

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 April 30th. 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 1st. Although Congress has returned to session, it has not acted to stop the Fee cut. Now is the time for physicians to stand up and tell Congress that they have had enough of threatened Fee Schedule cut

**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.

band-aid fixes. *Congress* must repeal the SGR and create stable, appropriate updates for physicians in the Medicare program. Please call/e-mail with your *Senators* and *Representatives* and ask them to reverse the 21% Medicare *Physician Fee Schedule* cut. **With regard to Medicare claims with dates of service on or after April 1st, CMS issued the following statement on April 15th:**

CMS continues to work with *Congress* towards possible legislative action to extend the 0% update for the Medicare *Physician Fee Schedule*. The 0% update expired on March 31st. We are hopeful that *Congress* will take action in the next few days. Until now, CMS has been holding April 2010 date-of-service claims, anticipating *Congressional* action. But that has not occurred. Therefore, under current law, Medicare contractors will begin processing claims with dates of service April 1st and later at the negative update rates. This will begin as soon as systems are fully tested to ensure proper claims payment. And, Medicare contractors will pay these claims on a first in, first out basis. If subsequent *Congressional* action extends the 0% update retroactive to April 1st, Medicare will reprocess those claims at the higher rates. Claims with submitted charges at or above the higher rates will be able to be automatically reprocessed without further action. Providers have the option of holding their affected claims until the legislative landscape becomes clearer. Claims with dates of service prior to April 1st, are not affected and will continue to be processed under normal procedures at the rates in effect on the date of service.

On March 29th, affirming an earlier proposed coverage decision, CMS announced that **Medicare will cover positron emission tomography (PET) scans to identify bone metastasis of cancer** only under *Coverage With Evidence Development* (CED). CMS said it will cover NaF-18 PET imaging only when the beneficiary's treating physician determines that an NaF-18 PET study is needed to "inform the initial antitumor treatment strategy or to guide subsequent antitumor treatment strategy after the

completion of initial treatment." CMS also said it would cover the imaging procedure when the beneficiary is enrolled in, and the NaF-18 PET provider is participating in, a specific type of prospective clinical study. CMS said the new coverage policy will be implemented July 6th.

Medicare eliminated the use of all consultation codes except those for telemedicine and instructed physicians to bill for these services using the most appropriate remaining evaluation and management codes effective January 1st. The *American Medical Association* (AMA) and the *American Society of Hematology* (ASH) are working with the *American Group Management Association* (AGMA) and 16 other specialty societies (including ASCO) to modify this policy. To gather data for this effort, they have designed a short survey that should take only 10 or 15 minutes to complete. Your participation in this important survey will help them understand and quantify how this policy is affecting physicians. The survey can be accessed at amaassn.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_8kXz7i5hkn939yY&SVID=Prod and will be open through April 30th. Should you have any questions, please contact Carol Schwartz at cschwartz@hematology.org or (202) 292-0258.

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?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, 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.]

CMA has launched *CMA Practice Resources* (CPR), a monthly e-mail bulletin from CMA's *Center for Economic Services*. CPR is full of tips and tools to help physicians and their office staff improve practice efficiency and viability. Subscribing to CPR is free and open to anyone, but CMA membership is necessary to access the

resources, toolkits, forms, and tools that are located on the members-only CMA website. The first issued featured:

- Problems Getting Paid?
- Know Your Rights: Fee Schedule Changes
- Authorization=Payment

Visit 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.

Effective June 27th, physicians in California must inform their patients that they are licensed by the *Medical Board of California*, and include the *Board's* contact information. The notice must contain the following information:

NOTICE TO CONSUMERS
Medical doctors are licensed and
regulated by the
Medical Board of California
(800) 633-2333
www.mbc.ca.gov

Physicians may provide this notice by one of three methods:

1. Prominently posting a sign in an area of their offices conspicuous to patients, in at least 48-point type in Arial font.
2. Including the notice in a written statement, signed and dated by the patient or patient's representative, and kept in the patient's file, stating the patient understands the physician is licensed and regulated by the *Board*.

- Including the notice in a statement on letterhead, discharge instructions, or other document given to a patient or the patient's representative, where the notice is placed immediately above the signature line for the patient in at least 14-point type.

For more information, please contact the *Medical Board's* information officer, Candis Cohen, at (916) 263-2394 or candis.cohen@mbc.ca.gov.

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.]

From April 8th through June 1st, Palmetto/J1MAC will be accepting comments on their draft Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) on **Implantable Infusion Pumps for Treatment of Intractable Pain (DL28268)**. To view the proposed coverage policy and make comments, please visit www.cms.gov/mcd/viewlcd.asp?lcd_id=30940&lcd_version=3&show=all.

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 16th. 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 and register for the session you wish to attend.

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 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).

