

ANCO FAX News

Association of Northern California Oncologists
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INTRODUCTION

The *ANCO FAX News* focuses on ANCO's core activities—advocacy, clinical and professional education, membership benefits, and *Association* news. While membership mailings, FAX broadcasts, and ListServ postings 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* or to contribute items.

The *ANCO FAX News* is routinely sent to physician member practices and corporate member contacts. The next regular *ANCO FAX News* will be published on Friday, July 30th.

Comments on and contributions to the *ANCO FAX News* are always welcome and encouraged at ANCO, P.O. Box 151109, San Rafael, CA 94915-1109; Voice: (415) 472-3960; FAX: (415) 472-3961; ExecDir@anco-online.org.

ADVOCACY

[Editor's Note: ANCO meets regularly with national, regional, and statewide organizations to discuss issues of importance to oncology practices and people with cancer.

We continually seek input from members on agenda items for these meetings. Send your issues to the ANCO office.]

ACCC, ASCO, and National Legislative & Regulatory Issues

[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). We regularly participate with these organizations on matters of

national importance to oncology practices.]

ASCO continues to work towards ensuring that people with cancer have access to quality cancer care in the community. Here are some of their current activities with respect to the *Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003* (DIMA):

- Meetings on *Capitol Hill* and at CMS will continue throughout the summer before the *Congressional* focus turns to

**There is information in the
ANCO FAX News
for every member of your practice
or organization.
Pass it along!**

- ☐ Physician Members
- ☐ Nurse & Office Managers
- ☐ Office Staff
- ☐ Colleagues & Representatives

The *Association of Northern California Oncologists* (ANCO) is an association of medical oncologists and hematologists dedicated to promoting high professional standards of oncology 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.

the 2004 elections.

- Grassroots outreach also is under way, and ASCO is reaching out to many state and regional leaders, who will be conducting one-on-one media briefings with local news reporters to educate them about the DIMA's impact on patient access to quality, community-based cancer care.

- On June 24th, *Senator Debbie Stabenow* (D-MI), head of the *Senate Democratic Health Care Task Force*, introduced legislation with *Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison* (R-TX) to postpone DIMA cuts to reimbursements for patient support services for one year until the full effects of the DIMA are studied.

Recently, **you may have received an e-mailed survey on Medicare drug administration from the American Medical Association (AMA) and ASCO.** If you have not already done so, then please take a few minutes to complete this survey online at www.surveysolutions.com/cgi-bin/n.pl?n=DJCJAA&P=../ama/mddrug10cfinal.htm. Or, you can print and complete the survey by visiting www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/12565.html. Your participation is vital, as this survey will establish baseline data on the prices that physicians pay for drugs and on the effects that drug payment changes have on a Medicare beneficiary's access to efficacious medications in a physician's office. The data collected by the survey will be used by ASCO and the AMA to educate *Congress* and CMS on the impacts of drug payment changes. Your responses will be confidential and the results of the survey will be shared with you. If you have any questions, please e-mail ASCO at publicpolicy@asco.org.

There are many technical questions and uncertainties surrounding the implementation of the *Medicare Modernization Act* (MMA). At www.asco.org/mma you will find up-to-date information on changes in coding for drug administration services, as well as billing and payments for drugs. In addition, ASCO's billing and coding hotline at (703) 299-1054 can be a valuable resource for your practice.

ASCO has submitted comments to CMS on

the interim final rule implementing Phase II of the physician self-referral law commonly referred to as "Stark." ASCO requested clarification of the text of the regulations with respect to compensation to physicians in group practices for incident-to items and services. To read ASCO's comments, please visit www.asco.org/asco/downloads/comments_on_stark_II_regulations_062404.doc.

After over two years of consideration, **CMS has reaffirmed its policy on billing for incident-to services.** Clarifying instructions were given when CMS Program Transmittal #148, dated April 23rd, 2004, updated the CMS 1500 form instructions. In summary:

- For all incident-to services, including drugs and drug administration services, the name and UPIN of the ordering physician must be identified on the claim as the **referring physician**. This information is entered in Items 17 and 17a of the CMS Form 1500. This requirement applies to all incident-to services.
- The billing number (PIN) of the **supervising physician** of an incident-to service must appear in Item 24k of the form. This physician may be different from the ordering physician.
- In Item 31, the **claim form must be signed by the supervising physician**, rather than by the ordering physician, if those physicians are different

To read the full article and ASCO's frequently asked questions on billing for incident-to services, please visit www.asco.org/asco/downloads/PWW_Billing_for_Incident_to_Services_070204.doc.

