

# 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 16<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.]*

***Congress recessed for Spring break without stopping the 21% Medicare Physician Fee Schedule cut that took place on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The earliest Congress will be able to take retroactive action on this issue is April 12<sup>th</sup>. Now is the time for physicians to stand up and tell Congress that they have had enough of threatened Fee Schedule***

**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.

cut band-aid fixes. *Congress* must repeal the SGR and create stable, appropriate updates for physicians in the Medicare program. Please meet with your *Senators* and *Representatives* during the *Congressional* recess.

CMS is working with *Congress*, health care providers, and the beneficiary community to avoid disruption in the delivery of health care services and payment of claims for physicians, non-physician practitioners, and other providers of services paid under the Medicare *Physician Fee Schedule* (MPFS). The *Temporary Extension Act of 2010* extended the 0% update to the MPFS through March 31<sup>st</sup>. CMS believes *Congress* is working to address the -21% update that took effect April 1<sup>st</sup>. Consequently, **CMS has instructed its contractors to hold claims containing services paid under the MPFS for the first 10 business days of April.** This hold will only affect claims with dates of service of April 1<sup>st</sup> and forward. The hold should have minimum impact on provider cash flow because, under the current law, clean electronic claims are not paid any sooner than 14 calendar days (29 for paper claims) after the date of receipt. For more information, visit [www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/83ZMJM2548?opendocument](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/83ZMJM2548?opendocument).

**AMGEN and Centocor Ortho Biotech officially launched the Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) for erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (ESAs;** which include Aranesp/darbepoetin alfa and Epogen or Procrit/epoetin alfa) on March 24<sup>th</sup>. The Oncology REMS, named the ESA APPRISE *Oncology Program*, applies only to the treatment of patients with cancer with ESAs and does not apply to the other indications for ESAs. The following three steps summarize the requirements of the ESA APPRISE *Oncology Program* for ESA prescribers:

1. Complete enrollment and training that should take approximately 10-15 minutes as soon as possible but no later than March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011.
2. Review the *Medication Guide* with patients with cancer, answer the patient's questions, and sign a form along with the

patient acknowledging that this discussion has occurred.

3. Comply with the *Program* once enrolled and re-enroll every three years.

The *Program* neither requires enrollment of patients into a registry nor prior authorization before ESA administration. As a result of the ESA REMS *Program*, prescribing information for Aranesp/darbepoetin alfa and Epogen or Procrit/epoetin alfa have been updated with changes that are directly related to the approval of this *Program*. These label changes include modifications to the Boxed Warnings, Warnings, and Dosage and Administration sections for cancer patients on chemotherapy and changes to the Medication Guide. Additionally, the Medication Guide has been updated to be in alignment with the full Prescribing Information. Prescribers and hospitals must enroll in and comply with the ESA APPRISE *Oncology Program*. To enroll, visit [www.esa-apprise.com](http://www.esa-apprise.com) or call (866) 284-8089; for additional information, visit [www.esa-apprise.com](http://www.esa-apprise.com) or call your *AMGEN* or *Centocor Ortho Biotech* representatives.

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

- CMA is sponsoring AB2586 that would require the *State* to more effectively enforce network adequacy requirements

and ensure that provider directories are accurate by annually reviewing provider networks to ensure that the required physician-to-patient ratios are being maintained, as well as ensure that the network directories do not include doctors who are no longer in the network. AB2586 is pending in *Senate Health Committee*.

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.

**13th ANNUAL CALIFORNIA HEALTH CARE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

*The Era of Health Reform: Harnessing the Currents of Change*

<p><b>April 9-11, 2010</b>   San Diego Marriott Hotel &amp; Marina</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospital/Physician Alignment and New Models of Practice</li> <li>• Health System Reform: Then and Now</li> <li>• Leadership in a New Health Care Era</li> <li>• and more...</li> </ul>	<p>New for 2010: <b>Academy Curricular Tracks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Information Technology</li> <li>• Practice Management</li> <li>• Leadership Development</li> </ul>
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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.

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

**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.]*

**The 2010 Palmetto/J1MAC Spring Workshop Tour is coming soon to a location near you!** The three-month training and education series kicks off on Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. During the tour, the Palmetto/J1MAC Provider Outreach and Education team will conduct half-day, in-person workshops throughout California. Each workshop will include topics such as provider enrollment and Internet-based PECOS, recent Medicare program updates, J1MAC top billing and claim submission errors, Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) updates, and much more. Space is limited and different for each session, so registration is on a first come, first served basis. To register or find out more about the

workshops in your area, please log into your Palmetto/J1MAC workshops database account at [www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/pgbaworkshops.nsf/workshops?openform&Category=Jurisdiction%201%20A/B%20MAC](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/pgbaworkshops.nsf/workshops?openform&Category=Jurisdiction%201%20A/B%20MAC) and register for the session you wish to attend.

