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.

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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 July 28th. 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.

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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 and ASH oppose the *Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017*, the *Senate* healthcare bill, and urges lawmakers to reject the measure and work on an alternative that provides key protections for patients with cancer. ANCO, ASCO, and ASH urge members to contact their legislators in opposition to this legislation; go to ASCO's ACT Network (cqrcengage.com/asco) or ASH's Advocacy Center (www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Campaigns/ 7504.aspx) to express your opinion.

ASCO recently joined a group of 20 advocacy organizations in endorsing a set of guiding principles for any efforts to change the process by which patients access unapproved therapies outside of a clinical trial—known as expanded access. *Principles for Access to Unapproved Therapies* (www.asco.org/sites/newwww.asco.org/files/content-files/Community-Expanded-Access-principles-June-2017-Final.pdf) affirms the importance of established research and therapy development in providing patients access to safe and effective treatments, and outlines the specific role expanded access can play in providing unapproved therapies to very sick patients with no other treatment options.

CMS is readying a fraud prevention initiative that removes *Social Security Numbers* from Medicare cards to help combat identity theft and safeguard taxpayer dollars. The new cards will use a unique, randomly-assigned number called a *Medicare Beneficiary Identifier* (MBI) to replace the *Social* Security-based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) currently used on the Medicare card. CMS will begin mailing new cards in April 2018. For more information, visit the CMS Social Security Removal Initiative (SSNRI) website at www.cms.gov/medicare/ssnri/.

The Medicare Quality Payment Program (QPP), established by the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA), began on January 1st. This year is a transition year meaning you can "pick your pace" when implementing QPP in your practice. CMS has posted new resources to the QPP website to help clinicians successfully participate in the first year of the QPP. The new resources focus on support for small practices and alternative payment models (APMs). Visit qpp.cms.gov for more information.

CMS has issued a proposed rule that would make changes in the second year of the QPP. The proposed rule "aims to simplify the program, especially for small, independent, and rural practices." Read the CMS fact sheet at www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Value-Based-Programs/MACRA-MIPS-and-APMs/Proposedrule-fact-sheet.pdf; read ASCO's summary at www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/asco-inaction/proposed-2018-qpp-rule-adds-flexibilityquestions-medicare-part-b; and, read Bobbi Buell's analysis at www.anco-online.org/ BBMIPS2018.pdf. ACCC will host a webinar on the proposed rule on July 12th at 1PM PT; register at register.gotowebinar.com/register/ 4319414221301448707.

Unsure of your MIPS participation status? Clinicians can now use an interactive tool on the CMS Quality Payment Program website to determine if they should participate in MIPS. Visit qpp.cms.gov > Check Now, enter your NPI and information will then be provided on whether or not you should participate in MIPS in 2017 and where to find resources.

CMS is encouraging physicians to sign up for the new CMS QPP listserv to stay up-to-date on new

resources, upcoming milestones and deadlines, and CMS webinars on the QPP. To subscribe to the QPP listserv, go to qpp.cms.gov and select "Subscribe to Email Updates" at the bottom of the page.

ASCO is pleased to announce that its *Quality Oncology Practice Initiative* (QOPI) *Qualified Clinical Data Registry* (QCDR) is now available for CMS MIPS reporting effective July 1st. By using the QOPI QCDR for MIPS reporting, practices will be able to report on one measure for one patient in 2017 to avoid cuts to Medicare reimbursements in 2019. Express your interest in participating in the QOPI QCDR by e-mailing qopi@asoc.org. Once registration is officially open, practices will be contacted regarding the necessary steps to begin their on-boarding process. For more information, please visit www.instituteforquality.org/qopi/about/qualityreporting.

ASCO is releasing a series of webinars to guide oncology practices to successful quality reporting:

• July 10th—Quality Payment Program: Optimizing your MIPS Score

All webinars are scheduled for 1PM PT. Register and watch recordings and view slides of previous webinars at www.asco.org/macra > MACRA Webinar Series. **ASCO has developed a MACRA decision tree tool to help oncology practices find precise information on their QPP participation status** at www.asco.org/practiceguidelines/billing-coding-reporting/macraquality-payment-program/macra-practicetools/determine-status. For more information and access to ASCO's revamped QPP/MACRA toolkit, educational materials, and resources, go to www.asco.org/macra. ASH's updated MACRA webpage is at www.hematology.org/ Clinicians/7427.aspx.

The American Medical Association (AMA) has produced a new short video entitled One Patient, One Measure, No Penalty: How to avoid a Medicare payment penalty with basic reporting. The video and other AMA resources are available at www.ama-assn.org/qpp-reporting.

CMA's Center for Economic Services (CES) has published an update to its MACRA preparation checklist entitled MACRA: What Should I Do Now to Prepare? available at www.cmanet.org/macra.

