

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

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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 April 2nd. 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.]

The *Temporary Extension Act of 2010* extends through March 31st the 0% update to the *Medicare Physician Fee Schedule* that was in effect for claims with dates of service of January 1st through February 28th. Physicians still face a 21% payment cut on April 1st unless further legislation providing another temporary or

**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.

permanent *Sustainable Growth Rate* (SGR) fix is passed this month. Legislation has passed in the *Senate* to extend the temporary fix until October 1st and this legislation is likely to pass in the *House*. For more information, please visit 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 24th. 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; 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/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM6740.pdf for more information regarding the **elimination of consultation codes** as of January 1st; visit www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/SE1010.pdf for FAQs (and answers) on reporting physician consultation services. In MM670, CMS instructs physicians and other providers to use other applicable CPT Evaluation & Management (E/M) codes to report the services that could be described by CPT consultation codes. CMS also advises that, in the inpatient hospital setting, physicians (and qualified non-physicians) who perform an initial E/M service may bill the initial hospital care CPT Codes (99221-99223). Since that instruction, CMS has received inquiries specifically relating to reporting initial hospital care services for which the minimum key component work and/or medical necessity requirements for CPT Codes 99221-99233 are not documented. In response to providers questions and concerns, CMS has issued SE1010 that provides additional clarification and instruction on E/M reporting. Palmetto/JIMAC's guidance is available at www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/837MM68711?opendocument. The *California Medical Association* (CMA) has published a billing guide to consultation codes at 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. CMS has posted updated 2010 PQRI educational products to the PQRI webpage at www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI, as follows:

Educational Resource Documents

- 2010 PQRI Electronic Health Record (EHR) Reporting Made Simple
- 2010 PQRI Tip Sheet: Satisfactorily Reporting 2010 PQRI Measures
- 2010 PQRI Program Tip Sheet: PQRI Made Simple—Reporting the Preventive Care Measures Group

- 2010 PQRI Fact Sheet: What's New for the 2010 PQRI

EHR-Based Reporting Documents

- 2010 EHR Measure Specifications
- Updated 2010 EHR Measure Specification Release Notes
- Updated 2010 EHR Downloadable Resource Table
- Updated EHR Data Submission Specifications Utilizing QRDA Release Notes
- Updated EHR Data Submission Specifications Utilizing QRDA Header Errors and Edits
- Updated EHR Data Submission Specifications Utilizing QRDA Body Errors and Edits

PQRI Measures Documents

- 2010 Getting Started with Reporting of PQRI Measures Groups
- 2010 PQRI Implementation Guide
- 2010 PQRI QDC Categories
- 2010 PQRI Single Source Master Code Table
- 2010 PQRI Measures Specifications Release Notes

In addition, an updated list of registries that have become “qualified” to submit quality data to CMS on behalf of their eligible professionals for 2010 PQRI and eRx reporting and an updated list of EHR vendors and their programs that have been “qualified” to submit quality data to CMS by eligible professionals for 2010 PQRI reporting are now available on the *Alternative Reporting Mechanisms* page of the PQRI website. **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?cpsectcurrchannel=1) includes relevant links and

oncology-specific information.

CMS has posted updated 2010 *Electronic Prescribing Incentive (eRx) Program educational products* to the eRx webpage at www.cms.hhs.gov/ERxIncentive, as follows:

eRx Educational Resource Documents

- 2010 eRx Incentive Program Fact Sheet: What’s New for the 2010 eRx Incentive Program
 - 2010 eRx Incentive Program Made Simple Fact Sheet
- #### 2010 EHR-Based Reporting Documents
- 2010 EHR Downloadable Resource
 - Qualified Registries for 2010 PQRI and eRx Reporting
 - Qualified Electronic Health Record (EHR) Vendors for the 2010 PQRI and Electronic Prescribing Incentive Programs

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

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.
- 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 > 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.]

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.

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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 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'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.

The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 established the Medicare Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) program to identify fraud and waste in the Medicare system. Audit contractors are expected to focus on companies and individuals whose billings for specific Medicare services are higher than the majority of providers in their communities. Auditors cannot request more than 10 patient records from a practice in any 45-day period. The *California Medical Association* (CMA) has developed a tool kit to help physicians understand the program and, if necessary, navigate the audit process. The tool kit is available free to CMA members.

