

# ANCO FAX News

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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](http://www.anco-online.org/pubs.html).

#### In this issue:

- ASCO policy statement on pathways
- CMA guidance on *The End of Life Options Act*
- ANCO's *SABCS Highlights 2015*
- 16<sup>th</sup> *Multidisciplinary Management of Cancer*—Register Now, Submit Cases
- ANCO pathway survey results

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 February 5<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-](mailto: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

[online.org](http://www.anco-online.org).

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 has released a new policy statement with recommendations to ensure that clinical pathways in oncology promote—and not hinder—the care of patients with cancer. Published in the *Journal of Oncology Practice*, the statement asserts that the way in which these treatment management tools in cancer care have proliferated raises significant concerns about patient access, care quality, and transparency in pathway development and implementation. Read ASCO's policy statement at [jop.ascopubs.org](http://jop.ascopubs.org) > Featured Content.

**The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA)** introduced significant changes, on an ambitious timeline, to how Medicare will pay oncologists for the care they provide—and now is the time to understand and prepare for these changes. Besides repealing the Sustainable Growth Rate formula for reimbursement related to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, MACRA's goal is to move Medicare toward a value-based practice environment that ensures high-quality, affordable health care. Learn more about MACRA at [www.asco.org/macra](http://www.asco.org/macra) and [www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Policy-News/2015/4702.aspx](http://www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Policy-News/2015/4702.aspx). Download ASCO's presentation on MACRA at [www.asco.org/sites/www.asco.org/files/macra\\_december\\_2015\\_webinar\\_slides.pdf](http://www.asco.org/sites/www.asco.org/files/macra_december_2015_webinar_slides.pdf). For an introduction to MACRA, read *MACRA: Transforming Oncology Practice* at [www.asco.org/advocacy/asco-action-brief-macra](http://www.asco.org/advocacy/asco-action-brief-macra). ASH staff have prepared a document that provides information about the Alternative Payment Model (APM) option included in MACRA at [www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Policy-News/2016/4855.aspx](http://www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Policy-News/2016/4855.aspx). The American Medical Association's (AMA) *Guide to Physician-Focused Alternative Payment Models*

describes seven different APMs under MACRA that can help physicians in every specialty redesign the way they deliver care in order to improve patient care, manage health care spending, and qualify for APM annual bonus payments. Download the *Guide* at [download.ama-assn.org/resources/doc/washington/alternative-payment-models-physician-guide.pdf](http://download.ama-assn.org/resources/doc/washington/alternative-payment-models-physician-guide.pdf).

ASCO has released a proposal to significantly improve the quality and affordability of care for cancer patients. Expanding on a payment model circulated last year, the ASCO proposal would fundamentally restructure the way oncologists are paid for cancer care by providing sufficient payment to support the full range of services that cancer patients need and removing the barriers created by the current payment system to delivering high-quality, affordable care. ASCO's *Patient-Centered Oncology Payment: Payment Reform to Support Higher Quality, More Affordable Cancer Care* (PCOP) proposal is designed to simultaneously improve services to patients and reduce spending for Medicare and other payers. Review ASCO's proposal at [www.asco.org/paymentreform](http://www.asco.org/paymentreform).

ASCO hosted a webinar entitled *Changes in Medicare 2016 on January 11<sup>th</sup>*. Go to <http://www.asco.org/practice-research/changes-medicare-2016> to download the presentation. CMS's CY2016 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule is now available online at [med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb/fees-news/fee-schedules/mpfs](http://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb/fees-news/fee-schedules/mpfs). Read the CMS *Fact Sheet* at [www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-sheets/2015-Fact-sheets-items/2015-10-30-2.html](http://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-sheets/2015-Fact-sheets-items/2015-10-30-2.html); read ASCO's comments at [www.asco.org/advocacy/asco-urges-cms-maintain-current-reimbursement-levels-chemotherapy-administration](http://www.asco.org/advocacy/asco-urges-cms-maintain-current-reimbursement-levels-chemotherapy-administration); read ASH's analysis at [www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Policy-News/2015/4639.aspx](http://www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Policy-News/2015/4639.aspx); read Bobbi Buell's summary of the final rule at [www.anco-online.org/BB-MedicareFinalRules.pdf](http://www.anco-online.org/BB-MedicareFinalRules.pdf); and, read ACCC's *Oncology Coding & Reimbursement Update 2016* at [www.accc-cancer.org/oncology\\_issues/articles/JF16/JF16-Oncology-Coding-Reimbursement-Update.pdf](http://www.accc-cancer.org/oncology_issues/articles/JF16/JF16-Oncology-Coding-Reimbursement-Update.pdf).

