

ANCO FAX News

Association of Northern California Oncologists
Post Office Box 151109, San Rafael, California 94915-1109
Voice: (415) 472-3960 • FAX: (415) 472-3961
ExecDir@anco-online.org • www.anco-online.org

Vol. 4, No. 10

May 20th, 2005

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 sent to member practices (via FAX) and corporate member contacts (via e-mail). The next regular *ANCO FAX News* will be published on June 3rd.

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.]

The ASCO *Clinical Practice Committee* (CPC) met at the ASCO 2005 *Annual Meeting* on Monday, May 16th. Peter Paul Yu, M.D., ANCO *President*, and José Luis González, ANCO *Executive Director*, represented ANCO at this meeting. Highlights of the meeting include:

- CMS is likely to make substantial changes to the *Competitive Acquisition Program* (CAP) in its final rule, has not

**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.

determined how to phase in CAP, and it is not yet final that CAP will apply to oncology drugs. Nonetheless, drugs sold under CAP will impact ASP.

- **ASCO does not expect Congress to consider a Medicare reform bill in 2005** but they will consider legislation to reform physician reimbursement and the sustainable growth rate (SGR). Unless modified, SGR will result in a 4% drop in physician reimbursement in 2006. SGR reform will likely include general pay-for-performance measures. ASCO and CMS are looking at specialty-specific quality mandates.

- ASCO's *Relative-Value Update Committee* (RUC) representative announced that he was elected to a rotating seat on the RUC and that the RUC's 5-year review of physician work will begin in the very near future urging all members that receive the RUC survey to complete and return it on time. Results of the survey will be implemented in the CPT codes for 2007.

- CPT recently revised some of the descriptions for the G codes and all G codes will be replaced by CPT codes in January 2006. These CPT codes will be published in late summer. Work on an infusion management code is meeting resistance from other specialties.

- **ASCO and ASH** continue to coordinate CPC activities at *Committee* and staff levels, are seeking to ensure that there are ASH *Carrier Advisory Committee* representatives in each state, and are coordinating legislative advocacy.

- The **ASCO Cancer Research Committee** announced that ASCO will establish a *Department of Cancer Research* and that clinical trials/research will be a high priority for the next two ASCO *Presidents*. Registration for ASCO's *Clinical Trials Workshop* (Dallas, October 28-30th) is now open. The NCI's *Clinical Trials Working Group* (CTWG) final recommendations will be reported in June. The draft recommendations emphasized the importance of

community oncologists in the recruitment of patients to clinical trials.

- The **ASCO Health Services Committee** reported that its agenda is focused on quality assessment (i.e., identifying appropriate measures) and treatment guidelines. QOPI, ASCO's self-evaluation quality program, has been formally accepted for certification by the ABIM; NCCQ study articles have been written and are in press; and, an ASCO *Quality Advisory Group* has been formed to respond quickly to quality measure requests. A long list of guidelines is forthcoming and the *Committee* seeks ways to ensure that existing and new guidelines impact clinical practice.

- ASCO's *Practicing Physicians Advisory Committee* (PPAC) representative reported that HR2356 would replace the SGR with a MedPAC formula, that reimbursement tied to pay-for-performance is on the agenda for payers, and that recovery audit programs are being implemented.

- The ASCO *Workforce Task Force* has launched its study of existing and future oncology workforce needs.

- The USP-DI is addressing its off-label indication backlog and the NCCN plans on completing its **compendia** by the end of 2006 and will seek ASCO support for its recognition by CMS.

- The ASOC CPC endorsed the *Information Technology Committee's* agenda to have ASCO represent oncology in all **national healthcare information technology initiatives**.

- The ASCO *Board of Directors* approved a state/regional affiliate grant and mentorship program designed to strengthen state societies.

ANCO and ASCO continue to work towards ensuring that people with cancer have access to quality cancer care in the community. Here is the latest with regard to the *Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003* (MMA):

- *Congressional Representative* Ralph Hall has introduced **House Resolution (HR) 261** that commends CMS for creating the demonstration project, calls for policy makers to extend the demonstration project beyond 2005, and (at ASCO's suggestion) contains specific language stating that payments to physicians for participating in the demonstration project should continue to ensure that Medicare patients with cancer have access to chemotherapy treatment. **Please call or write your Congressional Representative to express your support for HRes261 and to ask them to sign on to this important Resolution.** You can find contact information for your *Representative* by visiting ASCO's *Grassroots Action Center* at capwiz.com/asco.