Palmetto/J1MAC has published an article entitled *Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) Program* and added a new RAC category under *Articles* on the Palmetto/J1MAC website. Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7T6K7W3608?opendocument or www.anco-online.org/MedicareRACs.pdf for more information on the RAC program. **HealthDataInsights (HDI), the Medicare RAC for Region D (that includes California), has posted the first group of CMS-approved audit issues for RAC review at** racinfo.healthdatainsights.com.

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).

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.]

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.

ASCO's Best of ASCO

ASCO's *2010 Best of ASCO* takes place at *The Palace Hotel* in San Francisco on July 16-17th. This meeting will feature the premier abstracts in sessions on breast, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, and lung cancers, and malignant hematology from the *ASCO Annual Meeting* that represent the most relevant and timely research in oncology today. Visit www.asco.org/boa2010 for more information.

Forthcoming ANCO Meetings

ANCO's *ASCO/ONS Highlights 2010* is being superseded in July 2010 by *ASCO's Best of ASCO*. 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 25th
Caring for Your Bones When You Have Prostate Cancer
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

March 26th
Caring for Your Bones When You Have Breast 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 15th
Brain Tumors: Current Treatments and Hope for the Future
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

April 16th
Advances in the Treatment of Head and Neck Cancer
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

April 18-20th
2010 Oncology/Hematology Practice Management Conference
Medical Group Management Association
Indianapolis

April 28th
Breast Cancer and African-American Women
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

April 30th
Advances in Bone Health for People Living with Cancer
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

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

MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES

ANCO Online 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 20th. 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

UCSF's *Innovations in Urologic Oncology: Bladder Cancer—What's New, What's Needed, What's Next* takes place at UCSF on April 9th.

Visit 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 30th-May 2nd. Visit 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 for updated Corporate Member drug reimbursement and patient assistance program information.

Allos Therapeutics is hosting an educational dinner meeting entitled *Considerations for the Treatment of Relapsed or Refractory PTCL* with C. Babis Andreadis, M.D., *University of California, San Francisco* on Wednesday, March 31st at the *Esquire Grill* in Sacramento. Please RSVP to Dan Quam at (707) 478-8737 or dquam@allos.com.

Genomic Health informs ANCO that the *Journal of Oncology Practice (JOP)* has published the results of the TransATAC trial online at jco.ascopubs.org/cgi/content/abstract/JCO.2009.24.4798v1. This is the third publication that includes node-positive patients for the *Oncotype DX-Breast Cancer Assay*.

Sanofi Aventis Oncology informs ANCO that DHCS/MediCal will upload the new Taxotere J-code (J9171) on September 1st. In the meantime, Taxotere should be billed with local code X7638. Providers billing DHCS/MediCal directly should continue to use X7638 until September, at which time they should start using J9171. For crossover claims, providers should use code J9171 now and DHCS/MediCal confirms they will pay the co-insurance and deductible.

Clinical Trial News

UC San Francisco brings the following oncology clinical trials to the attention of the ANCO membership:

- 06991: A Phase I Trial of Imatinib, Bevacizumab, and Metronomic Cyclophosphamide for Anti-Angiogenic Therapy in **Refractory Solid Tumors** (Josh Lee, 415-353-7284, jlee@medicine.ucsf.edu)
- CTSU-E5202: Randomized Phase III Study Comparing 5-FU, Leucovorin, and Oxaliplatin versus 5-FU, Leucovorin, Oxaliplatin, and Bevacizumab in Patients with Stage II Colon

Cancer at High Risk for Recurrence to Determine Prospectively the Prognostic Value of Molecular Markers (Lindsey Watt, 415-353-7463, lwatt@medicine.ucsf.edu)

- CALGB 80405: Chemotherapy and Biological Therapy for Patients with Untreated, Advanced **Colorectal Cancer** (Lindsey Watt, 415-353-7463, lwatt@medicine.ucsf.edu)

- CC#09451 (TEL0805): A Phase II Open-Label Study Evaluating the Efficacy and Safety of Telatinib in Combination with Chemotherapy as First-Line Therapy in Subjects with Advanced **Gastric Cancer** (Iche Siah, 415-353-7792, isiah@medicine.ucsf.edu)

- A Phase 1 Study of the Combination of Temsirolimus and Sorafenib in Advanced **Hepatocellular Carcinoma** (Anne Reinert, NP, 415-353-9291: Anne.Reinert@ucsfmedctr.org)

