

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 sent to member practices (via FAX) and corporate member contacts (via e-mail). The next regular *ANCO FAX News* will be published on September 16th.

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.]

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):

- **4Q05 Average Sales Prices (ASP) and 2Q05 ASP updates** were announced by CMS. Visit www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/

**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.

matters/mmarticles/2005/MM3992.pdf for additional information.

- CMS has temporarily delayed the bidding process for *Competitive Acquisition Program (CAP)* vendors and anticipates that drugs will be delivered through the CAP program starting in July 2006. ASCO has submitted its comments on CAP (available at www.anco-online.org/mma.html). ASCO's comments focus on the unacceptable patient coinsurance, prohibition on moving drugs between offices, payment for administrative costs, and specification of the date of drug administration provisions. ASCO also called for additional patient support services to be provided by the CAP vendors. Finally, ASCO commented again on vendors selling physician utilization data.

- CMS has issued a proposed rule on **advisory opinions or prior determinations**. The proposed rule places limits on when such opinions can be sought (i.e., only with regard to the fifty most expensive physician procedures). ASCO will seek to have drug coverage added to the list of opinions or prior determinations that could be sought.

- The **2006 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule** proposes to reduce physician reimbursement by 4.3 percent for 2006. CMS also discusses the **2005 demonstration measuring quality of care for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy** in the proposed rule. CMS's *Oncology Demonstration Project Fact Sheet* states that CMS will "engage all stakeholders on the merits of the program and the opportunities to better capture data on the clinical care of patients with cancer, and improve the provision of that care." ASCO's summary of the proposed 2006 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule can be found at www.asco.org/mma (under *Special Alerts* for August 4th).

- **House Resolution (HRes) 261** was recently moved from *Committee* to the full *House of Representatives*. This legislation 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.

- ASCO's **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** have been updated to reflect local carrier implementation of drug administration and demonstration project G codes and can be downloaded at www.anco-online.org/mma.html.

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

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.]

Noteware Government Relations represents ANCO (and MOASC) in Sacramento. They report:

- The *Governor* signed the State budget earlier this Summer eliminating funding for the IMPACT program that offered prostate cancer treatment to the uninsured and underinsured men with incomes 200% of the poverty level. *State Senator Ortiz* (representing the Sacramento area) negotiated with the Schwarzenegger administration in hopes of re-establishing the program. This week, SB650 passed out of the *Assembly Appropriations Committee* with a \$5 million provision that would keep the IMPACT program from shutting down. SB650 is awaiting approval from the *Assembly* floor and should be sent to the *Governor* for his signature by September 9th.

Contact the ANCO office for ANCO/MOASC's positions on additional legislation.

According to a recent CMA survey, 60% of physicians will no longer accept new Medicare patients, and 40% would be forced to stop treating Medicare patients completely, if Congress fails to replace the Medicare sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula. If Congress fails to act before the end of the year, physician rates will be cut 4.3 percent on January 1st, 2006, and will be cut by a total of 31 percent during the next six years. The cuts are an unintended consequence of the SGR formula. CMA encourages physicians to contact their Congressional Representatives and urge them to support S1081 and HR2356 that would provide physician rate increases for at least the next two years. The House and Senate bills—both called the *Preserving Patient Access to Physicians Act of 2005*—provide a physician payment increase for 2006 of at least 2.7 percent, as recommended by the *Medicare Payment Advisory Commission* (MedPAC). The Senate bill would add an estimated 2.6 percent increase in 2007. The House bill would provide a permanent fix to the Medicare payment formula, calculating physician rates in 2007 and beyond with a new formula based on the *Medicare Economic Index* (which measures physician practice cost inflation). AMA, CMA, and the county medical societies are working together to convince Congress to permanently fix the Medicare payment formula.

Physicians are encouraged to participate in this grassroots effort by calling on their Federal legislators to support a permanent fix to the Medicare formula.

Physician office laboratories (POLs) 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. Download DHS's memorandum entitled *Clinical Laboratories Oversight Program* and FAQs at www.anco-online.org/advocacy.html or visit www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/lsl/lfsb/default.htm.

AB487 requires all physicians renewing their license through 2006 to complete twelve (12) hours of pain medicine and end-of-life care continuing medical education (CME). 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/painmanagement.htm. Additional sites/dates (San Francisco, September 2006; Anaheim, January & December 2006) have been scheduled. CMA and the *University of California, San Diego*, have launched a unique case-based CME program entitled *Pain Management: A Case-Based CME Program for Physicians* on DVD that physicians can use to receive their State-mandated CME. Contact UCSD at (888) 229-6263 for more information.

