

ANCO FAX News

Association of Northern California Oncologists
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The *ANCO FAX News* focuses on ANCO's core activities—advocacy, clinical and professional education, and *Association and membership news*. While membership mailings and e-mail/FAX broadcasts 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*. Find the *ANCO FAX News* online at www.anco-online.org/pubs.html.

In this issue:

- ASCO testifies against CMS's Medicare Part B Drug Reimbursement Experiment and in support of MACRA
- ANCO's *End of Life Options Act* resources
- 2016 Patient Satisfaction and Staff Salary Surveys

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 June 10th. 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.

The *ANCO FAX News* has information 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.

ADVOCACY

[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 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 meets regularly with these and other 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, COA, and National Legislative & Regulatory Issues

ASCO testified before two Congressional committees recently regarding MACRA and the CMS Part B Drug Reimbursement Experiment. In a statement submitted to the *House Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee on Health*, ASCO provided thoughts on CMS's proposed MACRA rule. Read ASCO's statement at www.asco.org/sites/new-www.asco.org/files/content-files/2016-Statement-WM-MACRA-Hearing.pdf. In a statement submitted to the *House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Health*, ASCO voiced its strong opposition to the proposed Medicare Part B Drug Reimbursement Experiment calling it ill-conceived and lacking a patient-centered focus. ASCO said that CMS's proposal was an experiment on patients without safeguards, would increase "underwater" drugs, and would increase a problematic shift in the site of service. ASCO's full testimony is available at www.asco.org/sites/new-www.asco.org/files/content-files/2016-Patt-Testimony.pdf. Finally, **ASCO supports HR5122, legislation that would halt CMS from implementing the experiment and helps to keep the pressure on the Administration to withdraw or substantially change the experiment**, and urges the House to pass it in a timely manner. Please ask your Representative to co-sponsor HR5122 today by visiting cqrcengage.com/asco/app/onestep-write-a-letter?0&engagementId=201953.

CMS has issued proposed regulations that would move ahead the two-track physician payment system required under MACRA (see below). The proposed *Quality Payment Program* (QPP) offers providers two options:

- aligning with an advanced Alternative Payment Model (APM) and receiving a 5% annual bonus, or

- being subject to a quality performance score that could result in either increases or decreases in their Medicare reimbursement (i.e., the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System or MIPS).

Over time, providers will be able to move from one track to the other. Comments on the proposed rule are due June 27th; the final rule is slated to be released in the Fall of 2016. Read CMS's press release at www.hhs.gov/about/news/2016/04/27/administration-takes-first-step-implement-legislation-modernizing-how-medicare-pays-physicians.html. Read Bobbie Buell's analysis of the MACRA proposal at www.anco-online.org/BBMacraAnalysis.pdf.

MACRA encourages the development of alternatives to the current Medicare fee-for-service payment system as a means to achieve higher quality and more affordable care. ASCO believes that its *Patient-Centered Oncology Payment* (PCOP) model meets MACRA's definition of an alternative payment model (APM) and will actively advance PCOP as a certified APM. ASCO is offering practices a unique opportunity to test PCOP and will provide tools and assistance in modeling data to help practices be successful. To learn more about PCOP, please go to www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/policies-positions-guidance/coverage-reimbursement/physician-payment-reform.

CMS has released a new transmittal and *Medlearn Matters* regarding billing for drug waste packaged in a single dose vial. Starting July 1st, Medicare contractors will require the use of modifier JW to identify unused drugs or biologicals from single use vials or single use packages that are appropriately discarded. This modifier, billed on a separate line, will provide payment for the amount of discarded drug or biological. The only exception to the above is when the J-code is larger than the drug plus the waste. In addition, documentation in the record must reflect the drug given plus the amount of drug wasted; every effort must be made to use drugs "in such a way that they can use drugs or biologicals most efficiently, in a clinically appropriate manner" (i.e., drugs should not be wasted if there are other patients that can use the waste or if there is a smaller vial size); and, this guidance does not apply to multi-dose vials because Medicare does not pay for wasted drug units in this scenario.

CMA, MOASC, and State Legislative & Regulatory Issues

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.