CMA, MOASC, and State Legislative/Regulatory Issues

[Editor's Note: ANCO and the Medical Oncology Association of Southern California (MOASC) are members of the California Medical Association's (CMA) House of Delegates and Council on Legislation. ANCO and MOASC cooperate on several joint ventures and coordinate activities in the advocacy and membership benefit arenas. Each is represented at the Board meeting of the other.]

ANCO and MOASC, in cooperation with *Noteware Government Relations*, continue to

make progress in raising the profile of oncology within the CMA and the California legislature. The two state oncology societies have agreed to form the ***California Oncology Political Action Committee*** or CalCancerPAC. Organizational steps will be completed over the Summer and ANCO and MOASC expect to launch fund-raising efforts for CalCancerPAC in the Fall. CalCancerPAC's goal will be to support candidates and issues sensitive to the needs of oncologists and their patients.

ANCO has joined other specialty societies and the CMA in supporting the campaign to affirm the *Health Insurance Act* (SB2) and oppose attempts to repeal this law on the November 2004 ballot. When fully implemented, SB2 would provide health and financial security to millions of Californians that now get coverage through their employer, expand coverage to another one million Californians, and ensure fairness to employers who provide such benefits but have to compete against those large employers that do not.

ANCO endorses the *California Stem Cell Research & Cures Initiative* on November's ballot and encourages all its members to support this campaign. This initiative will authorize low-interest, tax-free bonds to fund stem cell research in California.

State Senator Deborah Ortiz's *Senate Joint Resolution* (SJR) 25, asking *Congress* to correct the cancer care provisions of Medicare reform, passed the *State Senate* and is being considered by the *Assembly*. ANCO urges its members to contact their *State Assemblymembers* in support of SJR25.

ANCO is cooperating with CMA in its survey of physician practice costs. The survey process runs through August 1st. As an incentive, all participants will be entered in a drawing to win a free iPAQ pocket computer. You can participate in the survey by visiting www.calphys.org/html/bb609.asp.

ANCO endorses the CMA's *Pain Palliation and Politics: Pain Management and End-of-Life Care in California's Regulatory Environment* programs. The Northern California meeting will take place on September 10-11th at the

Sacramento Convention Center/Sheraton Grand Hotel. The early registration deadline is August 16th and ANCO members are eligible for discounted registration. Visit www.cmanet.org and select "Conferences, Meetings, and Seminars" for additional information.

The *California HealthCare Foundation's* goal is to help healthcare professionals stay informed by providing unbiased, timely information on the health care market in California. Visit www.chcf.org for their latest reports and publications or to sign up for their ListServ.

NHIC/Medicare & DHS/MediCal

[Editor's Note: ANCO meets with National Heritage Insurance Company (NHIC) that administers Medicare in California and the Department of Health Services (DHS) that administers MediCal in California.]

The ***Medicare B Resource*** (June 2004) is now available online at www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider_news/ca-mbr/04-2.pdf.

Visit www.medicarenhic.com/whats_new/whats_new.shtml to learn the latest information from NHIC/Medicare.

For the latest information on the HIPAA privacy rule, subscribe to CMS's e-mail list. Announcements, notices of available resources, and other educational materials about the HIPAA privacy rule will be distributed via this ListServ. Visit list.nih.gov/cig-bin/wa?subed1=ocr-privacy-list&a=1 to subscribe.

The next ***NHIC/Medicare Advisory Forum*** (MAF) teleconference takes place on September 14th; the next ***NHIC/Medicare Carrier Advisory Committee*** (CAC) meeting takes place in Oakland on July 21st; the next ANCO•MOASC meeting with NHIC/Medicare will take place at a date and location to be determined.

