

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

#### In this issue:

- *Congressional* action on CMS Medicare Part B Drug Reimbursement Experiment
- Bobbie Buell analyzes proposed MACRA payment systems
- ANCO's *End of Life Options Act* webinar
- 2016 Patient Satisfaction Survey

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 27<sup>th</sup>. Send your comments or contributions to ANCO, P.O. Box 151109, San Rafael, CA 94915-1109; Voice: (415) 472-3960; FAX: (415) 472-3961; [execdir@anco-online.org](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

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 reports that due to the extensive outreach by members, a significant number of *Members of Congress* weighed in with CMS with strong objections to the Medicare Part B Drug Reimbursement Experiment. In recent developments:

- A *House* letter sent to CMS led by the *House Budget Committee Chair* had the support of 242 *House* members. While most of the support came from *Republicans*, it also marks the first time any *Democrats* have publicly asked for the entire experiment to be withdrawn. Top *Republican* leadership signed on to the letter including the *Ways and Means Chair*, *Majority Whip*, *Energy and Commerce Chair*, *Appropriations Chair* and many more.
- The *Senate Finance Committee Republicans* sent a letter asking CMS to pull the experiment, while the *Committee's Democrats* called for significant changes and also sent a letter voicing their concern.
- HR5122, legislation that would halt CMS from implementing the experiment, will help to keep the pressure on the *Administration* to withdraw or substantially change the experiment. ASCO supports this important legislation 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](http://cqrcengage.com/asco/app/onestep-write-a-letter?0&engagementId=201953).

In comments submitted to CMS, ASCO underscored the urgent need to advance a more fair and responsible payment system for oncology than what is proposed in the ill-advised Medicare Part B Drug Reimbursement Experiment,

opposed reforms that are not comprehensive, and urged CMS to withdraw an experiment of this magnitude without first understanding its potential impact on patient care. Read ASCO's comments to CMS at [www.asco.org/sites/new-www.asco.org/files/content-files/advocacy-and-policy/documents/May-2016-ASCO-Comments-on-Part-B-Drug-Demonstration.pdf](http://www.asco.org/sites/new-www.asco.org/files/content-files/advocacy-and-policy/documents/May-2016-ASCO-Comments-on-Part-B-Drug-Demonstration.pdf). Read ACCC's comments at [www.accc-cancer.org/advocacy/pdf/2016-ACCC-Medicare-PartB-Drug-Payment-Proposal-Comment-Letter-FINAL.pdf](http://www.accc-cancer.org/advocacy/pdf/2016-ACCC-Medicare-PartB-Drug-Payment-Proposal-Comment-Letter-FINAL.pdf); read ASH's comments at [www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Testimony.aspx](http://www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Testimony.aspx); and, read COA's comments at [www.communityoncology.org/site/blog/detail/2016/05/08/formal-comments-on-cms-medicare-part-b-aumodel-a.html](http://www.communityoncology.org/site/blog/detail/2016/05/08/formal-comments-on-cms-medicare-part-b-aumodel-a.html).

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 27<sup>th</sup>; 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/policies-positions-guidance/coverage-reimbursement/physician-payment-reform).

### **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](http://www.cmanet.org/resource-library/detail/?item=the-california-end-of-life-option-act). The *End of Life Option Act* becomes law on June 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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](http://www.cmanet.org/resource-library/detail/?item=cures-20-navigating-the-states-new0&r_search=&r_page=&return_to=list).

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, 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](mailto:economicservices@cmanet.org) for more information.

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

- Reimbursement 101: Getting Paid (May 18)

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

**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. The May 2016 edition includes:

- *Noridian* replaces eligibility and claim status web portal
- New 2016 drug testing codes impacting payor payment policies
- Physicians: Get ready for new provider directory accuracy law
- Reminder: Deadline to register for CURES is July 1, 2016
- CMA hosting webinar on how to file IMR and other complaints with DMHC
- The Coding Corner: Coding to support an injection procedure with a same-day E/M service

## **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*—CMS Releases NPRM on the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015; CMS Adds New Quality Measures to Nursing Home Compare; CMS Finalizes its Quality Measure Development Plan
- Events*—2015 Mid-Year QRURs Webcast-Register Now
- Prolonged Drug and Biological Infusions Started Incident to a Physician's Service Using an External Pump-Medicare Policy Clarified SE1609
- Redetermination Request Submission via the *Noridian* Medicare Portal or the Improved Interactive Form
- Medicare B News JE April 2016 Bulletin-Now Available
- Self-Administered Drug Exclusion List-R6
- Deactivation for Non-Response to Revalidation will begin on May 31, 2016
- JW Modifier: Drug Amount Discarded/Not Administered to any Patient CR9603
- MolDX: Genetic Testing for BCR-ABL Negative Myeloproliferative Disease LCD-R1
- Upcoming *Noridian* Medicare Portal Web-Based Workshops

*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 (June 2)

Visit [med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb/education/training-events](http://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](http://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](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).