USP has announced its intention to publish proposed language for General Chapter 800, *Hazardous Drugs—Handling in Healthcare Settings* on February 1<sup>st</sup> with an implementation date of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Read more at [www.usp.org/frequently-asked](http://www.usp.org/frequently-asked)

questions/hazardous-drugs-handling-healthcare-settings.

#### **CMS has announced the 2015 PQRS data submission timeframes:**

- EHR Direct or Data Submission Vendor (QRDA I or III) by February 29<sup>th</sup>
- Qualified Clinical Data Registries (QCDRs; QRDA III) by February 29<sup>th</sup>
- Group Practice Reporting Option (GPRO) Web Interface by March 11<sup>th</sup>
- Qualified Registries (Registry XML) by March 31<sup>st</sup>
- QCDRs (QCDR XML) by March 31<sup>st</sup>

#### **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.

**Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) forms changed on January 1<sup>st</sup>, with the full implementation of a new law that allows nurse practitioners and physician assistants, under the supervision of a physician and within their scope of practice, to sign POLST forms and make them actionable medical orders.** For more information about POLST, see the *California Medical Association's* end-of-life resources page at [www.cmanet.org/about/patient-resources/end-of-life-issues/](http://www.cmanet.org/about/patient-resources/end-of-life-issues/).

**SB282 took effect on January 1<sup>st</sup> and requires health plans and health insurers to respond to prescription drug prior authorization requests within 72 hours for non-urgent requests and 24 hours for urgent requests.** The law deems such requests to be granted if the payor fails to respond within these timeframes. A second law, **AB374, requires that prior authorization for prescription drug step therapy override requests to be submitted in the same manner—and using the same electronic form, when available—as a prescription drug prior authorization requests.**

**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](http://www.cmanet.org/resource-library/detail/?item=the-california-end-of-life-option-act). The CMA guidance details the legal and medical steps physicians must take before prescribing life-ending medication and physicians' legal rights to participate or opt out based on their moral or religious beliefs.

**The *Medical Board of California* is asking physicians who need to renew their medical licenses in the next few months to do so early to avoid delays associated with scheduled upgrades to the BreEZe online licensing system.** Licenses expire on the last day of the licensee's birth month during the second year of a two-year term. Renewal notices are sent out 90 days in advance of the expiration date. Individuals holding professional licenses with January 2016 expiration dates who wish to renew their licenses are strongly encouraged to renew as early as possible.

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 payers and overwhelmed by the process? Don't let the health plans mistreat you.** The CMA's *Center for Economic Services* (CES) has a team of reimbursement specialists available to assist ANCO's CMA members experiencing payment problems with third-party payers. For membership, please call (916) 551-2042; for reimbursement assistance, please call CMA's *Reimbursement Helpline* at (888) 401-5911.

#### **Forthcoming CMA webinars include:**

- CMS Priorities: Health System Transformation and Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA; January 27)

Contact CMA's member help center at (800) 786-4262 or [memberservice@cmanet.org](mailto:memberservice@cmanet.org) for more information.

**CMA Practice Resources (CPR)** is a monthly e-mail bulletin from CMA's *Center for Economic Services* that 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. Please visit [www.cmanet.org/cpr](http://www.cmanet.org/cpr) to subscribe.