Private Payers

It has come to ANCO's attention that ***Blue Cross of California*** (for some of its PPO contracts) has lowered drug reimbursement and not increased chemotherapy administration reimbursement. We urge all members to compare their ***Blue Cross*** reimbursements with their contracts and report any discrepancies to ANCO and ***Blue Cross***.

EDUCATION

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

Advances in the Treatment of Multiple Myeloma

On Thursday evening, August 12th, Brian G. M. Durie, M.D., *Cedars-Sinai Comprehensive Cancer Center*, will discuss advances in the treatment of multiple myeloma. This meeting will take place at the Hotel Sofitel in Redwood City. *Millennium* is sponsoring these meetings. Meeting announcements will be mailed in mid July.

Best of ASCO

Best of ASCO has been expanded this year to offer two meetings—one in Denver, Colorado, and one in Boston, Massachusetts. *Best of ASCO*, which debuted in 2003, is designed to bring highlights of the *ASCO Annual Meeting* to the local level. These regionally based events provide oncologists with access to cutting-edge, practice-changing research in a responsible, peer-reviewed manner. More than 20 of the top 46 abstracts from the *ASCO Annual Meeting* will be presented or discussed in the context of clinical practice by experts in their fields. The top abstracts were selected by ASCO leaders, and the subset of abstracts to be included in the educational program at each *Best of ASCO* meeting is determined by a planning committee composed of ASCO leaders and ASCO *State/Regional Affiliate* representatives. *Best of ASCO* is targeted primarily to oncologists who were unable to attend the *ASCO Annual Meeting*. *Best of ASCO* in Denver will be held on August 27-28th, with an early registration deadline of Monday, August 2nd. *Best of ASCO* in Boston will be held on September 17-18th, with an early registration deadline of Tuesday, August 17th.

ASCO Highlights 2004

On Tuesday evening, September 14th, at The Claremont Resort in Oakland, a distinguished faculty from ANCO's Institutional Members will present ANCO's annual *ASCO Highlights 2004*. This year's agenda and faculty is:

- **Hematological Malignancies**
Steve Coutre, M.D., *Stanford*
- **Gastrointestinal Cancers**
George A. Fisher, M.D., *Stanford*
- **Genitourinary Cancers**
Primo Lara, Jr., M.D., *UC Davis*
- **Breast Cancer**
Hope Rugo, M.D., *UC San Francisco*
- **Lung Cancer**
Heather Wakelee, M.D., *Stanford*

ASCO Highlights 2004 is accredited by ASCO for 3 CEUs. Meeting announcements and registration forms were mailed in mid June.

ANCO's 2004 Annual Meeting

ANCO will hold its 2004 *Annual Meeting* from Friday evening, October 1st, through Sunday morning, October 3rd at the Hyatt Regency Monterey. Physician

members and their nurse and practice managers should plan on attending this event. A distinguished national and local faculty will present the latest national and statewide legislative and regulatory information along with how to use practice management techniques and information technology to meet the challenges faced by medical oncology practice in 2005 and beyond. The topic(s)/speaker(s) include:

- Dean Gesme, M.D., *Chair*, ASCO CPC, on national legislative/regulatory issues.
- Senator Deborah Ortiz, *Chair*, California State Senate Health Committee, & Steve Thompson, CMA, on California legislative/regulatory issues.

ANCO thanks

AMGEN, AstraZeneca, Aventis, biogenIDEC,
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology,
Eli Lilly and Company, Genentech BioOncology,
Genomic Health, Genta, MGI Pharma,
Millennium, Novartis Oncology, Ortho Biotech,
OSI Pharmaceuticals
&
Pfizer Oncology

for supporting clinical and professional education.

- Joseph S. Bailes, M.D., Peter D. Eisenberg, M.D., and Joe Simone, M.D., on quality cancer care.
- Edward Ambinder, M.D., *Chair*, ASCO's *Internet Services Committee*, on information technology in the practice setting.
- Catherine Harvey, Ph.D., on oncology nursing.
- Bobbi Buell, M.B.A., and Patricia Falconer, M.B.A., on ANCO's DIMA Practice Preparedness Survey.