- CC#08451: Treatment of Unresectable **Hepatocellular Carcinoma** and Secondary Liver tumors with Therasphere (Yttrium-90 Glass Microspheres): An HDE Treatment Use Pilot Study (Kimberly Morrell or Leslie Lind, 415-353-1300, kimberly.morrell@radiology.ucsf.edu or leslie.lind@radiology.ucsf.edu)

- CC#04458: A Pilot Study of FOLFOX in Combination with Bevacizumab in Patients with Advanced **Neuroendocrine Tumors** (Iche Siah 415-353-7792, isiah@medicine.ucsf.edu)

- CC#084511: A Phase II Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of RAD001 plus Erlotinib in Patients with Well-Differentiated **Neuroendocrine Tumors** (Iche Siah, 415-353-7792, isiah@medicine.ucsf.edu)

- CC#09456 A Phase I/II Study of Gemcitabine plus Bosutinib for Adjuvant Treatment of Resected **Pancreatic Cancer** (Elizabeth Dito, RN, 415-353-7244, ditoe@medicine.ucsf.edu)

- 074510: A Phase I/II Study of Biweekly Fixed Dose Rate Gemcitabine plus Capecitabine in Patients with Advanced **Pancreatic and Biliary Carcinomas** (Elizabeth Dito, RN, 415-353-7244, ditoe@medicine.ucsf.edu)

- CC#08454: A Phase II Study of PEP02 as a Second Line Therapy for Patients with Metastatic **Pancreatic Cancer** (Elizabeth Dito, RN, 415-353-7244: ditoe@medicine.ucsf.edu)

- 03451: This is a Phase II Multi-centered Trial Aimed at Finding the Optimal Timing Interval between Chemoradiation and Surgery in Patients with Stage II and Stage III **Rectal Cancer** (Kathrin Wilkowski or Emily Delmotte, 415-353-7252, kathrin.wilkowski@ucsfmedctr.org, emily.delmotte@ucsfmedctr.org)

- Pamela Munster -- Phase I Dose Escalation Study of Gemcitabine and 24-hour Infusion of ON 01910.Na in Patients with Advanced or Metastatic **Solid Tumors** (PI: Pamela Munster;

Iris Sison, 415-514-6245, sisoni@cc.ucsf.edu,
Anne Reinert, NP, 415-353-9291,
Anne.Reinert@ucsfmedctr.org)

- E1208: A Phase III Randomized, Double-Blind Trial of Chemoembolization with or without Sorafenib in Unresectable **Hepatocellular Carcinoma** (HCC) in Patients with and without Vascular Invasion (Joshua Lee, 415-353-7284, jlee@medicine.ucsf.edu)

Visit the following websites for more information on **Institutional Member clinical trials**:

- cancertrials.stanford.edu/
- ccresources.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/csr/content/ctsuaactiveprotocollisting.csr
- clinical-trials.ucsf.edu:8000/trials/index.php

Publications, Resources, Services, & Surveys

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

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 March (Vol. 6, Issue 2) issue of ASCO's *Journal of Oncology Practice* features articles entitled *Impact of the Cost of Cancer Treatment: An Internet-Based Survey* and *Consultation Code Confusion*. Visit www.jopasco.org for more information. ASCO began publishing the *Journal of Oncology Practice* (JOP) in mid-2005. Although focusing on physician needs, JOP has increased its coverage of topics that are equally of interest and value to practice administrators.

The March/April (Vol. 25, No. 2) issue of ACCC's *Oncology Issues* features articles entitled *10 Things Every Oncology Practice Should Be Doing But Probably Isn't* and *The 7 Deadly Sins of Infusion Center Documentation*. Visit www.accc-cancer.org/oncology_issues/oi-currentissue.asp.

NCCN is helping to improve access to continuing medical education (CME) programs with the launch of the first NCCN CME program available via a mobile interface, made possible through a collaboration with

QuantiaMD. QuantiaMD is free to join and is accessible online and on smartphones. Visit the NCCN Channel on QuantiaMD's online community or download the QuantiaMD's mobile app to your iPhone, Android device or Blackberry. The QuantiaMD web and mobile platform also allows clinicians to comment on presentations and start discussions with other clinicians. Visit www.quantiamd.com/nccn for more information.

NCCN has updated their *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology* and/or *Drugs & Biologics Compendium* for multiple myeloma. Visit www.nccn.org for the latest information.

The March issue of *Oncology Business Review* features articles entitled *Managing the Health of Your Patients and Your Practice* and *Risk-Sharing Schemes in Oncology—Future or Fad?*. 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.