*UnitedHealthcare's Network Bulletin* (May 2016) is now available online at [unitedhealthcareonline.com](http://unitedhealthcareonline.com) > Quick Links > Network Bulletin and includes articles about Quality Improvement Programs and *AxelaCare* Joins *UnitedHealthcare* Network of Infusion Services Providers.

## **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 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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*. The webinar announcements were mailed in early May and is available online at [www.anco-online.org/EOLOA.pdf](http://www.anco-online.org/EOLOA.pdf). To register for this webinar, please send your name, affiliation, and e-mail address to [execdir@anco-online.org](mailto: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 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/).

## ASCO's Best of ASCO

ASCO's *Best of ASCO* takes place in San Diego on August 12-13<sup>th</sup>. Visit [boa.asco.org](http://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 17<sup>th</sup>

*Understanding Diagnostic Technologies and Biomarkers in the Treatment of Lung Cancer*  
CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

May 18<sup>th</sup>

*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 20<sup>th</sup>

*Update on Clinical Trials: How They Work*  
CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

May 23<sup>rd</sup>

*Advances in Treating Chemotherapy Induced Nausea and Vomiting*  
CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

May 25<sup>th</sup>

*Update on Triple Negative Breast Cancer (Part II of Living with Breast Cancer: Treatment Updates)*  
CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

May 26<sup>th</sup>

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

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

May 27<sup>th</sup>

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

Connect Education Workshop

May 31<sup>st</sup>

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

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

June 1<sup>st</sup>

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

Connect Education Workshop

June 8<sup>th</sup>

*Managing the Costs of Living with Cancer*  
CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

June 9<sup>th</sup>

*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 10<sup>th</sup>

*For Caregivers: Coping with a Loved One's Metastatic Prostate Cancer (Part II of Living with Metastatic Prostate Cancer)*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

June 14<sup>th</sup>

*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 16<sup>th</sup>

*Update on Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)*  
CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

June 17<sup>th</sup>

*Medical Update on Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML)*  
CancerCare

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

June 29<sup>th</sup>*Precision Medicine in Cancer Treatment*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

June 30<sup>th</sup>*Update on Glioblastoma*

CancerCare

Connect Education Workshop

August 4-6<sup>th</sup>*17<sup>th</sup> Annual International Lung Cancer Congress*

Physicians' Education Resource

Huntington Beach

(www.gotoper.com/conferences/ilc/meetings/

17th-International-Lung-Cancer-Congress)

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 15<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](mailto: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  
 Sargol 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](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.

**Janssen Biotech** is hosting a dinner program entitled *Value-Based Care and Quality Measures in Oncology: Current and Future Approaches* with Richard McGee, M.D., *First Choice Health Network*, in San Jose on May 18<sup>th</sup> (meeting code 2016-00999). To register for this program, visit [www.MyDomeProgramRegistration.com](http://www.MyDomeProgramRegistration.com).

**Merck** informs ANCO that the *KEY+YOU Support Program* provides patients and their caregivers with support 24/7 throughout their treatment with Keytruda. The *Program* gives patients and caregivers the option of talking with an experienced nurse who offers support by telephone and/or receiving resources by e-mail. Enrollees are notified that the information provided through the *KEY+YOU Support Program* does not take the place of talking to their doctor or health care team, and are actively instructed to contact their health care team if treatment questions are asked. Call 855-KEYTRUDA (855-398-7832) or visit [www.keytruda.com/melanoma/keytruda-support-program/](http://www.keytruda.com/melanoma/keytruda-support-program/) for more information about the *KEY+YOU Support Program* from Merck

**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 14<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. To register for this program, visit [www.optumhealtheducation.com/oncology/rhl-2016-live?utm\\_source=SubscriberMail&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=6.14.16%](http://www.optumhealtheducation.com/oncology/rhl-2016-live?utm_source=SubscriberMail&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=6.14.16%20rhl%20Invite&utm_term=&utm_content=136a6447527d4163b80df1a8d1df0917)

20rhl%20Invite&utm\_term=&utm\_content=136a6447527d4163b80df1a8d1df0917.

## Clinical Trial News

The *Administration* has released an FAQ on clinical trial coverage provisions under the *Affordable Care Act (ACA)* that addresses many of the most important ACA implementation issues that have been highlighted by ASCO and others. Read the FAQ at [www.dol.gov/ebsa/faqs/faq-aca31.html](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/faqs/faq-aca31.html). ASCO believes that the FAQ does a particularly good job of addressing additional restrictions on clinical trials coverage, definition of routine patient costs, diagnosis of treatment of complications or adverse events, determination of trial eligibility, and out-of-network coverage.