**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.

**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](http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7T6K7W3608?opendocument) or [www.anco-online.org/MedicareRACs.pdf](http://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](http://racinfo.healthdatainsights.com).**

**Palmetto/J1MAC's April Medicare Advisory is available at [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/j1\\_medicare\\_advisory\\_April2010.pdf/\\$File/j1\\_medicare\\_advisory\\_April2010.pdf](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/j1_medicare_advisory_April2010.pdf/$File/j1_medicare_advisory_April2010.pdf).** Of specific relevance to oncology, the current edition features:

- Billing for Services Related to Voluntary Uses of **Advanced Beneficiary Notices of Non-Coverage (ABNs)**
- Revision of **Compendia** as Authoritative Source for Use in the Determination of a Medically-Accepted Indication of Drugs/Biologicals Used Off-Label in Anti-Cancer Chemotherapeutic Regimens
- Questions and Answers on Reporting Physician **Consultation Services**
- 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.]*

### **ANCO Economic Assessment of Member Practices—Webcast**

Join ANCO on Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:30PM for a webcast reporting the results of ANCO's recent economic assessment of member practices. In late 2009 and early 2010, ANCO offered a service to member community-based practices to assess their economic health, report results individually and confidentially to the *Association* in the aggregate, and prescribe measures to improve the member practice's economic health. Roberta Buell, MBA, and Patricia Falconer, MBA, two nationally recognized experts in oncology practice management, were engaged to conduct these economic health assessments. They are now ready to report on what they found during their visits to member practices. This webcast is made possible with the support of *Cephalon Oncology*. RSVP via e-mail to [execdir@anco-online.org](mailto:execdir@anco-online.org). On April 23<sup>rd</sup>:

- Dial—(866) 740-1260
- Enter Passcode—8077555
- Login to—  
<https://cc.readytalk.com/r/dkdcw2675fnx>

### **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).

### **ASCO's Best of ASCO**

ASCO's *2010 Best of ASCO* takes place at *The Palace Hotel* in San Francisco on July 16-17<sup>th</sup>.

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](http://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 on the evening of July 15<sup>th</sup> at ASCO's *Best of ASCO*.

### **Additional Education Meetings**

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

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

May 4<sup>th</sup>

*Understanding Treatment-Related Rash and Dry Skin*

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 5<sup>th</sup>

*Treatment Update on Thyroid Cancer*

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 5-8<sup>th</sup>

*Real World Tools for Real World Challenges*

Medical Group Management Association

Chicago

May 7-8<sup>th</sup>

*Great Debates and Updates in Breast Cancer*

Imedex

San Francisco

(for discounted ANCO registration, call Latasha

Milner at 678-242-0906; for information, visit

[www.imedex.com/appweb/announcements/a182-01.asp](http://www.imedex.com/appweb/announcements/a182-01.asp))

May 18<sup>th</sup>

*The Eighth Annual Cancer Survivorship Series: Living With, Through, and Beyond Cancer, Part II—Communicating with Your Health Care Team After Treatment and Making the Most of Your Visit*

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 20<sup>th</sup>

*Progress in the Treatment of Renal Cell Cancer*

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 21<sup>st</sup>

*Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML): Current Perspectives and Treatment Update*

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 25<sup>th</sup>

*Breast Cancer Treatment Update*

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 26<sup>th</sup>

*Medical Update on Metastatic Lung 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 & Weblog

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](mailto: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

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/](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**.

*Allos Therapeutics* informs ANCO that CMS has

assigned HCPCS C9259 to Folutyn (1mg) effective April 1<sup>st</sup>. This code is specific to the *Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System* (HOPPS) only.

*Millennium* informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* (FDA) has issued an alert to hematology/oncology healthcare professionals regarding revisions to the *Prescribing Information* (PI) for Velcade. The changes relate to starting doses for patients with hepatic impairment. The updated PI and the *Dear Healthcare Professional* letter are available at [www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm198424.htm](http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm198424.htm).

*Novartis Oncology* informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* (FDA) and *Novartis* have notified healthcare professionals about recent changes in the *Prescribing Information* (PI) for Exjade, indicated for the treatment of chronic iron overload, due to blood transfusions in patients 2 years of age and older. New language was added to the *Contraindications, Warnings and Precautions, and Drug Interactions* sections of the PI, including a *Boxed Warning*, that the product may cause renal impairment, including failure; hepatic impairment, including failure; or, gastrointestinal hemorrhage. The complete MedWatch 2010 safety summary, including a link to the *Dear Healthcare Professional* letter and revised PI, are available at [www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm200850.htm](http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm200850.htm).

*Onmark* informs ANCO that it has mobilized REMS resources for healthcare providers, as follows:

- REMS Programs—View a complete chart of REMS programs relevant to oncology, including links to more information and medication guides.
- REMS Tools—Download customizable tracking forms, sample policy and procedure documents, and FDA information for drug safety.
- Coming Soon: An APPRISE training webcast—Learn best practices around

how to comply with the APPRISE REMS program. Enrollment information will be available soon.

Visit [www.onmarkservices.com](http://www.onmarkservices.com) and select the REMS section under the Practice Management tab to learn more.

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

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:

- Health Reform
- Modifier -25 Guidance

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](http://qopi.asco.org).

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

NCCN 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 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](http://www.quantiamd.com/nccn) for more information.

NCCN has updated their *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology and/or Drugs & Biologics Compendium* for bone cancer, colon cancer, and rectal cancer. 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.