### **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](http://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb). Recent updates include:

- MLN Connects Provider eNews *Announcements*—PQRS Web-Based Measure Search Tool; CMS Updates Open Payments Data and Improves Website; Read More about What is Next for the EHR Incentive Programs; *Publications & Videos*—Hospice Payment System Fact Sheet-Revised; ICD-10 Post-Implementation: Coding Basics Revisited Video-Reminder; PECOS FAQs Fact Sheet-Revised
- Prolonged Service in the Office or Other Outpatient Setting, 99354-Widespread Service Specific Probe Review Notification
- NCD for Screening for Colorectal Cancer Using Cologuard-A Multitarget Stool DNA Test-Revised CR9115
- Prompt Payment Interest Rate-January 2016 Update
- Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule-Medicare Travel Allowance Fees for Collection of Specimens CR9485
- MolDX: Molecular Diagnostic Tests (MDT)-2016 CPT/HCPCS Coverage Article Revisions
- MolDX: CYP Gene Evidence Analysis
- MPFSDB-2016 Emergency Update CR9495
- MolDX-Chromosome 1p-19q Deletion Analysis Draft LCD Published for Review and Comments

- LCD Reconsideration Requests to Include Additional ICD-10-CM Codes
- Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) Draft LCD Published for Review and Comments

*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](http://www.edissweb.com/cgp/news/index.html).

**Forthcoming Noridian/JEMAC meetings/workshops include:**

- Open Public Meeting (February 4)

Visit [med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb/education/training-events](http://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb/education/training-events) for more information and to register.

**Noridian/JEMAC offers the following self-paced training tutorials online** at [med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb/education/event-materials](http://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb/education/event-materials):

- Advance Beneficiary Notice (ABN)
- CMS 1500 Claim Form and Instructions
- ICD-10 Overview

**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](http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/mcss/mcss.asp)), enter an e-mail address and a ZIP code, and customize your subscription by selecting the specific subject areas you are interested in. For more information about MCSS, visit the MCSS Help page at [files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/mcss/mcss\\_help.asp](http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/mcss/mcss_help.asp).

**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](http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/newsroom/newsroom_23149.asp?utm_source=iContact&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Medi-Cal%20NewsFlash&utm_content=23149).

**Anthem (formerly Wellpoint)** is offering California oncologists a monetary incentive for each patient who receives treatment as specified by one of the insurer's recommended regimens. Learn more about the *Anthem* program at [www.cancercarequalityprogram.com](http://www.cancercarequalityprogram.com). ANCO members are encouraged to review *Anthem's Cancer Care Quality Program Treatment Pathways* and send their comments to ANCO at



execdir@anco-online.org. ANCO's comments on the *Program* and *Anthem's* response are available online at [www.anco-online.org/index.html](http://www.anco-online.org/index.html).

ANCO spearheaded a recent survey of state oncology society members in California, Ohio, and Georgia on their perspectives on the *Anthem Program*. Responses were received between November 16<sup>th</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup> from nine (9) practices, ranging in size from 1 to 25, and mostly in private practice. The findings were:

- a majority of respondents were either unaware or did not participate in the *Program*.
- a majority of respondents did not feel the *Pathways* universally represented today's standard of cancer care.
- a majority of respondents said that they had not changed their practice based on the *Pathways*.
- a majority of respondents did not feel the *Pathways* had impacted their ability to deliver standard of care.
- a majority of respondents faced issues using the *Program* web portal.
- respondents were equally split as to whether the *Program* incentives were appropriately aligned or should be changed.

## EDUCATION

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

### ANCO's SABCS Highlights 2014

ANCO's annual *SABCS Highlights* took place on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Faculty from *Stanford University* (Carol M. Marquez, M.D.), *UC Davis* (Helen K. Chew, M.D.), and *UC San Francisco* (Michael D. Alvarado, M.D.) presented and reviewed the clinically most relevant results presented at December 2015's *San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium*. Download the presentations at [www.anco-online.org/education.html](http://www.anco-online.org/education.html).