Make your hotel accommodations now by calling (831) 372-1234. Watch for meeting announcements and registration forms in late July.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of interest to ANCO member practices are:

August 28th

Emerging Approaches to Breast & Colon Cancer Management

National Oncology Alliance
San Diego

September 10-12th

Gastrointestinal Malignancy Program
International Oncology Network
Boston

September 25th

New Advances in Supportive Care
National Oncology Alliance
San Francisco

October 9th

Oncology Care Update
San Francisco Bay Area Oncology Nursing Society

October 15-17th

Clinical Trials Workshop for the Community Oncology Team
ASCO & Oncology Nursing Society
Dallas

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

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

[*Editor's Note: All ANCO members are eligible for benefits from the California Oncology Consortium (COC) and Hematology Oncology Leadership Network (HOLN).*]

ANCO On-Line

ANCO's independent website has been redesigned and re-launched at **www.anco-online.org**. It features the following:

- A weblog with important news for oncology practices posted on an almost daily basis.
- Links to affiliated organizations.
- A general description of the *Association* and its activities.
- ANCO's advocacy information, educational meeting announcements and materials, and other publications.

ANCO urges its members to bookmark www.anco-online.org and refer to it often. Your suggestions are welcome and encouraged.

California Oncology Consortium (COC)

The COC is a cooperative venture of ANCO and MOASC. The *Consortium* maintains a web site (www.californiaoncology.org); has a ListServ for the exchange of general/administrative and clinical information; and, has a group purchasing organization (GPO).

Web Sites. All ANCO members should visit www.californiaoncology.org for the latest information impacting the practice of medical oncology.

ListSers. The COC operates two e-mail based communications systems called ListSers. The COC-ADMIN ListServ is available to all ANCO and MOASC physician members, practice managers and nurses, and Corporate Member representatives. It is a source for the latest *Association* news, special bulletins, legislative reports, and other information impacting oncology practices. To post an item to the COC-ADMIN ListServ, send e-mail to COC-ADMIN@californiaoncology.org.

The COC-CLINICAL ListServ is open only to ANCO and MOASC physician members for

the secure exchange of information and ideas between physicians. To post an item to the COC-CLINICAL ListServ, send e-mail to COC-CLINICAL@californiaoncology.org.

All members and their staffs are encouraged to subscribe, participate, and use these ListServes to communicate with colleagues about issues of importance to oncology practices by sending their e-mail addresses to the ANCO office.

Group Purchasing Organization. The COC GPO has preferred vendor agreements and discounted pricing with *International Oncology Network* (ION) and *Oncology Supply* (OS), and with *National Oncology Alliance* (NOA) and *Oncology Therapeutics Network* (OTN) for oncology pharmaceuticals and a wide-range of value-added services.

ION and *Oncology Supply* are pleased to announce a special price reduction on Kytril. Call *Oncology Supply* to obtain your practice's price for these products.

ION is pleased to provide an on-line interactive educational tool on the treatment of immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP). The program covers the pathogenesis and manifestations of ITP and a discussion of standard and emerging therapies for this disease. Visit www.itpcme.com to access this accredited program.

On Friday, August 20th, through Sunday, August 22nd, ION is sponsoring a *Northern California Protocol Retreat* for ANCO physician members at the Ritz Carlton Half Moon Bay. In addition to clinical discussions of lung, colorectal, and breast cancers, a legislative and reimbursement update will be presented. Announcements were FAXed to all ANCO members in mid June. For additional information (an agenda and registration form) contact the ANCO office. The registration deadline is July 16th.

Hematology Oncology Leadership Network (HOLN)

HOLN is a network of state oncology and oncology manager societies from Northern and Southern California, Connecticut, Georgia, New Jersey, Ohio/West Virginia, Pennsylvania, South

Carolina, and Virginia. As an ANCO member, you may enroll in HOLN and benefit from discounted contracting with several major pharmaceutical manufacturers for medical supplies and drugs. HOLN-contracted prices are honored at several distributors, including *Oncology Supply* and *Oncology Therapeutics Network*. **A complete current price list of HOLN contracted products** is available from the ANCO office or online at www.holn.org.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* meets regularly by teleconference and occasionally in person to discuss issues affecting the *Association*, clinical and professional education meeting proposals, and ways to better serve the membership. *Board* meetings are open to the membership. The **next regularly scheduled ANCO Board of Directors teleconference** will take place on August 5th. Please call José Luis González, *ANCO Executive Director*, at (415) 472-3960 if you wish to participate in a future meeting.