**Stanford Cancer Center** brings the following oncology clinical trials (not previously listed or changed) to the attention of the ANCO membership:

- A Phase I/II Dose Escalation and Cohort Expansion Study of the Safety, Tolerability, and Efficacy of Anti-CD27 antibody (Varlilumab) Administered in Combination with Anti-PD-1 (Nivolumab) in Advanced Refractory Solid Tumors. Principal Investigator: Branimir I. Sikic, MD; Contact: Rhonda Aoki, (650) 723-0371, [raoki@stanford.edu](mailto:raoki@stanford.edu)
- A Randomized Phase II Study of Irinotecan and Cetuximab with or without the Anti-Angiogenic Antibody, Ramucirumab (IMC-1121B), in Advanced, K-ras Wild-type Colorectal Cancer Following Progression on Bevacizumab-Containing Chemotherapy [E7208; NCT01079780]. Principal Investigator: Sigurdur Haraldsdottir, MD; Contact: Marina Steffen, (650) 721-4077, [steffenm@stanford.edu](mailto:steffenm@stanford.edu)
- A Multicenter, Phase 1/1b, Open-Label, Dose-Escalation Study of ABT-165, a Dual Variable Domain Immunoglobulin in Subjects with Advanced Solid Tumors; for 2<sup>nd</sup> line colorectal cancer patients used in combination with FOLFIRI when considered standard of care [VAR0105; [cancer.stanford.edu/trials/list.html#studyId=NCT01946074](http://cancer.stanford.edu/trials/list.html#studyId=NCT01946074)]. Principal Investigator: George Sledge, MD; Contact: Janet Pan, (650) 723-0628, [janetpan@stanford.edu](mailto:janetpan@stanford.edu)
- A Phase I/II Study of Indoximod in Combination with Gemcitabine and Nab-Paclitaxel in Patients with Metastatic Adenocarcinoma of the Pancreas [NLG-2104; NCT02077881]. Principal Investigator: Sigurdur Haraldsdottir, MD; Contact: Lauren Foster, (650) 721-3541, [lcfooster@stanford.edu](mailto:lcfooster@stanford.edu)
- A Phase 3 Study of Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) vs. Chemotherapy in Microsatellite Instability High (MSI-H) or Mismatch Repair Deficient (dMMR) Stage IV Colorectal Carcinoma [Keynote-177; NCT02563002]. Principal



Investigator: Sigurdur Haraldsdottir, MD;  
Contact: Lauren Foster, (650) 721-3541;  
lcfooster@stanford.edu

**UC San Francisco brings the following oncology clinical trials (not previously listed or changed) to the attention of the ANCO membership:**

- A Multicenter Phase I/II Study of Enzalutamide With and Without Sorafenib in Advanced Hepatocellular Carcinoma Patients (CC#16458). Contact: Claire Greene, (415) 514-6258, [claire.greene@ucsf.edu](mailto:claire.greene@ucsf.edu)
- A phase II multicenter randomized trial evaluating 3-year disease-free survival in patients with locally advanced rectal cancer treated with chemoradiation plus induction or consolidation chemotherapy, and total mesorectal excision or non-operative management. Contact: Jessica Rhee, (415) 353-7252, [jessica.rhee@ucsfmedctr.edu](mailto:jessica.rhee@ucsfmedctr.edu)
- A Randomized Phase 2 Study of the Safety, Efficacy, and Immune Response of GVAX Pancreas Vaccine (with Cyclophosphamide) and CRS-207 with or without Nivolumab in Patients with Previously Treated Metastatic Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma (CC#15454). Contact: Marissa Savoie, (415) 353-7683, [marissa.savoie@ucsf.edu](mailto:marissa.savoie@ucsf.edu)
- Randomized Phase 2 Study of LY2157299 in Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma who Have Had Disease Progression on Sorafenib or Are Not Eligible to Receive Sorafenib (CC#11452). Contact: Anna Crosetti, (415) 514-8101, [anna.crosetti@cc.ucsf.edu](mailto:anna.crosetti@cc.ucsf.edu)

***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 eSurv: 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](http://www.anco-online.org/PtSurvey2016.pdf).

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 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

Go to [cancerlinq.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:duane.heitkemper@cancerlinq.com) or Jeff Szykowny at (571) 242-9499 or [jeff.szykowny@cancerlinq.org](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup>. 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.instituteforquality.org/how-apply](http://www.instituteforquality.org/how-apply).

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.institutequality.org/qopi-qcp](http://www.institutequality.org/qopi-qcp) for more information.

**ASH submitted a letter to the *Institute for Clinical and Economic Review* (ICER) regarding its draft report on drugs for multiple myeloma.** The letter expresses concern with ICER's review focusing on differences between clinical trial data and clinical experience that is gained following approval. Read ICER's review at [icer-review.org/announcements/draft-report-multiple-myeloma/](http://icer-review.org/announcements/draft-report-multiple-myeloma/).

**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. Take the cancer program administrators and oncology nurses survey at [www.accc-cancer.org/surveys/CancerProgramTrends-2016-Overview.asp](http://www.accc-cancer.org/surveys/CancerProgramTrends-2016-Overview.asp).

**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 Non-Hodgkin's Lymphomas** (version 3.2016).

### ***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 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.