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* (September 2005) is available online at www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider_news/mbr_sept05.pdf. Among the items most relevant to oncology are:

- **Appeals:** The First Level of Appeal or Redetermination
- **Ask the Contractor** Teleconferences (ACT)
- CMS Comprehensive Error Rate Testing Program (CERT): The Importance of Complying with Requests for Claim Documentation
- **CLIA:** New Waived Tests
- Quarterly Update to **Correct Coding Initiative** (CCI Edits, Version 11.2, Effective July 1st, 2005)
- **Drugs:** Abarelix for the Treatment of Prostate Cancer
- **Drugs:** Anti-cancer Chemotherapy for Colorectal Cancer
- **Drugs:** Revised Coding Guidelines for Drug Administration Codes
- **Drugs:** MMA New April 2005 Quarterly Average Sales Price (ASP) Medicare Part B Drug Pricing File and Revisions to January 2005 Quarterly Average Sales Price (ASP) Medicare Part B Drug Pricing File
- Mandatory **Electronic Claim Submission**
- **Fee Schedule:** July Update to the 2005 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database
- **Fee Schedule:** Third Update to the 2004 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database
- New Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Drug Codes
- Termination of **HIPAA** Contingency Plan for Incoming Claims
- Medicare Contractor Annual Update of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), Ninth Edition, Clinical Modification
- **Laboratory:** Changes to the Laboratory National Coverage Determination (NCD) Edit Software for July 2005
- **NPI:** CMS Announces the National Provider Identification (NPI) Enumerator Contractor and Information on Obtaining NPIs

- **PET Scans:** Expanded Coverage for PET Scans for Cervical and Other Cancers
- **Medicare Provider Enrollment** Workshops: Save Time, Reduce Compliance Risks, and Prepare for the New Regulations
- CMS Releases New Educational Guide on **Remittance Advice** (RA) Notices
- **SNF-CB:** July Quarterly Update to 2005 Annual Update of HCPCS Codes Used for Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Consolidated Billing (CB) Enforcement

Effective October 1st, 2005, CMS will terminate the HIPAA contingency plan for incoming claims. NHIC/Medicare will return incoming claims submitted in a non-HIPAA compliant format.

NHIC/Medicare will send providers the 2006 Participation Enrollment and Fee Schedule on CD in November 2005. No internet access is required to access the information. There are many advantages to having the participation enrollment material on CD. For example:

- Physician's will not have to remove the paper participation enrollment form from a booklet and they can complete the application on the computer and then print it for mailing.
- A CD is space saving and provides easy access to information via its search and find utility. (The CD will include the fee schedules for all of California.)
- Guides for topics such as CMS 1500 Claim Form Completion, EDI, and Provider Enrollment, as well as useful internet links, will be included on the CD.

Providers who have billed Medicare in the past year will be mailed a CD automatically. If, after receiving the CD, they find that they cannot access the data properly or cannot download the information from the NHIC/Medicare website, a paper copy of the fee schedule for their area can be mailed to their office.

Physicians can now apply for **National Provider Identifiers** (NPIs). 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. NPIs will replace health care provider identifiers in use today in standard health care transactions. An instructional website (www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/npi/npiviewlet.asp) provides an overview of the NPI, a walkthrough of the application, as well as live links to where the learner can apply for an NPI.

Visit www.medicarenhic.com/whats_new/whats_new.shtml to learn **the latest information** (updated weekly) **from NHIC/Medicare**. Weekly updates are also posted on ANCO's WebLog (at www.anco-online.org/news/index.html; under *California News*).

EDUCATION

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

You Make The Difference! A Workshop For Healthcare Professionals

These 90-minute entertaining and interactive sessions, designed for receptionists, nurses, medical assistants, and others, who have direct contact with patients, provide proven techniques for managing patient flow, ringing telephones, challenging patients, and stressed out co-workers. Participants will learn easy-to-use techniques that not only make patients happy but also create a more enjoyable working environment for staff members. The speaker will be Meryl Luallin, *Sullivan/Luallin Healthcare Consultants*, a nationally recognized healthcare consultant. *Sullivan/Luallin Healthcare Consultants* conducts ANCO's patient satisfaction survey every other year. Meryl delivers lively, interactive seminars on patient communication, based in part on her extensive experiences as a

mystery patient, and shadow coach, of low-scoring physicians. She brings tales of her unusual experiences in the exam room to each program and describes in vivid detail what works and what does not in ensuring patient satisfaction.