- As of April 1st, 2005, there is an incorrect *National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edit on code G0354 (each additional sequential intravenous push)* when used with codes G0345 (intravenous infusion, hydration; initial, up to one hour), G0347 (intravenous infusion, for therapeutic/diagnostic; initial, up to one hour), G0357 (intravenous, push technique, single or initial substance/drug), G0359 (chemotherapy administration, intravenous infusion technique; up to one hour, single or initial substance/drug), and G0361 (initiation of prolonged chemotherapy infusion). CMS acknowledges that the edit is an error; however, it cannot be fixed until the new quarterly update is released on July 1st, 2005. Until those corrections, the current edit may be bypassed using modifier -59 to indicate that there was a separate sequential infusion of a different drug or the same drug at a different time.

- Per CMS Transmittal 148, 1) **infusions of 15 minutes or less** are now to be reported using the code for pushes, 2) payment for only one **concurrent infusion** per encounter will be allowed regardless of the number of drugs infused,

and 3) there is no requirement (although it is preferable) that the physician sign-off on the **symptom assessment** prepared by the nurse (incident to the physician's service) before the demonstration codes can be billed. To view a copy of CMS Transmittal 148, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pm_trans/R148OTN.pdf.

- ASCO urges member cooperation with two **CMS studies on drug purchasing**. The first is a CMS/*Abt Associates* study to determine whether prices paid by large volume purchasers are representative of the prices available to prudent physicians. The second is an OIG study to review the ability of oncology/hematology providers to buy drugs at 106% of average sales price (ASP). Please note that ASCO's *ASP Spreadsheet Tool & Guide* (available at www.anco-online.org/mma.html) allows you to analyze the impact of the 2Q05 Medicare drug allowables on your practice. It is very important that you report your actual prices to ASCO by sending a copy of your completed spreadsheet to aspspreadsheet@asco.org.

- ASCO has published an addendum to *Practical Tips for the Practicing Oncologist* focusing on the 2005 coding and billing changes. Visit www.anco-online.org/PracTipsSupp2005.pdf to download your copy.

- ASCO's *Legislative Conference* (Washington, D.C., July 26-27th) will feature key legislative and regulatory leaders and face-to-face meetings with legislative representatives. Visit *Cancer Policy & Clinical Affairs* at www.asco.org for more information.

Visit www.asco.org/mma, www.anco-online.org/mma.html, or call/e-mail ASCO's billing and coding hotline at (703) 299-1054/practice@asco.org for up-to-date information on changes in coding for drug administration services, as well as billing and payments for drugs. And, **join ASCO's Grassroots Advocacy Network** at www.asco.org/grassroots_survey.

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.]

Effective immediately, **physician office laboratories established on or after January 1st, 1996, must be either licensed by or registered with the California Department of Health Services**, subjecting them to fees and regulations beyond those currently imposed under the Federal *Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments* (CLIA) program. Laboratories that perform only "waived" tests (classified by FDA or CDC to be so simple that there is little risk of error) and labs that perform only "provider-performed microscopy" tests will be exempt from the state licensure requirements, but will have to register with the state.

CMA's Pain, Palliation, and Politics: Pain Management and End-of-Life Care in California's Regulatory Environment takes place at the *San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel* on September 9-10th. Additional information is available at www.cmanet.org (select Conferences, Meetings, Seminars).

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.]

NHIC/Medicare has identified overpayments (specifically, multiple claim submissions of E&M services for the same patient, on the same date of service, by the same rendering provider) made to providers between October 2000 to November 2003. According to Medicare regulations, and with few exceptions, only one E&M service may be billed per day, per patient. NHIC/Medicare has implemented claims processing edits to eliminate these overpayments and is initiating an overpayment recovery process that will occur over the next several months to collect the overpaid funds. If you were one of the physicians identified, you will receive an

overpayment letter detailing the claims involved, the overpayment recovery process, refund procedures and options, and your available appeal rights.