The *California Medical Association* (CMA) has released guidance for prescribing lethal doses of medication under California's new physician-assisted death law (ABX2-15). CMA's *The California End of Life Option Act* is available at www.cmanet.org/resource-library/detail/?item=the-california-end-of-life-option-act. The *End of Life Option Act* becomes law on June 9th. The CMA guidance details the legal and medical steps physicians must take before prescribing life-ending medications and physicians' legal rights to participate or opt out based on their moral or religious beliefs. The guidelines are written in a Q&A format and provide detailed information about the new law. However, they do not currently recommend the drug physicians should use to facilitate aid-in-dying and they state that physicians can choose not to assist patients to end their own lives. CMA will host a webinar on the *End of Life Option Act* on June 1st; go to www.cmanet.org/events/detail/?event=the-california-end-of-life-option-act-an for information and to register.

Under California law, all individuals practicing in California who possess both a state regulatory *Board* license authorized to prescribe, dispense, furnish, or order controlled substances and a *Drug Enforcement Administration Controlled Substance Registration Certificate* (DEA Certificate) must register for the *Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System* (CURES) by July 1st. The *California Medical Association* (CMA) recently co-hosted a webinar with the *Department of Justice* (DOJ) to help physicians navigate the CURES 2.0 registration process. The webinar is now available on demand at www.cmanet.org/resource-library/detail/?item=cures-20-navigating-the-states-new0&r_search=&r_page=&return_to=list.

On July 1st, a new law (SB137) will take effect that requires health plans to ensure that physician directories are accurate and up-to-date. The new law also requires physicians to do their part in keeping this information up-to-date. Specifically, the law requires providers to notify payors within five business days if they are no longer accepting new patients or, alternatively, if they were previously not accepting new patients and are now open to new patients. SB137 also requires physicians to respond to plan and insurer notifications regarding the accuracy of their provider directory information, either by confirming the information is correct or by updating demographic information as appropriate. Contact CMA's reimbursement help line at (888) 401-5911 or economicservices@cmanet.org for more information.

Noridian/JEMAC, DHCS/MediCal, & Private Payers

Noridian Administrative Services is the *Jurisdiction E (JE) Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC)*. Jurisdiction E includes California. Regularly review postings at the *Noridian/JEMAC* website at med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb. Recent updates include:

- MLN Connects Provider eNews *Announcements*—SNF Value-Based Purchasing Program: Specifications for New Measure; 2014 PQRS Experience Report Available; How to Use ICD-10 and Maintain Your Progress; New Quality Payment Program Webpages; 2016 PQRS GPRO Registration Open through June 30 *Events*—Physician Compare Initiative Call-Registration Now Open
- Serum Magnesium Draft LCD Published for Review and Comments
- Chemotherapy Administration-R1
- Vitamin D Assay Testing Draft LCD Published for Review and Comment
- Non-Covered Services-R9
- Controlled Substance Monitoring and Drugs of Abuse-Effective June 28, 2016
- MolDX: CDD: Promark Risk Score Draft LCD Published for Review and Comment

- Bladder Tumor Markers Draft LCD Published for Review and Comments
- Coding Revisions to NCDs CR9540 and CR9631
- Noridian Medicare Portal-Dual Role Access
- Redeterminations and Reconsiderations of Certain Claims-Limiting the Scope of Review-Revised SE1521
- HCPCS Drug/Biological Code Changes-July 2016 Quarterly Update CR9639
- Stem Cell Transplantation for Multiple Myeloma, Myelofibrosis, and Sickle Cell Disease, and Myelodysplastic Syndromes CR9620
- MolDX: Breast Cancer Biomarkers to Guide Adjuvant Chemotherapy Draft LCD Published for Review and Comments
- MolDX: Breast Cancer Biomarkers to Guide Adjuvant Chemotherapy Draft LCD Retired-Effective May 20
- MolDX-CDD: Genomic Health Oncotype DX Prostate Cancer Assay Final LCD-Effective July 5
- Evaluate Our Services in 10 Minutes
- CERT Deadline for Initial Documentation
- MolDX: NRAS Genetic Testing Final LCD-Effective July 5

Noridian/JEMAC's Electronic Data Interchange Support Services (EDISS) invites you to subscribe to its e-mail distribution list to receive current information at www.edissweb.com/cgp/news/index.html.

Forthcoming Noridian/JEMAC meetings/workshops include:

- Reciprocal Billing and Locum Tenens Arrangements Workshop (May 31)
- Open Public Meeting (June 2)
- CERT and MR Reviews Workshop (June 2)
- Ordered, Referred and Prescribed Services Workshop (June 16)

Visit med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb/education/training-events for more information and to register.