DHCS/MediCal's eTAR application is an easy, effective, fast and free way to submit TARs. Providers that utilize the eTAR application are generally more successful when submitting TARs. Most MediCal providers are activated to use eTAR. To verify access, go to www.medi-cal.ca.gov, select the Transactions tab, and log in with your NPI and PIN. An eTAR tab with options for Medical Services will be available. If you do not have access or only see options for Inquire only, please contact MediCal at (800) 541-5555 and follow the prompts for eTAR to request access. The eTAR training team invites providers to access the free learning tools. The eTAR Program Information webpage (www.medi-cal.ca.gov/go/etar) contains information useful to both new and experienced providers. Web based tutorials are available on

this webpage to provide step-by-step instructions on how to submit eTARs and attachments, as well as update and inquire on previously submitted TARs. This newly updated webpage also contains Medical and Pharmacy eTAR training dates, provider bulletins and helpful tips and pointers for both Medical and Pharmacy eTAR providers.

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.]

An Economic Assessment of ANCO Member Practices—Webcast

Join ANCO on Friday, April 23rd 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. On April 23rd:

- Dial—(866) 740-1260
- Enter Passcode—8077555
- Login to—
<https://cc.readytalk.com/r/dkdcw2675fmx>

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 on the evening of July 15th at ASCO's *Best of ASCO*.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

April 24th

The Power of Yum!

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter/ONS
Cancer Prevention Institute of California
Brisbane

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

May 4th

Understanding Treatment-Related Rash and Dry
Skin

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 5th

Treatment Update on Thyroid Cancer
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

May 5-8th

Real World Tools for Real World Challenges
Medical Group Management Association
Chicago

May 7-8th

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)

May 18th

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

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

MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES

ANCO Online

ANCO's website, www.anco-online.org, features:

- a general description and introduction to the *Association*, its activities, leadership, and membership benefits.
- advocacy information (including ANCO and ASCO 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 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 **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.

Stanford's Division of Oncology is hosting a **Stanford Oncology Alumni Reunion** for *Stanford oncology alumni, faculty, and fellows* during the **ASCO Annual Meeting in Chicago**. The reunion will take place on Monday evening, June 7th, at 6PM, at *The Grill on the Alley Restaurant (Westin Hotel Michigan)*. Please RSVP by FAX by June 1st to Leslie Quiroz or Christina Kasson at (650) 725-1420 or via e-mail to lquiroz@stanford.edu or ckasson@stanford.edu.

UCSF will host a reception honoring **Frank McCormick, Ph.D., F.R.S., Director, UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, and the 2010 ASCO Science of Oncology Award recipient**, during the **ASCO Annual Meeting in Chicago**. The reception will take place on Sunday evening, June 6th, in the *Waldorf Room, The Hilton Chicago*, at 5:30PM. Please RSVP to Victoria Karno at (415) 885-3846 or vkarno@medicine.ucsf.edu.

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

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

Corporate Member News

ANCO thanks the following **Corporate Members** for their generous support that enables ANCO to provide services to the hematology/oncology community in Northern

California, and to provide its members and their patients with substantial benefits in the areas of advocacy, education, and information dissemination:

*Abraxis 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
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 • 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.

Novartis Oncology informs ANCO that, effective for dates of service on or after May 1st, DHCS/MediCal local code X7650 (zoledronate, 4 mg) will be converted to national HCPCS code J3487 (zoledronic acid, 1 mg). Code X7650 will no longer be reimbursable. Zometa is reimbursable when billed in conjunction with ICD-9-CM codes 185, 203.00, 203.01, 203.02 and 275.42, and any other code that specifically describes a solid tumor.