CMA, MOASC, and State Legislative & Regulatory Issues

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.

CMA Practice Resources (CPR) is a monthly email 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 membersonly CMA website. Please visit www.cmanet.org/cpr to subscribe. The July 2017 edition includes:

• Have you received a termination notice from Blue Cross recently?

• UnitedHealthcare to issue new Premium Designation to physician results

• Noridian to issue electronic Level 1 Medicare Redetermination Notices via web portal

• The Coding Corner: CPT 2017 revises moderate sedation billing

Noridian/JEMAC, DHCS/MediCal, & Private Payers

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

• MLN Connects Provider eNews Announcements—New Medicare Number: Prepare Your Systems for April 2018; Quarterly Provider Update; QPP: New Resources to Help Physicians Participate in MIPS; QPP: New Webpage for Clinicians in Small, Rural, or Underserved Areas Publications—Evaluation and Management Services Web-Based Training Course-New

• Self-Administered Drug Exclusion List-R12

• Laboratory NCD Edit Software-Changes for October 2017 CR10156

• Bladder Tumor Markers FISH Billing and Coding Guidelines-R1

- July Webinars-Register Now
- Radiopharmaceutical Fee Schedule 2017 Updates-Correction
- Chemotherapy Administration-R7

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/webinars/workshops include:

- Duplicate Claims Webinar (July 12)
- Noridian Medicare Portal Registration and Functionality Webinar (July 19)

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

UnitedHealthcare's Network Bulletin (July 2017) is now available online at www.unitedhealthcareonline.com > Tools & Resources > News & Network Bulletin and features articles entitled Updates to Notification/Prior Authorization Requirements for Specialty Medications, Expansion of Notification/Prior Authorization Requirement for Certain Office-Based Procedures, Dosage Required for Chemotherapy Requests (Yervoy, J9228), Levoleucovorin Will Require Prior Authorization, Colony-Stimulating Factors Will Require Prior Authorization, Changes in Advance Notification and Prior Authorization Requirements.

EDUCATION

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

ANCO's 2017 Professional Education Meeting

ANCO will host its 2017 professional education meeting on September 6th at the *San José Fairmont*. The agenda will include *QPP/MACRA*, *ASCO's COME HOME Project*, *USP797/800*, and *California Legislative/Regulatory Updates*. Download the meeting announcement at www.anco-online.org/ProfEduc2017.pdf.

Additional Education Meetings

July 14-15th 16th Annual International Congress on the Future of Breast Cancer West

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Physicians' Education Resource San Diego

(ANCO member discount code IBW17ANCO www.gotoper.com/conferences/ibc/meetings/ 16th-annual-international-congress-on-thefuture-of-breast-cancer)

July 27-29th

18th Annual International Lung Cancer Congress Physicians' Education Resource Huntington Beach (ANCO member discount code ILC17ANCO www.gotoper.com/conferences/ilc/meetings/ 18th-international-lung-cancer-congress)

September 8-9th 2017 ASH Meeting on Hematologic Malignancies ASH Chicago (www.hematology.org/Malignancies/

Registration.aspx)

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

ASSOCIATION & MEMBERSHIP NEWS, RESOURCES, & BENEFITS

[Editor's Note: All ANCO members are also eligible for several tangible 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* meeting is scheduled for September 26th. Please call José Luis González, *ANCO Executive Director*, at (415) 472-3960 if you wish to participate in a future teleconference/meeting.

Individual Member News

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

Group Member News

ANCO initiated a **Group Membership** in 2008 based on a mutual set of perceived values and benefits and a mutual set of interests. The ANCO *Board* believes that the *Association* and *The Permanente Medical Group* (TPMG) will each receive value from Group Membership.

ANCO initiated a Multi Site Group Membership

in 2010 to encourage all physicians (medical and radiation oncologists) from multi-site and multidisciplinary practices to join. ANCO thanks Diablo Valley Oncology & Hematology Medical Group, EPIC Care, Marin Cancer 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 • Agendia • Alexion Pharmaceuticals AMGEN • ARIAD Pharmaceuticals Astellas Oncology • AstraZeneca Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals bio Theranostics Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology Cardinal Health Specialty Solutions Celgene • Clovis Oncology • Daiichi Sankyo Eisai • EMD Serono • Exelixis Foundation Medicine • Genentech BioOncology Genomic Health • Gilead Sciences Guardant Health • Helsinn Oncology Heron Therapeutics • Incyte Janssen Oncology • Jazz Pharmaceuticals Kite Pharmaceuticals • Lilly Oncology • Merck nanoString • Novartis Oncology Oncology Supply/ION • Pfizer Oncology Pfizer US Biosimilars • Pharmacyclics Sandoz Biopharmaceuticals • Sanofi Genzyme Seattle Genetics • Taiho Oncology Takeda Oncology • Tesaro • TEVA Oncology

We especially wish to thank and welcome Agendia, bioTheranostics, EMD Serono, Kite Pharmaceuticals, and Pfizer US Biosimilars as new Corporate Members for 2017. Dendreon, Genoptix Medical Laboratory, GenPath Oncology, Infinity Pharmaceuticals, Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals. Medivation, Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, and Prometheus Laboratories did not renew their memberships for 2017. 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.

