

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:

- Contact your *Congressional Representative* about CMS's Part B Drug Reimbursement Experiment
- 2016 *Hematological Malignancies Updates*
- ANCO's *End of Life Options Act* webinar

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 May 13th. 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 is seriously concerned that the CMS's Medicare Part B drug reimbursement experiment will jeopardize the current oncology infrastructure and presents a significant threat to community-based oncology care by eroding practice resources necessary for the care of patients with cancer at the exact time practices need them to transform in preparation for the policy changes under MACRA. Initial data shows significant cuts to oncology practices across the country. Recent data is showing an increase in drugs that may be "underwater" as a result of the experiment. The oncology community has been at the forefront of discussing the need for transformative change in the way that cancer care is covered and reimbursed. ASCO specifically has positioned itself as a leader through its longstanding participation in the *Quality Oncology Practice Initiative*, development of a Value Framework to support shared decision making, a comprehensive proposal for an alternative payment model, and participation in the Choosing Wisely program. However, CMS's proposed experiment does not reflect this kind of change and its implications for practices and patients is not thought out. Any effort to revise the oncology payment system must ensure that individuals with cancer maintain access to the full scope of medically necessary products and services. Additionally, any initiatives should be tested in meaningful ways before implementation takes place on a wide scale basis, and such testing should be performed in a way that protects the interests of patients—the stakes are too high. Representatives Price, Shimkus, and Boustany are leading a *Congressional* sign-on letter to the *Acting Administrator* of CMS asking the agency to withdraw the proposed experiment. Demonstrated support from *Congress* to CMS for the withdrawal of this proposed experiment is

crucial. A large number of *Representatives* from both political parties signing onto the letter is necessary to encourage CMS to withdraw the proposed experiment. The letter is only open until Friday, April 29 (12PM ET). **ASCO and ANCO urge you to reach out to your *Representatives* and ask them to support oncology by signing onto the letter.** Use ASCO's ACT Network at cqrcengage.com/asco/app/onestep-write-a-letter?0&engagementId=198374 to contact your *Representative* today!

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.

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/practice-guidelines/practice-management-issues/medicare-program/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. 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.

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.

The United States Food and Drug Administration has posted information regarding a national shortage of bleomycin due to manufacturing, raw materials, and increased demand and is working closing with three manufacturers to mitigate the shortage as quickly as possible. Visit www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/drugshortages/default.cfm?et_cid=37733642&et_rid=933033903&linkid=drug+shortage+webpage for more information.

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 ANCO *Board of Directors* has voted to sponsor AB2209 that would establish specific standards for payor-developed and implemented clinical care pathways.

Additional legislative positions taken by ANCO are:

- AB1668, would permit a manufacturer of an investigational drug, biological product, or device to make the product available to eligible patients with an immediately life-threatening disease or condition—**OPPOSE**
- AB1763, would require a health plan contract to provide coverage for colorectal cancer screening examinations and laboratory tests—**SUPPORT**
- AB1795, would provide breast and cervical cancer screening and treatment to Medi-Cal patients for the duration of the period of treatment as long as the patient meets all other Medi-Cal eligibility requirements—**SUPPORT**
- AB1823, would increase access to cancer clinical trials and establish the *California Cancer Clinical Trials Program* at the *University of California*—**SUPPORT**
- AB2325, would make changes to the physician reporting requirements for the *California Cancer Registry*—**SUPPORT IF AMENDED**
- AB2588, would link the *California Cancer Registry*, a database of oncologists, and public and private payer claims data in order to report on the quality of cancer care in California—**WATCH**
- SB923, would prohibit health plans from changing any cost sharing requirements during the plan year or policy year—**SUPPORT**

Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) forms changed on January 1st, 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/ and obtain CMA's POLST kits at www.cmanet.org/resource-library/list?filter&keyword=552&category=publications.

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.

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

economicservcies@cmanet.org for more information.

Forthcoming CMA webinars include:

- Contract Renegotiations: How to Get Past No with a Payor (May 4)

Contact CMA's member help center at (800) 786-4262 or memberservice@cmanet.org for more information. Register online at www.cmanet.org/events.

The **California Medical Association (CMA)** has published a guide to help physicians prepare for payor contract negotiations. The guide, entitled *Contract Renegotiations: Making Your Business Case*, is designed to help physicians review an existing contract to determine timing of the renegotiation, how to identify negotiating leverage and the uniqueness of your practice, how to pinpoint your "bread and butter" codes, how to draft an attention-getting written request for renegotiation, and how to understand what a fee change would mean to your practice. Download the guide at www.cmanet.org/resource-library/detail/?item=contract-renegotiations-making-your-business&r_search=&r_page=&return_to=list.

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 to subscribe.