Effective July 1st, CMS and NHIC/Medicare will begin to implement a process by which **non-HIPAA compliant (aka "paper") claims could be denied for providers who do not meet with a waiver or an exception.** The details of this compliance are provided in a *MedLearn Matters* article available at www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2005/MM3440.pdf. Please note that one of the waivers/exceptions to this compliance is for physicians with fewer than ten (10) FTEs that bill a Medicare carrier.

Physicians can apply for **National Provider Identifiers** (NPIs) beginning Monday, May 23rd. Physicians who are covered by HIPAA will need these standard unique identifiers to submit HIPAA-compliant claims; physicians who are not covered by HIPAA do not have to obtain NPIs, but may do so if they wish. The application will be available on May 23rd and can be filled out online or downloaded, printed, and submitted by mail. CMS's "Enumerator Hotline" at (800) 465-3203 will go live on May 23rd to assist physicians with the application process.

EDUCATION

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

ASCO's Practice Management Curriculum

ASCO's *Practice Management Curriculum* is designed to give you information that is critical to your practice and includes the following three modules:

Module 1: Adapting to Changes in Medicare focusing on coding and reimbursement changes implemented in 2005 that affect delivery of cancer care in the office setting.

Module 2: Generating Practice Efficiencies addressing how your practice can streamline workflow, improve inventory management, and lower cost while maintaining quality of care.

Module 3: Organizing for Service

Expansion providing strategies for growth and expansion of your practice in a changing market.

The ASCO *Practice Management Curriculum* will be offered in conjunction with *Best of ASCO* San Francisco on Thursday, June 16th, from 1:30-5:00PM at the *San Francisco Marriott*. To register, please e-mail mussonk@asco.org or call (703) 519-1413 by Friday, May 20th. Visit www.asco.org/boa for complete registration details.

ASCO's Best of ASCO & Oncology Reimbursement: Past, Present, and Future

On Friday and Saturday, June 17-18th, ASCO brings its annual *Best of ASCO* program to the *San Francisco Marriott*. Visit www.anco-online.org to download registration materials.

ANCO (and MOASC) are hosting a membership event on Friday evening, June 17th. Dean Gesme, M.D., *Past Chair, ASCO Clinical Practice Committee*, will describe some of the reasons why medical oncology practices must change and how these transformational changes can be implemented so as to enhance survival. This event is supported *Berlex Laboratories, International Oncology Network/Oncology Supply, Oncology Therapeutics Network/Onmark, OSI Pharmaceuticals, Sanofi Aventis Oncology*, and possibly others. Announcements were mailed in early May.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of interest to ANCO member practices are:

May 24th

The Third Annual Cancer Survivorship Series: Living With, Through, & Beyond Cancer
CancerCare (and others)

Telephone Education Workshop
(www.cancercare.org)

May 26th

Multiple Myeloma: Update from ASCO
CancerCare (and others)
Telephone Education Workshop
(www.cancercare.org)

June 3rd

Bone Health for Women Living with Breast Cancer
CancerCare (and others)
Telephone Education Workshop
(www.cancercare.org)

June 4th

Current Strategies for Pain Management: Integrating Conventional and Complementary Therapies
Blue Cross of California & UCSF
San Francisco

June 7th

Finding New ways to Cope with Fatigue
CancerCare (and others)
Telephone Education Workshop
(www.cancercare.org)

ANCO thanks

Berlex Laboratories,
ION/Oncology Supply,
OTN/Onmark, OSI Pharmaceuticals,
Sanofi Aventis Oncology

for supporting clinical and professional education.

June 8th

Lymphoma-Leukemia 2005: Innovations in Treatment
Southern California
Academy of Clinical
Oncology
Webcast

June 16-17th

Adding, Updating, and Expanding Comprehensive Cancer Programs and Services
New York

June 19-25th

Food As Medicine
Center for Mind-Body Medicine
Oakland
(www.cmbm.org)

June 29th

Improving Your Chemotherapy Experience
CancerCare (and others)
Telephone Education Workshop
(www.cancercare.org)

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 at www.anco-online.org features:

- a general description and introduction to the *Association*, its activities, leadership, and membership benefits.
- advocacy information (including ANCO and ASCO MMA resources).
- clinical and professional education meeting announcements and distributed materials.
- survey reports and publications and WebLog.
- clinical trials information.
- links to affiliated organizations, and updated physician, nurse, manager, and patient resources.