Janssen Oncology informs ANCO that the United States Food and Drug Administration has approved the use of Darzalex in tandem with chemotherapy drug dexamethasone and Celgene's Pomalyst for mulitple myeloma patients who have already tried at least two prior therapies, including Revlimid and a proteasome inhibitor.

Novartis Oncology informs ANCO that the *United States Food and Drug Administration* (FDA) has approved Tafinlar and Mekinist administered in combination for patients with metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with BRAF V600E mutation as detected by an FDA-approved test. In addition, the FDA has expanded the approval of Certinib to include the initial treamtent for patients with lung cancer that has a mutation in the ALK gene.

Sanofi Genzyme is hosting an educational dinner meeting on July 13 entitled What's Behind Your Patient's Hematological Abnormalities with Seymour Pack, MD, University of California, San Francisco. The meeting takes place at 6:30PM at A16 Rockridge. RSVP to Sandra Brink at (866) 700-9297.

Publications, Resources, Services, & Surveys

ANCO encourages all members to participate in ASCO's *Practice Census*, the only annual survey of the entire oncology community that aims to capture and describe changes in cancer care and oncology practice over time. Be counted by going to apps.asco.org/oncology-practice-central/survey.

The ASCO Guidelines App is your go-to tool for implementing guideline recommendations into practice. This user-friendly app provides health care providers, patients, and caregivers with the recommended cancer care options for a variety of cancer types. It also includes interactive tools to inform treatment decisions at the point of care, thus increasing the quality of care provided to patients. The app is free to members and nonmembers, kept up to date and will continue to grow as more guidelines and tools are added. Download the app at www.asco.org/guidelines or www.asco.org/apps.

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),

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practice transformation, and market analysis are available from the *Department*. For more information, visit www.asco.org/practiceguidelines/practice-support.

ASCO's PracticeNET is a collaborative network in which practices 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 for more information.

A new article in the *Journal of Oncology Practice* studies the impact of communication on care at the end of life. The findings show that completing a values assessment and partaking in advanced care planning can lead to advance directives and less aggressive care at the end of life. Read the full article at ascopubs.org/doi/abs/ 10.1200/JOP.2017.022020.

ASCO and Innovative Oncology Business Solutions (IOBS) have announced a new collaboration, ASCO COME HOME—an oncology medical home program designed to transition community oncology practices from volume-based to valuebased care by structuring reimbursement around the full range of services needed by patients with cancer. ASCO COME HOME will also prepare oncology practices for full implementation of the Quality Payment Program under MACRA. ASCO is now recruiting practices for the feebased 2017 ASCO COME HOME program. For more information, please visit www.asco.org/advocacy-policy/asco-inaction/asco-come-home-here-offering-directsupport-practices-transitioning.

ACCC's 2017 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 nonpharmaceutical patient assistance programs (PAPs), including directions on how to apply and links to enrollment forms. Visit www.accccancer.org/publications/pdf/Patient-Assistance-Guide-2017.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. 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 cancer drugs; get NDC numbers for all of those drugs; find the HCPCS J-code for each drug; get coding and billing guidelines for many drugs; and, learn more about the drugs you give. Go to www.assistpoint.com to learn more.

NCCN has published and/or updated their Chemotherapy Order Templates, Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology, Drugs & Biologics Compendium, Evidence Blocks, Guidelines for Patients, Imaging Appropriate Use Criteria, and/or Radiation Therapy Compendium for adult cancer pain (V2.2017), bladder cancer (V5.2017), breast cancer (V2.2017), breast cancer screening and diagnosis (V1.2017), cancer- and chemotherapyinduced anemia (V1.2018), cancer-associated venous thromboembolic disease (V1.2017), distress management (V1.2017), esophageal and esophagogastric junction cancers (V1.2017), gastric cancer (V1.2017), hepatobiliary cancers (V2.2017), lung cancer screening (V1.2018), non-small cell lung cancer (V7.2017), ovarian cancer (V2.2017), pancreatic adenocarcinoma (V2.2017), prostate cancer early detection (V1.2017), uterine neoplasms-endometrial carcinoma (V2.2017). Go to www.nccn.org for more information. NCCN is pleased to offer pocket-sized versions of the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology for a number of their guidelines at www.nccn.org/redirects/ nicelines.asp?Type=general.