Individual Member News

The ANCO Directory of Members & Membership Information 2004 was published and mailed to all physician members, nurse and office manager contacts, and Corporate Member representatives on June 30th. Additional copies are available from the ANCO office upon request.

Corporate Member News

ANCO thanks the following **Corporate Members** for their generous support that enables ANCO to grow and expand its services for the 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:

*AMGEN • APPI/Abraxis Oncology
AstraZeneca • Bayer Biologicals
Berlex Laboratories • biogenIDEC
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology
Cell Therapeutics • Chiron Corporation*

Eli Lilly and Company
Genentech BioOncology • Genomic Health
Genta • Glaxo SmithKline
International Oncology Network
Lash Group Healthcare Consultants
Ligand Pharmaceuticals
MedImmune Oncology • MGI Pharma
Millennium • National Oncology Alliance
Novartis Oncology • Oncology Supply
Oncology Therapeutics Network
Oncotech • Ortho Biotech
OSI Pharmaceuticals • Pfizer Oncology
Roche Oncology • Sanofi-Synthelabo
Schering Oncology/Biotech
SuperGen • US Oncology • Wyeth Oncology

We especially wish to thank and welcome *Genomic Health, Genta, Lash Group Healthcare Consultants, OSI Pharmaceuticals, and Schering Oncology/Biotech* as new Corporate Members in 2004. *Aventis* and *IMPATH* are no longer ANCO Corporate Members.

Genentech BioOncology is pleased to announce that Avastin has been assigned codes C9214 (10mg, hospital outpatient department) and S0116 (100mg, for some Blue Cross Blue Shield plans and state Medicaid agencies). The S code is a temporary code until a J code is assigned.

SuperGen invites you to attend *CLL: Diagnosis to BMT* with Carol Viele, R.N., M.S., UCSF, on Wednesday, July 28th. This program will take place at Il Fornaio in San Francisco. For additional information, contact Rob Ashby at (818) 421-3438 or Alicia Knudson at (925) 719-2125.

Institutional Member News

ANCO initiated an institutional membership in 2002. We thank our current roster of **Institutional Members** for their support:

- *Stanford University Medical Oncology*
- *University of California, Davis, Cancer Center*
- *University of California, San Francisco*

ANCO members can obtain information about our Institutional Member's clinical trials via www.anco-online.org/advocacy.html.

UC Davis, ANCO, and several other local agencies are cooperating on a National Institutes of Health project aimed at overcoming barriers to early phase clinical trials. You can learn more about this project at www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cancer/clinical_trials/bigc/

UCSF's 2nd *Annual Pan Pacific Lung Cancer* meeting takes place in Hong Kong on November 6-8th. The course chairs are David M. Jablons, M.D., and Tony Mok, M.D. Visit cme.ucsf.edu/calendar/CourseDetail.asp?CourseNumber=MMJ05003 for more information.

The 6th *Annual UCD/UCSF Thoracic Oncology Conference* takes place in San Francisco on November 13th. The course chairs are David M. Jablons, M.D., and David Gandara, M.D.. Visit cme.ucsf.edu/calendar/CourseDetail.asp?CourseNumber=MSU05004 for more information.

For additional information on **continuing medical education meetings being organized by our Institutional Members**, please visit cancercenter.stanford.edu, www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cancer/about/events/index.html, and cc.ucsf.edu/news/events.html.

Publications, Services, & Surveys

Members may still enroll in ANCO's *DIMA Practice Preparedness Survey*, consisting of the hands-on help of two expert reimbursement and practice management consultants via a one-day practice site visit designed to assess and improve the financial health of your practice. Contact the ANCO office for additional information.

ANCO's model practice statement to patients regarding DIMA that, while generic and general in nature, advises patients that there may be changes in the way their illness is treated in the medical oncology practice due to DIMA is available in .pdf version for reproduction and distribution or a .txt version for editing from the ANCO office.