Noridian/JEMAC is continuing to send provider revalidation notices two or three months prior to

each provider's revalidation due date. The first revalidation due date is May 31st. If you have received a revalidation notice, and a complete application is not received by the due date, your Medicare billing privileges will be deactivated. If you do not know if you received a notice, you can look up your revalidation date through the CMS look-up tool at www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/Revalidations.html. Those due for revalidation in the near future will display a revalidation due date; all other providers will see TBD in the due date field. If you are deactivated for failure to respond to a revalidation notice, you must submit a reactivation application. The date of the receipt of reactivation application will be the new effective date for Medicare billing privileges. No payments will be made for the period of deactivation. For more on the revalidation process, go to www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/SE1605.pdf or med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb/article-detail/-/view/10546/provider-enrollment-revalidation-cycle-2 or contact Noridian/JEMAC at (855) 1609-9960.

Subscribe today to receive the DHCS/Medi-Cal Subscription Service (MCSS) via e-mail. The MCSS is a free service that can help keep you up-to-date on the latest DHCS/MediCal news. Go to the MCSS Subscriber Form (files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/mcss/mcss.asp) to subscribe.

A list of DHCS/MediCal webinars is at files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/newsroom/newsroom_23149.asp?utm_source=iContact&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Medi-Cal%20NewsFlash&utm_content=23149.

EDUCATION

[Editor's Note: ANCO organizes clinical and professional education meetings throughout the year and throughout Northern California.]

ANCO's California's End of Life Option Act Webinar

ANCO hosted a webinar entitled *California's End of Life Options Act: An Overview of the Legislation, Implementation, and Discussions with Patients* on Wednesday, May 25th. Lael C. Duncan, M.D., Medical Director, Consulting Services, Coalition for Compassionate Care of California, described the

End of Life Option Act, describe the demographics of patients in states where similar legislation has been in place, listed California's requirements for patient eligibility, described the forms and documentation necessary for patient participation, described the ethical considerations underlying actions providers and healthcare workers may take with respect to the law, and listed important factors to consider when patients request information on the *End of Life Option Act*. A recording of the webinar and additional resources are available online at www.anco-online.org.

ASCO Annual Meeting

Registration and housing for the 2016 ASCO Annual Meeting: *Collective Wisdom—The Future of Patient-Centered Care and Research*, June 3rd - 7th, at McCormick Place in Chicago is now open. Reserve your room and register at am.asco.org/.

SAVE THE DATE 2016 Professional Education Meeting

ANCO will host its 2016 professional education meeting on August 3rd at *The Claremont Resort*. An announcement with the agenda and faculty will be distributed in early June.

ASCO's Best of ASCO

ASCO's *Best of ASCO* takes place in San Diego on August 12-13th. Visit boa.asco.org for more information and to register. (Please note that ANCO's *ASCO Highlights 2016* will take place on August 27th at *The Claremont Resort*. Watch for an announcement in late June.)

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

May 31st

Advances in the Treatment of Metastatic Prostate Cancer (Part I of Living with Metastatic Prostate Cancer)

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

June 1st

Precision Medicine in Breast Cancer (Part III of Living with Breast Cancer: Treatment Updates)

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

June 8th

Managing the Costs of Living with Cancer

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

June 9th

Highlights from the 2016 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting (Part I of Your Guide to the Latest Cancer Research and Treatment)

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

June 10th

For Caregivers: Coping with a Loved One's

Metastatic Prostate Cancer (Part II of Living with Metastatic Prostate Cancer)

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

June 14th

Highlights from the 2016 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting (Part II of Your Guide to the Latest Cancer Research and Treatment)

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

June 16th

Update on Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

June 17th

Medical Update on Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML)

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

June 28th

Step Therapy and You: How Step Therapy Policies Affect Patient Access to Treatment

California Partnership for Access to Treatment
Sacramento

(<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/step-therapy-you-tickets-25659331752>)

June 28th

Transplantation as a Treatment Option for Blood Cancers

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

June 29th

Precision Medicine in Cancer Treatment

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

June 30th

Update on Glioblastoma

CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

August 4-6th
17th Annual International Lung Cancer Congress
Physicians' Education Resource
Huntington Beach
(www.gotoper.com/conferences/ilc/meetings/17th-International-Lung-Cancer-Congress)

September 16-17th
2016 ASH Meeting on Hematologic Malignancies
American Society of Hematology
Chicago
(www.hematology.org/Malignancies/)

September 21st-22nd
ASCO Advocacy Summit 2016—Lead, Engage, Influence
American Society of Clinical Oncology
Washington, D.C.
(www.asco.org/advocacy/2016-advocacy-summit-capitol-hill)

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

ASSOCIATION & MEMBERSHIP NEWS, RESOURCES, & BENEFITS

Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* meets by teleconference and occasionally in person to discuss issues affecting the *Association*, clinical and professional education, and ways to better serve the membership. *Board* teleconferences/meetings are open to individual physician members. The **next regularly scheduled ANCO Board of Directors teleconference is scheduled for June 15th**. Please call José Luis González, *ANCO Executive Director*, at (415) 472-3960 if you wish to participate in a future teleconference/meeting.