The WebLog (ANCO News On-Line) posts and archives important news for oncology practices on an almost daily basis. Among the additional news topics covered at www.anco-online.org/news/index.html are:

- ACCC Alerts
- ANCO meeting announcements
- ASCO's e-News, MMA Special Alerts, and MMA Todays
- CMA Alerts
- CMS/Medicare Website Updates
- NHIC/Medicare Website Updates

ANCO urges its members to bookmark www.anco-online.org/news/index.html (or subscribe to www.anco-online.org/news/rss.xml using your favorite news reader software; e.g., RssReader for Windows or NetNewsWire for Macintosh) and refer to it often.

California Oncology Consortium (COC)

The COC is a cooperative venture of ANCO and MOASC. The *Consortium* maintains two ListServes for the exchange of

general/administrative and clinical information and has a group purchasing organization (GPO).

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's 2005 meeting schedule in California (and adjacent states) includes:

- Business of Oncology (San Francisco; June 17-19th)

Additional ION meetings (GI Symposium, National Meeting) are planned throughout the year throughout the country.

NOA provides its members general HIPAA compliance support via its *HIPAA Compliance Toolkit* that addresses a practice's need to meet complicated HIPAA compliance rules and regulations. The *Toolkit* includes a set of draft policies and procedures, templates for forms and letters, a HIPAA training section, a chapter on *Research and the Privacy Rule*, a chapter on the *HIPAA Security Rule*, and a CD-ROM containing custom-ready forms. To request a *HIPAA Compliance Toolkit*, please contact your NOA member services representative at (866) 466-2462 or send e-mail to hipaa@noainc.com

Hematology Oncology Leadership Network (HOLN)

HOLN is a network of state oncology and oncology manager societies from Northern California, Southern California, Connecticut, Georgia, New Jersey, Ohio/West Virginia, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. As an ANCO member, you may enroll in HOLN and benefit from discounted pricing from 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.

HOLN's web-based survey on utilization of the new G codes, demonstration project codes, E&M codes, and practice management system and electronic medical records systems ends May 31st. Visit www.satsurveys.com (PIN 4855) to participate in the survey.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* teleconferenced on May 11th to discuss and/or act upon the following issues:

- National and California legislative/regulatory issues, including MMA, proposed California legislation, and public and private payer issue updates.
- Clinical and professional education, and *Annual Meeting* plans.
- Additional membership benefits.
- Strategic planning for the *Association*.

Contact the ANCO office for additional information on any of these items.

The ANCO *Board of Directors* meets regularly by teleconference and occasionally in person to discuss issues affecting the *Association*, clinical and professional education, and ways to better serve the membership. *Board* meetings are open to the individual physician members. The next regularly scheduled ANCO *Board of Directors* teleconference will take place on July 7th. 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 last June. Additional copies are available from the ANCO office upon request. The next *Directory* will be published in June 2005.

The following update(s) to the *Directory* should be inserted in the appropriate location(s):

ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF PHYSICIAN MEMBERS

Lawrence Heifetz, M.D.

11982 Stallion Way
Truckee, CA 96161
Telephone: (530) 550-7465
FAX: (530) 550-1595
lheifetz@sbcglobal.net

Thierry Jahan, M.D.

University of California, San Francisco
Box #1705
San Francisco, CA 94143-1705
Telephone: (415) 885-3792
FAX: (415) 353-9959
thierry.jahan@ucsfmedctr.org

Barbara McAneny, M.D.

New Mexico Oncology Hematology
Consultants
4901 Lange North East
Albuquerque, NM 87109
Contact(s): Tonya Schuhing
Telephone: (505) 842-8171
FAX: (505) 822-3901

Michael T. Shaw, M.D.

2233 Road E
Redwood Valley, CA 95470
Telephone: (707) 485-6511
FAX: (707) 482-5529
mtsmks@direcway.com

ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF NURSE & OFFICE MANAGER CONTACTS

Marcela Ayala, L.V.N.

Cheryl Cardoza

California Oncology
of the Central Valley
6121 North Thesta, Suite 204
Fresno, CA 93710
Telephone: (559) 438-7390
FAX: (559) 438-7166

Sheila Littrell, R.N.