Noridian/JEMAC, DHCS/MediCal, & Private Payors

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*—Check Your 2015 Open Payments Data; 2016 Clinical Quality Measure Electronic Reporting: Updated Files; NSFs: Proposed FY2017 Payment and Policy Changes; Open Payments: Physician and Teaching Hospital Review

and Dispute Period Began April 1; 2016 PQRS GPRO Registration Open through June 30; 2015 Mid-Year QRURs Available; Track and Improve Your ICD-10 Progress

Claims, Pricers, and Codes—Prolonged Drug and Biological Infusions Using an External Pump;

Events—How to Register for the 2016 PQRS Group Practice Reporting Option Call-Register Now; 2015 Mid-year QRURs Webcast-Register Now; Hospice Quality Reporting Program Webinar; EHR Incentive Programs: March HIMSS16 Presentations; How to Register for the 2016 PQRS Group Practice Reporting Option Call-Last Chance to Register; 2015 Mid-Year QRURs Webcast-Register Now

- Overpayments-How to Avoid Interest
- Benefits of Immediate Recoupment
- Are You Set Up for Immediate Recoupment
- Immediate Recoupment on Remittance Advice
- MolDX: Genetic Testing for Lynch Syndrome Final LCD-Effective June 1, 2016
- Telehealth Services-New Self-Paced Trainings
- Provider Enrollment Requirements for Writing Prescriptions for Medicare Part D Drugs-Third Revisions SE1434
- Active LCDs Now Available in PDF Format
- Screening for Cervical Cancer with HPV Testing-NCD 210.2.1-Revised CR9434
- Coming in May: The 2016 MSI

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:

- In-Person Seminars (Sacramento, May 7)
- Open Public Meeting (June 2)

Visit med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb/education/training-events for more

information and to register.

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.

DHCS/MediCal informs ANCO that providers who see 30% or more DHCS/ MediCal patients may be eligible for incentive payments that can range up to \$63,750 over six years. The incentive payments are fully funded by the *Federal* government. The DHCS/MediCal EHR *Incentive Program* has made over a billion dollars in incentive payments to California providers and hospitals since 2011. In order to take advantage of the *Program*, providers must start the *Program* by 2016. More information can be found at: <http://medi-cal.ehr.ca.gov/>.

Anthem Blue Cross recently announced that a software upgrade the weekend of March 19th resulted in a zero allowance for some provider claims. The error was resolved on March 24th. All impacted claims will automatically be reprocessed within 90-120 days and physicians do not need to resubmit claims or file appeals. Interest and penalties will automatically be applied to those claims where required by State law.

***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. 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.

EDUCATION

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

ANCO's 2016 Hematological Malignancies Update

ANCO is organizing a series of *Hematological Malignancies Update* in 2016. The first *Update* will take place on May 14th at the *San Francisco Hyatt Regency* with Charalambos Andreadis, M.D., *University of California, San Francisco*, Aaron Rosenberg, M.D., *University of California, Davis*, and Amar Patel, M.D., *University of California, San Francisco*. The latest research on novel treatment modalities for leukemias, lymphomas, and myeloma, along with case studies for these diagnoses will be presented. The program begins at 8:30AM with breakfast. This meeting is supported by *Janssen Biotech*, *Seattle Genetics*, and *Takeda Oncology*. Space is limited to the first 50 physician or nurse registrants only. Meeting announcements were mailed in early April. To register for this meeting, please send your name, affiliation, and e-mail address to execdir@anco-online.org (Subject: 2Q2016 Clinical Meeting) or download and FAX the registration form at www.anco-online.org/2Q2016HemeMalig.pdf.

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

ANCO will host a webinar entitled *California's End of Life Options Act: An Overview of the Legislation, Implementation, and Discussions with Patients* on Wednesday, May 25th at 6PM. Lael C. Duncan, M.D., *Medical Director, Consulting Services, Coalition for Compassionate Care of California* will describe the *End of Life Option Act*, describe the demographics of patients in states where similar legislation has been in place, list California's requirements for patient eligibility, describe the forms and documentation necessary for patient participation, describe the ethical considerations underlying actions providers and healthcare workers may take with respect to the law, and list important factors to consider when patients request information on the *End of Life Option Act*. Webinar announcements will be mailed in early May. To register for this webinar, please send your name,

affiliation, and e-mail address to execdir@anco-online.org (Subject: EOLOA Webinar).

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/.

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 in August at a location and on a date to be announced.)

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

May 10th
Managing the Side Effects of Immuno-Therapy (Part II of Immuno-Oncology: A Promising New Approach to Treating Cancer)
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

May 17th
Understanding Diagnostic Technologies and Biomarkers in the Treatment of Lung Cancer
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

May 18th
Updates in the Treatment of Estrogen Receptor (ER) Positive, Progesterone Receptor (PR) Positive & HER2 Positive Breast Cancer (Part I of Living with Breast Cancer: Treatment Updates)
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

May 20th
Update on Clinical Trials: How They Work
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

May 23rd
Advances in Treating Chemotherapy Induced Nausea and Vomiting
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

May 25th
Update on Triple Negative Breast Cancer (Part II

of Living with Breast Cancer: Treatment Updates)

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

May 26th

Managing Symptoms and Treatment Side Effects of Multiple Myeloma (Part III of Living with Multiple Myeloma)

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

May 27th

Treatment Update for Adults Living with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL)

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

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 30th

Update on Glioblastoma

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

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.