Genentech BioOncology is sponsoring these meetings on Thursday, September 29th at the Sacramento Hyatt Regency, and Friday, September 30th at the Fairmont San José. Visit www.anco-online.org/luallin.html for more information and to download the registration form.

ANCO's 2005 Annual Meeting

ANCO will hold its 2005 *Annual Meeting* from

Friday evening, October 14th, through Sunday morning, October 16th at the *Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite*. 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/regulatory updates, discuss ethical issues in oncology care, present information on the use of physician extenders, debate legal issues in drug contracting, and dissect CMS's *Competitive*

ANCO thanks

AMGEN, APP/Abraxis Oncology, Bayer Oncology/Onyx Pharmaceuticals, Berlex Laboratories, biogenIDEC, Cell Therapeutics, Enzon Pharmaceuticals, Genentech BioOncology, Genitope Corporation, GlaxoSmithKline, International Oncology Network/Oncology Supply, Lilly Oncology, MedImmune Oncology, MGI Pharma, Millennium, National Oncology Alliance, Novartis Oncology, Onmark/Oncology Therapeutics Network, Ortho Biotech, OSI Pharmaceuticals, Pfizer Oncology, Pharmion, Roche Oncology, Sanofi Aventis Oncology, and US Oncology

for supporting clinical and professional education.

Acquisition Program (CAP). ANCO's 2005 *Annual Meeting* is being sponsored in part by *AMGEN, APP/Abraxis Oncology, Bayer Oncology/Onyx Pharmaceuticals, Berlex Laboratories, biogenIDEC, Cell Therapeutics, Enzon Pharmaceuticals, Genentech BioOncology, Genitope Corporation, GlaxoSmithKline, International Oncology Network/Oncology Supply, Lilly Oncology, MedImmune Oncology, MGI Pharma, Millennium, National Oncology Alliance, Novartis Oncology, Onmark/Oncology Therapeutics Network, Ortho Biotech, OSI Pharmaceuticals, Pfizer Oncology, Pharmion, Roche Oncology, Sanofi*

Aventis Oncology, and *US Oncology*. Visit www.anco-online.org/brochure.pdf to download the meeting announcement, registration form, and housing information.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

September 9-11th

From Research to Action: Seeking Solutions
California Breast Cancer Research Symposium
California Breast Cancer Research Program
Sacramento

September 10th

Breakthroughs in Colon Cancer Treatment
Network for Oncology Communication
(NOCR) & Colorectal Cancer Network
Santa Rosa

September 11-14th

5th International Symposium on Residual Cancer
International Society for Cellular Therapy
San Francisco

September 13-16th

Partnering to Shape the Future of Cancer Care:
22nd National Oncology Economics Conference
Association of Community Cancer Centers
Portland, Oregon

September 15-18th

8th Biennial Oncology, Hematology, and Stem Cell
Transplantation Conference
Alta Bates Comprehensive Cancer Center
Half Moon Bay

September 17-18th

The Essentials of Pain Medicine: What You Need to
Know on the Front Line of Medicine
American Academy of Pain Medicine
Los Angeles

September 20th

Molecular Portraits of Cancer in the 21st Century:
Using New Technology in Diagnosis, Prognosis and
Choosing Therapies
CancerCare (and others)
Telephone Education Workshop
(www.cancercare.org)

September 21st

Improving Your Chemotherapy Experience

CancerCare (and others)
Telephone Education Workshop
(www.cancercare.org)

September 23rd

Better Bone Health for Men Living with Prostate
Cancer

CancerCare (and others)
Telephone Education Workshop
(www.cancercare.org)

September 27th

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

September 28th

Spouses & Partners: Your Important Role in
Decision Making in the Treatment of Prostate
Cancer

CancerCare (and others)
Telephone Education Workshop
(www.cancercare.org)

October 6-8th

Chicago Supportive Oncology Conference

October 14th

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

October 18th

Clinical Trials: Improving Care of People Living
with Cancer
CancerCare (and others)
Telephone Education Workshop
(www.cancercare.org)

October 23rd-26th

25th Annual Nurses Symposium
Scripps Cancer Center
San Diego

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)/*Oncology Supply* (OS), *National Oncology Alliance* (NOA)/*Cardinal*, and *Onmark/Oncology Therapeutics Network* (OTN) for oncology pharmaceuticals and a wide-range of value-added services.

