR social networking site ([ehr.ascoexchange.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.anco-online.org/mma.html) and [www.asco.org/mma](http://www.asco.org/mma), including:

- ASCO's *Adapting to Changes in Medicare 2010 PowerPoint* presentation.
- 2010 quarterly updates to the *Average Sales Price (ASP) Medicare Part B drugs pricing file*.

Members may also submit an inquiry to ASCO's *Coding & Reimbursement Hotline* at [www.asco.org/billingcoding](http://www.asco.org/billingcoding) > member. You must enter your ASCO member ID to send your inquiry.

## 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:

- ANCO and MOASC presented Assemblymember Paul Cook with a *Legislator of the Year* award on February 23<sup>rd</sup> in appreciation for Cook's assistance in passing AB830 that updated California's off-label anti-cancer drug coverage law.

The ANCO *Board of Directors* has voted to endorse the *California Cancer Research Act*, a ballot initiative that would increase taxes on tobacco and invest the revenues in research and tobacco prevention and enforcement programs. The *Act* is sponsored by the *American Cancer Society*, *American Lung Association*, and the *American Heart Association*. For additional information, visit [www.californialung.org/california-cancer-research-act](http://www.californialung.org/california-cancer-research-act).

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](mailto: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*

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- Hospital/Physician Alignment and New Models of Practice
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- Leadership in a New Health Care Era
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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](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7X2L3Y4207?opendocument). CMS has extended the 2010 *Annual Participation Enrollment Program* end date to March 17<sup>th</sup>. Updated fee schedules for California are available online at [www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7ZDQMR7321?opendocument](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7ZDQMR7321?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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7ZWT6V2758?opendocument).

**Palmetto/J1MAC's 2010 Coding & Reimbursement Update** contains a wealth of information that will be helpful to your office, including additions, deletions, and changes for HCPCS; CDT; CPT codes and modifiers; and, proper use of modifiers. Visit [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/2010\\_Coding\\_&\\_Reimbursement\\_Update\\_Part\\_B\\_J1.pdf/\\$File/2010\\_Coding\\_&\\_Reimbursement\\_Update\\_Part\\_B\\_J1.pdf](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/2010_Coding_&_Reimbursement_Update_Part_B_J1.pdf/$File/2010_Coding_&_Reimbursement_Update_Part_B_J1.pdf) to download your copy.

**Palmetto/J1MAC informs ANCO that claims for Lupron injections processed from January 4-19<sup>th</sup> were priced incorrectly.** Services were paid at the submitted charge instead of the correct price. A mass adjustment was performed to issue corrected payments. Visit [www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/82RRYT1885?opendocument](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/82RRYT1885?opendocument) for more information.

**Palmetto/J1MAC's March Medicare Advisory is available** at [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/j1\\_medicare\\_advisory\\_March2010.pdf/\\$File/j1\\_medicare\\_advisory\\_March2010.pdf](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/j1_medicare_advisory_March2010.pdf/$File/j1_medicare_advisory_March2010.pdf). Of specific relevance to oncology, the current edition features:

- April 2010 Quarterly **Average Sales Price (ASP) Medicare Part B Drug Pricing Files and Revisions to Prior Quarterly Pricing Files**
- Revision of Definition of **Compendia** as Authoritative Source for Use in the Determination of Medically-Accepted Indication of Drugs/Biologicals Used Off-label in Anti-Cancer Chemotherapeutic Regimens
- Revisions to **Consultation Services**
- Quarterly Update to **Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) Edits**
- Part B **LCD Updates**

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.]*

### *ASCO Annual Meeting*

*ASCO's Annual Meeting* will take place June 4-8<sup>th</sup> in Chicago. You may now reserve your room and register at [chicago2010.asco.org/Home.aspx](http://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 16-17<sup>th</sup>; [www.asco.org/boa](http://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:

March 10<sup>th</sup>

*Medical Update on Ovarian Cancer*  
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

March 10-14<sup>th</sup>

*15<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference: Clinical Guidelines & Quality Cancer Care*

National Comprehensive Cancer Network  
Hollywood, FL

([www.nccn.org/professionals/meetings/15thannual/default.asp](http://www.nccn.org/professionals/meetings/15thannual/default.asp))

March 17-20<sup>th</sup>

*36<sup>th</sup> Annual National Meeting: Efficiency & Excellence in the New Economic Reality*

Association of Community Cancer Centers  
Baltimore

([www.accc-cancer.org/mainevent](http://www.accc-cancer.org/mainevent))

March 25<sup>th</sup>

*Caring for Your Bones When You Have Prostate Cancer*

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

March 26<sup>th</sup>

*Caring for Your Bones When You Have Breast Cancer*

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

April 13<sup>th</sup>

*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 15<sup>th</sup>

*Brain Tumors: Current Treatments and Hope for*

*the Future*

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

April 16<sup>th</sup>

*Advances in the Treatment of Head and Neck Cancer*

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

April 18-20<sup>th</sup>

*2010 Oncology/Hematology Practice Management Conference*

Medical Group Management Association  
Indianapolis

April 28<sup>th</sup>

*Breast Cancer and African-American Women*  
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

April 30<sup>th</sup>

*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](http://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.

## 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 April 20<sup>th</sup>. Please call José Luis González, *ANCO Executive Director*, at (415) 472-3960 if you wish to participate in a future meeting.

### Individual Member News

*thesecondopinion* ([www.thesecondopinion.org](http://www.thesecondopinion.org)) seeks medical and radiation oncologists specializing in urology, gynecologic oncology, breast cancer, head and neck cancer, and thoracic cancer to serve on multidisciplinary panels providing free second opinions to patients. For more information on how you can volunteer call (415) 775-9956 or e-mail [mail@thesecondopinion.org](mailto:mail@thesecondopinion.org).