Individual Member News

A current *Directory of Members* is available online at www.anco-online.org/pubs.html as a .pdf document. We urge all ANCO members to download their own edition of *The ANCO Directory of Members*. Please verify your *Directory* entry and contact the ANCO office at execdir@anco-online.org with any corrections, additions, and/or deletions.

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 initiated a **Multi Site Group Membership** in 2010 to encourage all physicians (medical and radiation oncologists) from multi-site and multidisciplinary practices to join. ANCO thanks *Annadel Medical Group/St Joseph's Heritage Healthcare, California Cancer Associates for Research and Excellence, Diablo Valley Oncology & Hematology Medical Group, EPIC Care, Pacific Cancer Care, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, and Valley Medical Oncology Consultants* for their multi site group memberships.

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 Cancer Center*
- *University of California, Davis, Cancer Center*
- *University of California, San Francisco*

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:

*AbbVie • Alexion Pharmaceuticals • AMGEN
Astellas Oncology • AstraZeneca
Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals
Biodesix • Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology
Cardinal Health Specialty Solutions
Celgene • Clovis Oncology • Daiichi Sankyo
Dendreon • Eisai • Foundation Medicine
Genoptix Medical Laboratory
Genentech BioOncology • Genomic Health
Gilead Sciences • Helsinn Oncology
Heron Therapeutics • Incyte*

Infinity Pharmaceuticals
Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals
Janssen Oncology • Jazz Pharmaceuticals
Lilly Oncology • Merrimack Pharmaceuticals
Medivation • Merck
nanoString • Novartis Oncology
Oncology Supply/ION • Onyx Pharmaceuticals
Pfizer Oncology • Pharmacyclics
Prometheus Therapeutics & Diagnostics
Sandoz Biopharmaceuticals • Sanofi Genzyme
Sargas Pharmaceutical Adherence
& Compliance (SPAC) International
Seattle Genetics • Taiho Oncology
Takeda Oncology • Tesaro • TEVA Oncology

We especially wish to thank and welcome *AbbVie*, *Biodesix*, *Clovis Oncology*, *Heron Therapeutics*, *Infinity Pharmaceuticals*, *Ipsen Pharmaceuticals*, *Jazz Pharmaceuticals*, *Merrimack Pharmaceuticals*, *Prometheus Therapeutics & Diagnostics*, *Sandoz Biopharmaceuticals*, *Taiho Oncology*, and *Tesaro* as new Corporate Members for 2016. Please visit www.anco-online.org/assistance.html for **Corporate Member drug reimbursement and patient assistance program information**. ANCO encourages all member practices to use this resource and enroll all patients at the start of treatment in all available and appropriate patient assistance programs.

AbbVie informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has expanded the Imbruvica prescribing information to include data from two Phase 3 trials supporting its expanded use in patients with CLL and SLL.

Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has approved Opdivo for the treatment of patients with classical Hodgkin lymphoma (cHL) who have relapsed or progressed after autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (auto-HSCT) and post-transplantation brentixumab vedotin.

Eisai informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has approved Lenvima, in combination with everolimus, for the treatment of patients with advanced renal cell carcinoma (aRCC) who were previously treated with an anti-angiogenic therapy.

Genentech BioOncology informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has approved Tecentriq for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial cell carcinoma who have disease progression during or following platinum-containing chemotherapy or have disease progression within 12 months of

neoadjuvant or adjuvant treatment with platinum-containing chemotherapy.

nanoString informs ANCO that *Aetna* has added the Prosigna breast cancer test to its Tumor Markers Clinical Policy Bulletin, opening the door for test coverage.

Seattle Genetics is hosting a webcast entitled *Optimal Clinical Strategies for the Treatment of Relapsed Hodgkin's Lymphoma* with Craig Moskowitz, M.D., *Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center*, on June 14th at 10AM. To register for this program, visit www.optumhealtheeducation.com/oncology/rhl-2016-live?utm_source=SubscriberMail&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=6.14.16%20rhl%20Invite&utm_term=&utm_content=136a6447527d4163b80df1a8d1df0917.