100 South San Mateo Drive
San Mateo, CA 94401
Telephone: (650) 696-4405
FAX: (650) 696-4085

Tonya Schuhing

New Mexico Oncology Hematology
Consultants
4901 Lange North East
Albuquerque, NM 87109
Telephone: (505) 842-8171
FAX: (505) 822-3901

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
Enzon Pharmaceuticals
Genentech BioOncology
Genitope Corporation • Genomic Health
GlaxoSmithKline
International Oncology Network
Lash Group Healthcare Consultants
Ligand Pharmaceuticals • Lilly Oncology
Matrix Oncology • 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 Aventis Oncology
Schering-Plough Oncology • SuperGen
US Oncology • Wyeth Oncology*

We especially wish to thank and welcome *Enzon Pharmaceuticals* as a new Corporate Member in 2005.

biogenIDEC and Genentech BioOncology are supporting Understanding Community Oncology Coding Guidelines for Optimal Patient Care.

This CD-ROM self-study CE program for oncology practice administrators and community oncologists features Michele Weiss. An order form is available from the ANCO office.

International Oncology Network is offering Protocol Analyzer Tool training on Tuesday, May 24th. Contact ION at (505) 995-8547 for additional information.

Oncology Supply is offering a series of audio conferences entitled *The Reengineering of Coding and Reimbursement in Oncology Practices* on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in May. Please contact your OS representative or the ANCO office for additional details.

Institutional Member News

ANCO thanks the following **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 **Institutional Member's clinical trials**, including the latest edition of UCSF's *GI Oncology Trials Newsletter*, at www.anco-online.org/trials.html.

For information on **continuing medical education meetings being organized by our Institutional Members**, please visit:

- med.stanford.edu/seminars/cme-all.jsp?qcme=on
- www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrnce/Confrnce.htm
- www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/index.aspx?Display=Date

UCSF's ***Pain Management and End-of-Life Care*** takes place in San Francisco on June 9-10th. This course is designed for all physicians, nurses, and pharmacists who care for patients in pain or with life-threatening illness. It meets California's requirement that physicians take 12 hours of CME in pain and palliative care. Visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=DMM05513 for more information.

UCD's **online CME pain management courses** are now available at www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/DistEd/WebEvents/PainEvents.htm. In addition, UCD is offering several **live pain management courses** in California and Hawaii.

Visit www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrnce/Confrnce.htm for additional information.

ASCO, in collaboration with the *National Cancer Institute* and the EPEC (Education in Palliative and End-of-Life Care) Project at *Northwestern University*, is offering a comprehensive workshop to help optimize care for patients throughout the course of their illness. The **EPEC-O Train-the-Trainer Workshop** will be held on June 13-15th at the *Hyatt Regency* in Reston, Virginia, and is limited to 100 participants. For more information, visit, www.asco.org/meetings.

Publications, Services, & Surveys

ASCO's *Journal of Oncology Practice* (JOP; www.jopasco.org) addresses the practical needs of clinicians featuring a broad range of topics of interest to a busy clinician's day-to-day practice and exploring issues that are necessary to sustain an oncology practice in the 21st century. The inaugural issue starts with a focus on recent changes in the Medicare program.

Caring4cancer.com is a portal with all the specific coding and billing information a busy oncology practice manager needs. It includes cancer-specific Medicare regulations, forms, coding education pieces, and a subscription to a free newsletter from Bobbi Buell. Visit www.caring4cancer.com and select Practice Management).

ANCO is repeating its **MMA Impact Survey** in May. Data collected will be compared with that collected in the 4th quarter 2004. Please be sure to complete and return the ANCO MMA *Impact Survey* at your earliest possible convenience.

Membership Dues for 2005

Final notices of membership renewal were mailed in early May 2005. Return your 2005 membership dues to ANCO at your earliest convenience and renew your membership for 2005 as soon as possible. Be sure to take advantage of dues discounts and provide ANCO with the name(s) of office and/or nurse manager contact(s). Those not renewing their membership by June 1st will be deleted from the *Directory of Members*, will no longer be eligible for participation in ANCO's discounted

pharmaceutical pricing programs, or receive any other ANCO benefits. Contact the ANCO office if you did not receive or misplaced your membership dues renewal notice.

ANCO seeks new members. **All members of a practice should join ANCO.** Provide the ANCO office with the names and addresses of colleagues you would like invited to join ANCO.

A larger ANCO is a stronger ANCO!