The Permanente Medical Group (TPMG) invites ANCO members to listen to their *Oncology Webinar Series*. The next program is entitled

ASCO GI Update with Richard M. Guy, M.D., and Edmond Schmulback, M.D. and will take place on May 10th at 12:30PM. Go to kponline.webex.com/kponline/k2/j.php?MTID=t8824290605a0fb076eda544c1aa6494b (password=oncology1) to participate. The most recent recording is entitled *Approach to the Bleeding Patient* and is available online at cnwcrneb005.wcr.ca.kp.org/cleol/event.php?id=113958.

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
Sargass Pharmaceuticals 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 and *Genentech BioOncology* inform ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has approved Venclexta for the treatment of people with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) with 17p deletion, as detected by an FDA approved test, who have received at least one prior therapy. For more information, please contact Greg Bennett at (760) 625-2449 or greg.bennett@abbvie.com or Josh Keough at (650) 867-9361 or keough.joshua@gene.com.

Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has approved Gilotrif for the second-line treatment of patients with advanced squamous cell carcinoma of the lung.

Heron Therapeutics informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* has indicated that there are no substantive deficiencies in their new drug application (NDA) for Sustol to treat acute and delayed chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV).

Janssen Biotech is hosting a series of dinner programs entitled *Value-Based Care and Quality*

Measures in Oncology: Current and Future Approaches with Richard McGee, M.D., *First Choice Health Network*, in Berkeley on May 5th (meeting code 2016-01008) and San Jose on May 18th (meeting code 2016-00999). To register for these programs, visit www.MyDomeProgramRegistration.com.

Clinical Trial News

UC Davis brings the following clinical trial (not previously listed or changed) to the attention of the ANCO membership:

- A Phase I Trial of Osimertinib (AZD9291) and Necitumumab in EGFR-Mutant Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer after Progression on a Previous EGFR Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor (PHI-77/NCI#9898). Principal Investigator: Jonathan Riess, M.D.; Contact: Steffany Lim, (916) 734-0561
- A Phase 1/2 Trial of Erlotinib and Onalespib lactate in EGFR-Mutant Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (PHI-80/NCI#9878). Principal Investigator: Jonathan Riess, M.D.; Contact: Steffany Lim, (916) 734-0561

Publications, Resources, Services, & Surveys

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 April 2016 issue of ASCO's *Journal of Oncology Practice* (JOP) is available online and features articles entitled *Are Small Reimbursement Changes Enough to Change Cancer Care?*, *Reimbursement Variation in Prostate Cancer Treatment*; and, *The National Practice Benchmark for Oncology: 2015 Report for 2014 Data*. Visit jop.ascopubs.org for more information.

ASCO has adapted the Cancer Care Ontario Guideline on adjuvant chemotherapy regimens for early breast cancer and adjuvant targeted therapy for HER2-positive breast cancers. Read the adapted guideline at www.asco.org/practice-guidelines/quality-guidelines/guidelines/breast-cancer/11081.

The American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) has approved *Maintenance of Certification* (MOC) points for physicians whose practices have received accreditation through ASCO's *Quality Oncology Practice Initiative* (QOPI)

Certification Program (QCP). In addition, MOC points are available for physicians whose practices are participating in QOPI if the individual oncologist attests that he or she has been part of the quality improvement effort.

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. Go to www.instituteforquality.org/qopi-qcp for more information.

ACCC is excited to announce a complete redesign of its annual *Trends in Cancer Programs Survey*. This year ACCC is rolling out four surveys, one each of cancer program administrators, oncology nurses, pharmacists, and medical directors/physician leaders. Just launched are the cancer program administrators and oncology nurses survey at www.accc-cancer.org/surveys/ CancerProgramTrends-2016-Overview.asp.

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.

The *California Dialogue on Cancer* has announced the availability of two new toolkits relating to cancer survivorship care:

- *Cancer Survivorship Care Plans: A Toolkit for Health Care Professionals* (<http://triagecancer.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/CDOC-Cancer-Survivorship-Care-Plan-Toolkit-Final-2016.pdf>)
- *The National Cancer Survivorship Resource Center Toolkit: Implementing Clinical Practice Guidelines for Cancer Survivorship Care* (<https://smhs.gwu.edu/gwci/survivorship/ncsrc/national-cancer-survivorship-center-toolkit>)

Individual Membership Dues for 2016

Third notices of membership renewal for 2015 were mailed in early April. 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.