Sargas Pharmaceutical Adherence & Compliance (SPAC) International is hosting a webinar entitled *Oncology Care Model Conundrum* on May 31st at 11AM featuring Kavita K. Patel, M.D., *Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution*, Basit Chaudhry, M.D., *CEO, Tuple Health*, and Git Patel, *CEO, SPAC International*. Please call (661) 320-4477 for more information.

Teva Oncology informs ANCO that CMS has made a preliminary decision to assign J-Code J9033 to Bendeka and many payers have updated their systems to reflect the change from J9999.

Clinical Trial News

ASCO and *Friends of Cancer Research* have launched a collaborative effort to modernize eligibility criteria to promote greater patient participation in cancer clinical trials. As a first step, the two organizations established a multidisciplinary group of more than 40 stakeholders from across the cancer research community to develop recommendations for broadening eligibility criteria in four specific areas—patients with brain metastases, minimum age requirements for trial enrollment, HIV/AIDS patients, and those experiencing organ dysfunction. The working groups will finalize consensus recommendations in each of the four areas with the ultimate plan of submission for publication in a peer-reviewed journal later this year.

ASCO's *Research Community Forum* (formerly the *Community Research Forum*) is expanding to have a greater impact on research sites from all types of research settings. The *Forum* is inviting

researchers and staff from all types of sites to participate in this unique venue with the aim to advance cancer research and support research program management. The *Forum's* annual meeting takes place at ASCO on September 25-26th. Please visit www.asco.org/research-community-forum to learn more.

Publications, Resources, Services, & Surveys

ANCO and MOASC have partnered with SullivanLuallin Group to offer your practice the opportunity to participate in an Oncology-based Patient Satisfaction Survey. The Survey is designed to assess your organization's performance in key areas associated with the ACO and PQRS CAPHS Surveys. SullivanLuallin Group's eSurvey: Online Patient Satisfaction Survey platform allows you to efficiently and cost-effectively capture how your patients feel about your systems, services, and performance. Download more information and an enrollment form at www.anco-online.org/PtSurvey2016.pdf.

ANCO and MOASC are jointly conducting a 2016 staff salary survey. The survey was e-mail/FAXed to all members in mid-May and is available online at www.anco-online.org/salsrvy.html. A \$50 Visa gift card for respondents is included in this year's survey. Return your completed survey no later than September 30th; results will be analyzed and reported in 4Q2016.

ASCO's CancerLinQ is a cutting-edge health IT platform that securely connects and powerfully analyzes real-world cancer care data from many data sources. Guided by ASCO's expertise and mission to support all cancer physicians—in every community and every setting—and powered by the SAP HANA platform, CancerLinQ equips oncologists with a vast network of information to improve the quality of patient care and maximize outcomes. CancerLinQ will improve the care for all cancer patients and provide valuable tools to enhance practice efficiencies. We hope you can join this effort to empower oncologists everywhere to deliver high-quality care to their patients. When your practice joins CancerLinQ, designated users will have access to view, query, and visualize:

- Data for individual patients they are treating
- Data specific to their practice

- Aggregated de-identified data on all patients from all CancerLinQ practices

Between now and June 1st, if your practice signs a participation agreement, you will receive the following additional benefits:

- Waived connection fee (a \$50,000 minimum value)
- Waived user fees for 5 years
- Opportunity for national recognition alongside your professional society (ASCO)
- Open line of communication to help develop the next wave of CancerLinQ functionality

Go to cancerlinq.org to learn more about CancerLinQ. For additional information, please see the FAQs at www.asco.org/sites/www.asco.org/files/cancerlinq_frequently_asked_questions.pdf. To set up an informational meeting, please contact Duane Heitkemper at (571) 344-9499 or duane.heitkemper@cancerlinq.com or Jeff Szykowny at (571) 242-9499 or jeff.szykowny@cancerlinq.org. Congratulations to EPIC Care-Partners in Cancer Care and Marin Cancer Care, two ANCO member practices amongst the 36 oncology vanguard practices from around the country, that have signed agreements to begin implementing CancerLinQ.

ASCO's Quality Training Program is currently accepting applications through June 15th. The Program is designed to train oncology health care providers to investigate and implement data-driven quality improvement and manage clinical and non-clinical processes and outcomes. For more information, visit www.institutequality.org/how-apply.