Clinical Trial News

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

- A Randomized Discontinuation Study of XL184 in Subjects with **Advanced Solid Tumors** (opened March 2010; PI: Adil Daud, M.D.; For information or patient referral, contact: Emily Arimura, (415) 885-3855, ArimuraE@cc.ucsf.edu, or Leslie Ziani, (415) 514-6256, ZianiL@cc.ucsf.edu)
- Phase Ib Study to Evaluate the Safety of Combining IGF-1R Antagonist R1507 with Multiple Standard Chemotherapy Drug Treatments in Patients with **Advanced Malignancies** (PI: Pamela Munster, M.D.; For information or patient referral, contact: Kristin Johansing, (415) 885-7326, JohansingK@cc.ucsf.edu)
- A Phase I Trial of Panobinostat (LBH589) and Epirubicin in Patients with **Solid Tumor Malignancies** (For information or patient referral, contact: Philip Petrou, (415) 353-4024, Philip.Petrou@ucsfmedctr.org)
- A Phase I Open-Label, Dose-Escalation Study of the Phosphoinositide 3-Kinase Inhibitor GSK2126458 in Subjects with **Solid Tumors or Lymphoma** (For information or patient referral, contact: Glenna Auerback, (415) 353-9535, AuerbackG@cc.ucsf.edu, or Kristin Johansing, (415) 885-7326, JohansingK@cc.ucsf.edu)
- A Phase I, Open-Label, Dose-Escalation Study of the Safety and Pharmacokinetics of MEGF0444A, Administered Intravenously to Patients with **Advanced Solid Tumors** (For information or patient referral, contact: Kristin Johansing, 415 885-7326, JohansingK@cc.ucsf.edu)
- Phase 1 Dose Escalation Study of Gemcitabine and 24-hour Infusion of ON 01910.Na in Patients with **Advanced or Metastatic Solid Tumors** (For information, contact: Iris Sison, (415) 514-6245, sisoni@cc.ucsf.edu; For patient referral, contact: Anne Reinert, N.P., (415) 353-9291, Anne.Reinert@ucsfmedctr.org)
- A Phase I dose escalation study of 5-day intermittent oral lapatinib therapy with biomarker analysis in patients with **HER2-overexpressing breast cancer** (PI: Mark Moasser, M.D.; For information or patient referral, contact: Karen Chia, (415) 514-6248, ChiaK@cc.ucsf.edu)
- Phase 2 Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Double-Blind Study of ABT-869 in Combination with Paclitaxel Alone as First-line Treatment in Subjects with **Locally Recurrent or Metastatic Breast Cancer** (PI: Hope Rugo, M.D.; For information or patient referral, contact: Glenna Auerback, (415) 353-9535, AuerbackG@cc.ucsf.edu)
- A Phase I Dose-Escalation Study of SCH 900776 as Monotherapy and in Combination with Gemcitabine in Subjects with **Advanced Solid Tumors or Lymphoma** (PI: Adil Daud,

M.D.; For information or patient referral, contact: Iris Sison, (415) 514-6245, sisoni@cc.ucsf.edu)

- Phase I Multicenter Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Intraventricular Administration of Rituximab in Combination with Methotrexate in patients with **Recurrent CNS and Intraocular Lymphoma** (PI: James Rubenstein, M.D.; For information or patient referral, contact: Kristin Johansing, (415) 885-7326, JohansingK@cc.ucsf.edu)

- Phase I Trial of the Combination of Temsirolimus and Sorafenib in **Advanced Hepatocellular Carcinoma** (PIs: Drs. Venook & Kelley; For information or patient referral, contact: Glenna Auerback, (415) 353-9535, AuerbackG@cc.ucsf.edu, or Karen Chia, (415) 514-6248, ChiaK@cc.ucsf.edu)

- **Refractory and Relapsed Hematologic Malignancies**, including CML, Ph+ ALL, and FLT3-mutant AML: A Phase I study of AP24534, an oral multikinase inhibitor of BCR-ABL and FLT3 (as well as other kinases), including the BCR-ABL/T315I mutation. Other malignancies also eligible: multiple myeloma, myeloproliferative disorders; acute myelogenous leukemia; acute lymphoblastic leukemia; myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS); chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) (PI: Neil Shah, M.D.; For information or patient referral, contact: Adrienne Schroeder, (415) 502-1564, aschroeder@medicine.ucsf.edu)

- **Acute Myeloid Leukemia, FLT3-ITD-positive:** A Phase II study of AC220, a potent, selective orally administered inhibitor of FLT3 in patients with relapsed and refractory AML. Determination of FLT3 mutation status will be performed at the time of screening (PI: Neil Shah, M.D.; For information or patient referral, contact: Adrienne Schroeder, (415) 502-1564, aschroeder@medicine.ucsf.edu)

- 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 (For information or patient referral, contact: Joshua Lee, (415) 353-7284, jlee@medicine.ucsf.edu)

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

Further information is available on the *UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer*

Center Clinical Trial website at cancer.ucsf.edu/.

Publications, Resources, Services, & Surveys

ASCO's *Oncology Practice Insider* is an interactive biweekly communication specifically devoted to oncology practice management issues and for practice managers. Subscribe to the *Oncology Practice Insider* via e-mail to practice@asco.org. Recent issues featured:

- Shortage of Mustargen
- eRx of Controlled Substances
- National RAC 101 Call for Physicians

NCCN has updated their *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology and/or Drugs & Biologics Compendium* for breast cancer. Visit www.nccn.org for the latest information. **Need instant access to the NCCN Compendium and NCCN Guidelines updates as they happen? Subscribe to NCCN Flash Updates** to have changes delivered straight to your inbox. NCCN *Flash Updates* provide immediate notification of changes and updates to published NCCN *Drugs & Biologics Compendium* chapters and NCCN *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology*. Subscribers receive an e-mail as soon as updates or changes occur. Visit www.nccn.org/network/business_insights/flash_updates/default.asp to learn more about NCCN *Flash Updates*.

Individual Membership Dues for 2010

Final notices of membership renewal were mailed in early April. 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.