### REGISTER NOW AND SUBMIT CASES 16<sup>th</sup> Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-Based Approach EARLY BIRD RATES END 1/31/16 HOUSING LIMITED

The 16<sup>th</sup> *Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-Based Approach* returns to the *Silverado Resort and Spa* in Napa on March 18-20<sup>th</sup>. The meeting is sponsored by the *Stanford University School of Medicine* and the *Association of Northern California Oncologists* and presented in collaboration by the *Stanford Cancer Institute*, *UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center*, and the *UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center*. Download the meeting brochure (that includes housing information), register, and submit cases for possible discussion at [med.stanford.edu/cme/courses/2016/multicancer2016.html](http://med.stanford.edu/cme/courses/2016/multicancer2016.html).

### ASCO Annual Meeting

Registration and housing for the 2016 *ASCO Annual Meeting*, June 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, at *McCormick Place* in Chicago is now open. Reserve your room and register at [am.asco.org/](http://am.asco.org/).

### Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

January 27<sup>th</sup>

*The Latest Developments Reported at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium*  
CancerCare  
Connect Education Workshop

January 28<sup>th</sup>

*Living with Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors (GIST)*  
CancerCare  
Connect Education Workshop

January 29-30<sup>th</sup>

*2016 Highlights of ASH*  
American Society of Hematology  
San Diego  
([www.hematology.org/highlights](http://www.hematology.org/highlights))

February 1<sup>st</sup>

*Nutrition and Healthy Eating Tips During and After Cancer Treatments*  
CancerCare  
Connect Education Workshop

February 10<sup>th</sup>*Taking Your Pills on Schedule—Why It Is So Important in Managing Cancer*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

February 11<sup>th</sup>*Update on Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

February 17<sup>th</sup>*Update on the Treatment of Bladder Cancer*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

February 24<sup>th</sup>*Update on Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

February 26<sup>th</sup>*When the Diagnosis is Cancer of Unknown**Primary: Guidelines for Care*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

March 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>*Cancerscape: Policy, Value & Quality (ACCC 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting)*Association of Community Cancer Centers  
Washington, D.C.(www.accc-cancer.org/  
meetings/AM2016.asp)March 9<sup>th</sup>*Progress in the Treatment of Oral and Head and Neck Cancer*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

March 10<sup>th</sup>*Treatment Update on Mantle Cell Lymphoma*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

March 11<sup>th</sup>*New Perspectives in the Treatment of Advanced Skin Cancer: Basal Cell and Squamous Cell Cancers (Part I of Living with Advanced Skin Cancer)*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

March 17<sup>th</sup>*Managing the Cost of Care When You Have Lymphoma*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

March 18<sup>th</sup>*Emerging Treatments for Metastatic Melanoma (Part II of Living with Advanced Skin Cancer)*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

March 22<sup>nd</sup>*Treatment Update on Colorectal Cancer*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

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

## ASSOCIATION & MEMBERSHIP NEWS, RESOURCES, & BENEFITS

### 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 resources); clinical and professional education meeting announcements and distributed materials; survey reports and publications; clinical trials information; links to affiliated organizations; updated physician, nurse, manager, and patient resources; and, updated Corporate Member drug reimbursement and patient assistance program information.

### 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 February 11<sup>th</sup>**. 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](http://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*

The ***Stanford Hematology Review of the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual ASH Meeting*** takes place on January 30<sup>th</sup> at *The Ritz-Carlton* in Half Moon Bay. Go to [cme.stanford.edu/hematology](http://cme.stanford.edu/hematology) for more information and to register.