The May 2016 issue of ASCO's *Journal of Oncology Practice* (JOP) is available online and features articles entitled *US Cancer Care System Ill-Equipped to Deliver New Advances to Patients*; *Assessing Clinical Trial-Associated Workload in Community-Based Research Programs Using the ASCO Clinical Trial Workload Assessment Tool*; and, *Radiation Oncology Practice: Adjusting to a New Reimbursement Model*. Visit jop.ascopubs.org for more information.

ASCO has released an *Endocrine Therapy for Hormone Receptor-Positive Metastatic Breast Cancer*. For more information and resources, please visit www.asco.org/practice-guidelines/quality-guidelines/guidelines/breast-

cancer?et_cid=37866695&et_rid=933033903&linkid=Endocrine+Therapy+for+Hormone+Receptor-Positive+Metastatic+Breast+Cancer+Guideline#/11751.

CMS has approved ASCO's *Quality Oncology Practice Initiative* (QOPI) as a qualified clinical data registry (QCDR), a pathway for oncologists to meet the agency's current quality reporting requirements. Oncology practices registered with QOPI will have the opportunity to fulfill CMS's PQRS or QCDR reporting requirements through QOPI. QOPI is designed to promote excellence in cancer care by helping oncologists create a culture of self-examination and improvement. ASCO offers 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 and are eligible to receive a discount of up to 10% on medical malpractice rates from *The Doctors Company*, the nation's largest physician-owned medical malpractice insurer. Go to www.institutequality.org/qopi-qcp for more information.

The May/June issue of ACCC's *Oncology Issues* includes articles entitled *The Oncology Nursing Fellowship Program: A Pipeline for the Future*; *Location Technology Improves Efficiency, Safety & the Patient Experience*; and, *Oncology's Value-Oriented Framework*. Visit www.accc-cancer.org/oncology_issues to read this issue.

ACCC's online *Oncology Drug Database* provides quick access to information on oncology drug coding, billing, and reimbursement at www.accc-cancer.org/drugdatabase/.

ACCC's enhanced set of *Financial Advocacy Network* resources are at www.accc-cancer.org/resources/FinancialAdvocacy-Overview.asp. This "one-stop" destination for comprehensive financial advocacy information includes online training materials, practical financial advocacy tools, peer-to-peer networking, and more.

ACCC's 2016 *Patient Assistance and Reimbursement Guide* is an essential tool for cancer program staff to use in helping patients with issues related to the cost of treatment and in meeting reimbursement challenges. The *Guide* features a list of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical patient assistance programs (PAPs), including directions on how to apply and links to enrollment forms. New for 2016 are tips

for optimizing co-pay assistance programs and new financial advocate skills for the the new healthcare environment. Visit www.accc-cancer.org/publications/pdf/Patient-Assistance-Guide-2016.pdf to access this resource. In addition, ACCC has developed a tool for accessing patient assistance and reimbursement programs for use on a desktop, table, or mobile device. The *Financial Advocacy Network* (FAN) app is available at accc-fan-app.org. **ASH also has a webpage (at www.hematology.org/Clinicians/Drugs/Programs/) that provides a consolidated list of resources for hematologists and patients trying to access high cost hematologic drugs.** And, at NCCN's **Reimbursement Resource Room** (www.nccn.org/reimbursement_resource_room/default.asp) **you can select a cancer diagnosis or supportive care indication and learn about reimbursement help and services available to you.** Finally, *assistPoint* is your **website for complimentary one-stop cancer Patient Assistance.** You can search by generic, brand name, manufacturer, or diagnosis for the enrollment forms you need; get enrollment form PDFs for 113 cancer drugs; get NDC numbers for all of those drugs; find the HCPCS J-code for each drug; get coding and billing guidelines for many drugs; and, learn more about the drugs you give. Go to www.assistpoint.com to learn more.

NCCN has updated their *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology* and/or *Drugs & Biologics Compendium* for breast cancer risk reduction (version 1.2016), hepatocellular carcinoma and gallbladder cancers (version 1.2016), and basal cell skin cancer (version 2.2016).

Individual Membership Dues for 2016

Final notices of membership renewal for 2016 were mailed in early May. If you have not yet done so, then please return your 2016 membership dues to ANCO now to ensure your inclusion in *The ANCO Directory of Members*. 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 June 30th will be deleted from the *Directory of Members*, and will no longer be eligible for any ANCO benefits. Contact the ANCO office if you do not receive or misplaced your membership dues renewal notice.