A regularly updated online (.pdf) edition of *The ANCO Directory of Members* is available at [www.anco-online.org/pubs.html](http://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](http://med.stanford.edu/seminars/cmecalendar.do)
- [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/conferences](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/conferences)
- [www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme](http://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme)

UCSF's *Innovations in Urologic Oncology: Bladder Cancer—What's New, What's Needed, What's Next* takes place at UCSF on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Visit [www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MUR10001](http://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MUR10001) for more information.

UCSF's *Radiation Oncology Update: Management of Recurrent Disease* takes place at *The St. Regis Hotel* in San Francisco on April 30<sup>th</sup> - May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Visit [www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MRO10001](http://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MRO10001) for more information.

### 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](http://www.anco-online.org/assistance.html) for updated Corporate Member drug reimbursement and patient assistance program information.

*AMGEN* informs ANCO that CMS has established a product specific J-code for Nplate. Effective for dates of service on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>, the new J-code for Nplate is J2796 (10mcg).

*Genentech BioOncology* informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* (FDA) has granted approval to Rituxan, in combination with fludarabine and cyclophosphamide (FC), for the treatment of previously untreated and previously treated patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL).

*GlaxoSmithKline Oncology* informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration*

(FDA) has approved an expanded indication for Tykerb in combination with Femara for the treatment of hormone-positive and HER2-positive breast cancer in postmenopausal women for whom hormonal therapy is indicated.

*Sanofi Aventis Oncology* has provided an educational grant to support *Finding the Positives in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer: A Three-Part Live CME Webcast Series*. Seminar II takes place on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 5PM with Jenny C. Chang, M.D., Joyce Shaughnessy, M.D., and Kathy D Miller, M.D. Seminar III takes place on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 5PM with Kathy D. Miller, M.D., and Hope S. Rugo, M.D. For more information, visit [www.researchtopractice.com/meetings/TNBC2010](http://www.researchtopractice.com/meetings/TNBC2010).

### Clinical Trial News

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

- A Phase II Study of Capecitabine, Carboplatin, and Bevacizumab for **Metastatic or Unresectable Gastroesophageal Junction and Gastric Adenocarcinoma**
- A Randomized, Open-label, Multi-center Phase III Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Nilotinib versus Imatinib in **Adult Patients with Unresectable or Metastatic Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors**
- A Phase I Study of Safety and Bioactivity with FG-3019 in Combination with Gemcitabine and Erlotinib for Subjects with **Locally Advanced or Metastatic Pancreatic Cancer**
- A Phase II Study of Pertuzumab and Erlotinib for **Metastatic or Unresectable Neuroendocrine Tumors**
- A Double-blind, Randomized Placebo-controlled Clinical Trial Investigating the Efficacy and Safety of Somatuline Depot (Ivanotide) Injection in the Treatment of **Carcinoid Syndrome**
- A Phase I Trial of Vandetanib Combined with Capecitabine,

Oxaliplatin and Bevacizumab for the First-Line Treatment of **Metastatic Colorectal Cancer**

- A Phase II Study of EZN-2208 (PEG-SN38) Administered With or Without Cetuximab in Patients with **Metastatic Colorectal Carcinoma**

Visit [cancer.stanford.edu.trials](http://cancer.stanford.edu.trials) for additional information regarding these GI oncology clinical trials.

**Stanford University and The Sierra Fund are conducting a community-based research project that will study the value of providing support group services via video conferencing to breast cancer survivors in rural Northern California counties** (Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Tehama, Trinity, and Yuba). For further information, please contact Susan Ferrier at (530) 274-0292 or [susan@one-on-eight.org](mailto:susan@one-on-eight.org); or, Mary Anne Kreshka at (530) 265-4193 or [kreshka@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kreshka@sbcglobal.net).

**Publications, Resources, Services, & Surveys**

ANCO encourages all member practices to participate in the **5<sup>th</sup> Annual National Oncology Practice Benchmark Survey**. Benchmarking is an essential tool for managing today's oncology practice. The *National Oncology Practice Benchmark* (NPB) was developed by *Oncology Metrics*, a team of professionals who understand the oncology market and have many years of oncology practice. All practices that complete the entire survey will receive an electronic version of the survey report and a personalized report comparing your practice to the entire data set on several key benchmarks. To access the survey, visit [www.surveymonkey.com/s/VHSSDH8](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VHSSDH8). All of the individual practice data provided in the survey is absolutely confidential and will never be disclosed. For additional information, contact Tanja Sauer at [tsauer@oncomet.com](mailto:tsauer@oncomet.com) or (214) 766-3175.

Results from ANCO's **2009 staff salary survey** are now available at [www.anco-online.org/salsrvy.html](http://www.anco-online.org/salsrvy.html).

**ASCO and the State/Regional Affiliate Program**

**are excited to introduce Oncology Practice** at [practice.ascoexchange.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:practice@asco.org). Recent issues featured:

- FDA Safety Information on Velcade
- FDA Issues Class I Recall on Certain Huber Needles Used to Access Implanted Ports
- Update on Status of Prompt-Pay Discount
- ASCO's Coding & Reimbursement Services

NCCN has updated their *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology* and/or *Drugs & Biologics Compendium* for antiemesis. Visit [www.nccn.org](http://www.nccn.org) for the latest information.

**Individual Membership Dues for 2010**

Second notices of membership renewal were mailed the week of February 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.