### 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:

*Alexion Pharmaceuticals • AMGEN  
Astellas Oncology • AstraZeneca  
Bayer Healthcare/Onyx 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  
Incyte • Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals  
Janssen Biotech • 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  
Sargass Pharmaceutical Adherence  
& Compliance (SPAC) International  
Seattle Genetics • Taiho Oncology  
Takeda Oncology • TEVA Oncology*

We especially wish to thank and welcome *Biodesix, Clovis Oncology, Ipsen Pharmaceuticals, Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Prometheus Therapeutics & Diagnostics, Sandoz Biopharmaceuticals, and Taiho Oncology* as new Corporate Members for 2016. Please visit [www.anco-online.org/assistance.html](http://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.

**Foundation Medicine** informs ANCO that it has signed a national agreement for FoundationOne, a comprehensive genomic profiling assay for solid tumors, with *UnitedHealthcare*. The agreement, which became effective December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015, covers FoundationOne for patients with metastatic stage IV non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLS).

**Lilly Oncology's Lilly PatientOne** strives to offer reliable and individualized treatment support for eligible patients prescribed a *Lilly Oncology* product whether they are insured, underinsured or simply uninsured. For those who qualify, *Lilly PatientOne* can help in the following ways—connect patients with *Lilly's* Patient Assistance Program to determine eligibility and funding options; evaluate financial assistance options including co-pay programs and co-pay assistance foundations; provide reimbursement assistance (benefits investigation, prior authorization, evaluation of other funding options); and, assist

with denied claim appeals. Call (866) 4PatOne (472-8663) Monday-Friday, 9AM-7PM ET or visit [www.lillypatientone.com](http://www.lillypatientone.com).

**Sandoz Biopharmaceuticals** informs ANCO that claims for Zarxio are being rejected by *Noridian/JEMAC* due to an improper or missing modifier. Claims for Zarxio (Q5101) must use modifier ZA Novartis/Sandoz per CMS Pub 100-20, Transmittal 1542, Change Request 9284 dated September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 ([www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2015-Transmittals.html](http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2015-Transmittals.html) > Filter On: 9284).

**Takeda Oncology** informs ANCO that it has launched a comprehensive support program for Ninlaro patients and their healthcare providers. Ninlaro 1Point offers an array of access and coverage services. The Ninlaro 1Point dedicated case management team can deliver personalized services that help patients and providers navigate coverage requirements for Ninlaro, streamline product access, and connect to helpful resources. Services include—benefit verification and prior authorization assistance; assistance with appealing a payer denial; Ninlaro Co-Pay Assistance Program enrollment for eligible, commercially insured patients; specialty pharmacy referral and coordination; referral to alternative funding sources and third-party foundations; connection to support services, including referrals for transportation services, legal support, and national and local organizations for counseling; and Patient Assistance Program application. For more information on access, coverage, and available support and services, contact a Ninlaro 1Point case manager at (844) NIPOINT (617-6468), Option 2, Monday-Friday, 8AM-8PM ET or visit Ninlaro 1Point at [Ninlaro-hcp.com/1Point](http://Ninlaro-hcp.com/1Point).

### **Clinical Trial News**

A current list of **UC San Francisco** hematologic malignancy clinical trials is available at [cancer.ucsf.edu/\\_docs/trials/current\\_hem\\_protocols.pdf](http://cancer.ucsf.edu/_docs/trials/current_hem_protocols.pdf).

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

ANCO's 2015 *Annual Report* is now available online at [www.anco-online.org/AR2015.pdf](http://www.anco-online.org/AR2015.pdf) and was mailed to all ANCO physician members the first week in December. Also, review the

highlights of ASCO's 2015 advocacy achievements at [www.asco.org/advocacy/banner-year-moving-asco-policy-and-practice-agenda-forward](http://www.asco.org/advocacy/banner-year-moving-asco-policy-and-practice-agenda-forward).

ANCO and MOASC jointly publish a weekly e-publication entitled **California Oncology Weekly**. The *Weekly* is e-mailed and FAXed to all current ANCO recipients of the *ANCO FAX News* and digests national, California, ANCO, MOASC, and industry news. Please send an e-mail to [execdir@anco-online.org](mailto:execdir@anco-online.org) if you are not receiving the *Weekly* via e-mail or FAX.