ION's 2005 meeting schedule includes:

- 6th *Annual Perspectives in Colorectal Cancer* (September 23rd-24th, Chicago)
- 11th *Annual Perspectives in Breast Cancer* (October 14-15th, Boston)
- 10th *Annual Perspectives in Thoracic Oncology* (November 4-5th, Philadelphia)

The *NOA Fall Conference: Survival Strategies in a Changing Environment* takes place on Saturday, October 22nd, 2005, at Le Meridien at Beverly Hills in Los Angeles. The NOA Fall Conference will focus on three key areas relevant to the stability of oncology care today and the anticipated needs for the future—quality care, technology, and clinical tools.

Onmark is offering a free series of webcasts this Summer covering the impact of regulatory changes on today's community oncology practice. ANCO members are invited to participate in this valuable program. Topics that will be covered include:

- Maximizing Inventory System Utilization for Greater Practice Efficiency (September 13th or 14th)

The presenter will be Elaine Towle, CMPE, *Program Director, Oncology Metrics*, a leading provider of data-driven education, tools, and knowledge for the oncology community. To learn more about this series or to register, visit www.onmarkservices.com (under *Upcoming Events*) or call (866) 686-8340.

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.

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, and ways to better serve the membership. *Board* meetings are open to individual physician members. The **next regularly scheduled ANCO Board of Directors teleconference** will take place on September 6th. 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 2005 was published and mailed in June to all physician members; nurse and office manager contacts; and, Corporate Member representatives. Additional copies are available from the ANCO office upon request. The next *Directory* will be published in June 2006.

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

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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 • APP/Abraxis Oncology
Bayer Oncology/Onyx Pharmaceuticals
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

*Lilly Oncology • Matrix Oncology
MedImmune Oncology • MGI Pharma
Millennium • National Oncology Alliance
Novartis Oncology • Oncology Supply
Oncology Therapeutics Network • Onmark
Ortho Biotech/Tibotec Therapeutics
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* and *Onmark* as new Corporate Members in 2005. *AstraZeneca*, *Ligand Pharmaceuticals*, and *Oncotech* have not renewed their Corporate Membership for 2005.

biogenIDEC and *Genentech BioOncology* are supporting *Understanding Community Oncology Coding Guidelines for Optimal Patient Care*, a CD-ROM self-study CE program for oncology practice administrators and community oncologists featuring Michele Weiss. An order form is available from the ANCO office.

Millennium is supporting the *Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation's* on-line series of monthly (through December 2005) *Great Debates: Case-based Analyses of Treatment Options in Multiple Myeloma*. Visit www.multiplemyeloma.org to view the cases.

Novartis Oncology reports that the *United States Pharmacopeia Drug Information (USPDI)* listed *Zometa* injection in its compendium for the treatment of drug-induced osteopenia, secondary to androgen-deprivation therapy in prostate cancer patients (prophylaxis). This indication was added on August 11th, 2005. To view the full USPDI monograph for *Zometa*, visit uspdi.micromedex.com (select *Zoledronic Acid* under the revised August monographs).

Pfizer Oncology is supporting the *Johns Hopkins School of Medicine* web teleconferences on breast cancer. Visit www.ernjreg.com/jhutelecon for more information.

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*

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

- cancer.stanfordhospital.com/newsEvents/events/default
- www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrnce/Confrnce.htm
- www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/index.aspx?Display=Date

UCD's online CME pain management courses are now available at www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/DistEd/WebEvents/PainEvents.htm.

Stanford's Advances in Hematology 2005 Symposium takes place in Palo Alto on November 4-5th. Visit hematology.stanford.edu/education/index.html for more information.

UCD's 6th *Annual Advances in Oncology: Updates from ASCO, ACCR, and SWOG* takes place in Sacramento on November 5th. Visit www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrnce/ONCOL06_11-5-05.pdf for more information.

The 7th *Annual UCSF/UCD Thoracic Oncology Conference* takes place in San Francisco on November 12th. Visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU06002 for more information.

Publications, Services, & Surveys

ANCO is conducting its biennial *Practice Staff Salary Survey* in 3Q05. Data collected will be compared with that collected in 2003 and earlier. Please be sure to complete and return the ANCO *Practice Staff Salary Survey* as soon as possible.