**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.** Vice President Joe Biden recently discussed ASCO's CancerLinQ as one of the major undertakings designed to advance the pace of progress in the fight against cancer at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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



Watch a CancerLinQ presentation at [www.asco.org/advocacy/watch-cancerlinq-llc-ceo-kevin-fitzpatrick's-presentation-during-sap's-big-data-webinar](http://www.asco.org/advocacy/watch-cancerlinq-llc-ceo-kevin-fitzpatrick's-presentation-during-sap's-big-data-webinar). For more information and to set up an informational meeting, please contact Duane Heitkemper at (571) 344-9499 or [duane.heitkemper@cancerlinq.com](mailto:duane.heitkemper@cancerlinq.com) or Jeff Szykowny at (571) 242-9499 or [jeff.szykowny@cancerlinq.org](mailto:jeff.szykowny@cancerlinq.org).

**ASCO's *Practical Tips for the Oncology Practice* (6th Edition)** is a comprehensive business and management resource for oncology practices. Recognizing the increasing burdens that oncology practices face in today's healthcare delivery system, ASCO is releasing this guide with new information on Medicare reimbursement, ICD coding, and safe drug handling guidelines and requirements. The 6<sup>th</sup> edition is only available to download as an eBook giving practices enhanced search functions to easily find and access key information. Order the latest edition at [store2.asco.org](http://store2.asco.org).

**ASCO has launched PracticeNET, a collaborative network in which practices will share and receive insights to enhance their business operations and quality of care.** PracticeNET is the first initiative of ASCO's *Clinical Affairs Department*. This new initiative uses existing data from your practice management system to offer customizable reports that measure practice-wide and individual performance against a national database of other PracticeNET participants. Go to [www.asco.org/PracticeNET](http://www.asco.org/PracticeNET) for more information.

**ASCO's *Clinical Affairs Department* is dedicated to providing services, education, and resources to support oncology practices.** It offers hands-on assistance in areas such as practice management, quality care assessment and improvement, and efficiency and business intelligence to meet the needs and demands of the current oncology landscape. Resources on the business of oncology, practice management (staffing, technology), practice transformation, and market analysis are available from the *Department*. For more information, visit [www.asco.org/practice-research](http://www.asco.org/practice-research).

**ASCO's *Journal of Oncology Practice* (JOP) goes to monthly distribution in 2016** with new and enhanced resources. **A new editorial in JOP outlines ASCO's efforts and successes in supporting cancer care in the digital era** with its Clinical Oncology Treatment Plan and Summary

(COTPS), the interoperability demonstration project, and development of CancerLinQ, a learning system for cancer. Read *Data Sharing to Support the Cancer Journey in the Digital Era* at [jop.asco.org](http://jop.asco.org) > Early Release.

**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 participants have until February 1<sup>st</sup> to meet CMS PQRS requirements. Go to [www.asco.org/advocacy/cms-approval-new-platform-making-qopi-participation-easier](http://www.asco.org/advocacy/cms-approval-new-platform-making-qopi-participation-easier) for more information. 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.

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

**ACCC's enhanced set of *Financial Advocacy Network* resources** are at [www.accc-cancer.org/resources/FinancialAdvocacy-Overview.asp](http://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](http://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](http://accc-fan-app.org). ASH also has a webpage (at [www.hematology.org/Clinicians/Drugs/Programs/](http://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](http://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](http://www.assistpoint.com) to learn more.

NCCN has updated their *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology* and/or *Drugs & Biologics Compendium* for occult primary (v2.2016) and vulvar cancer (v1.2016).

### ***Individual Membership Dues for 2016***

Membership renewal notices for 2016 were mailed to all members in early December. 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 30<sup>th</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 do 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.

**Remember, a larger ANCO is a stronger ANCO!**