

# 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 March 24<sup>th</sup>.

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, ASH, 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). ANCO and the *American Society of Hematology* (ASH) have

agreed to share information with members. We regularly participate with these organizations on matters of national importance to oncology practices.]

**Senator Arlen Specter has introduced S2340, the *Community Cancer Care Preservation Act of 2006*.** This legislation would:

- fix critical aspects of ASP;
- pay for pharmacy facilities;
- reinstitute the 2005 oncology demonstration project at the \$300M

**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 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.

funding level; and,

- improve patient participation in clinical trials.

Visit [thomas.loc.gov](http://thomas.loc.gov) and search for bill number S2340 to read this legislation.

ASCO's *Adapting to Changes in Medicare for 2006* audioconference took place on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Discussion topics included:

- new Medicare PET registry;
- 2006 Oncology Demonstration Project updates; and,
- Medicare Part D clarifications.

Visit [www.asco.org/marchaudiocall](http://www.asco.org/marchaudiocall) to listen to this audioconference and download the presentation and background materials, including:

- CMS FAQs on the Oncology Demonstration Project;
- Physician Part D Resource Fact Sheet;
- CMS Recommendations for Drugs Defined as Part B or Part D; and,
- Medicare Parts B and D Coverage Issues Table.

These materials may also be accessed via [www.anco-online.org/mma.html](http://www.anco-online.org/mma.html).

**ANCO and ASCO continue to work towards ensuring that people with cancer have access to quality cancer care in the community.** Here are resources available to practices:

- The updated 2006 *Medicare Physician Fee Schedule* for California is available at [www.medicarenhic.com/cal\\_prov/fee\\_sched.shtml#60](http://www.medicarenhic.com/cal_prov/fee_sched.shtml#60). As a result of the *Deficit Reduction Act*, and the revision to the 2006 physician update, **CMS is offering a second enrollment period** for physicians to reconsider their decisions in light of the revised 0 percent update. The second enrollment period ends March 31<sup>st</sup>. Changes made during this new enrollment period will be retroactive to January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Medicare allowables for the new CPT 5-digit drug administration codes may have changed.** Some are higher and some are lower. According to NHIC/Medicare,

only the conversion factor was kept at the 2005 level. However, if RVU's for a CPT code changed, they remained changed. Similarly, according to ASCO, the 3% transitional increase on drug administration codes for 2005 does not exist in 2006. Even though there is a freeze of the conversion factor, the 3% decrease will still be in effect for the drug administration services. In summary, practices should compare last year's allowables with the updated 2006 allowables to determine the bottom line impact on physician fee schedule reimbursement.

- **2006 drug administration CPT codes** are available on the *American Medical Association* website ([www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/3113.html](http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/3113.html); select *What's New*). ASCO's cross-reference sheet between the 2006 CPT codes, Medicare's 2005 G-codes, and the 2005 CPT codes for drug administration and *FAQs for 2006 Drug Administration*, are available at [www.anco-online.org/mma.html](http://www.anco-online.org/mma.html).

- **HCPCS code additions, changes, and deletions** are accessible via CMS at [www.anco-online.org/mma.html](http://www.anco-online.org/mma.html).

- **2006 drug reimbursement remains at ASP plus 6%.** 1Q06 Average Sales Prices (ASP) may be downloaded at [www.cms.hhs.gov/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/02\\_aspfiles.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/02_aspfiles.asp#TopOfPage). Information about 2Q06 ASPs and revisions to previous released quarterly ASPs is available at [www.cms.hhs.gov/MedlearnMattersArticles/downloads/MM4319.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedlearnMattersArticles/downloads/MM4319.pdf).

- Regarding the **2006 Oncology Demonstration Project**, visit [www.anco-online.org/mma.html](http://www.anco-online.org/mma.html) for the following resources:

- ✓ ASCO's 2006 *Oncology Demonstration Project* Fact Sheet, FAQs, G Codes, and How to Determine the Impact of the 2006 *Oncology Demonstration Project* on Your Practice.

- ✓ ASCO's Disease-Specific Documentation Templates (with additional documentation templates from Florida posted on *ANCO News On-Line* on January 31<sup>st</sup>).
- ✓ ASCO's new webpage dedicated to the 2006 *Oncology Demonstration Project* is at [www.asco.org/2006demo](http://www.asco.org/2006demo).
- ✓ ASCO & NCCN Treatment Guidelines.
- ✓ CMS's Oncology Demonstration Project FAQs, Documentation and Coding Guidelines, Medlearn Matters Article Describing Coding and Billing Requirements, and Instructions to Carriers.

Medicare carriers should now be processing oncology demonstration project payments. If your practice is experiencing delays or problems with payments, please contact ANCO and/or ASCO's *Cancer Policy & Clinical Affairs Department* at (703) 299-1050 or [practice@asco.org](mailto:practice@asco.org).

All ANCO member practices are invited and encouraged to participate in the **ASCO/AOHA Support Services Study**. It is critical that as many practices as possible participate in this *Study* that:

- Will be used to help ensure proper reimbursement for supportive services and potentially contribute to the development of new billing codes related to these services. Participation in this *Study* by as many practices as possible is essential.
- Does not request any detailed financial data. The only financial information that is requested is a breakdown of payer mix.
- Will keep practice data completely confidential.
- Will take some time to complete. Practices who need help or have questions along the way should feel free to call Stephanie Cameron at the *Lewin Group*.

The deadline for submitting data is March 17<sup>th</sup>. Download the *Study* cover letter and questionnaire at [www.anco-online.org](http://www.anco-online.org). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Bela Sastry at ASCO (703-299-1050,

[sastryb@asco.org](mailto:sastryb@asco.org)) or Stephanie Cameron (at (703-269-5754, [stephanie.cameron@lewin.com](mailto:stephanie.cameron@lewin.com)).

Visit [www.asco.org/mma](http://www.asco.org/mma), [www.anco-online.org/mma.html](http://www.anco-online.org/mma.html), or call/e-mail ASCO's billing and coding hotline at (703) 299-1054/[practice@asco.org](mailto:practice@asco.org) for up-to-date information on changes in coding for drug administration services, as well as billing and payments for drugs.

**ASCO's Legislative Conference takes place April 26-27<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D.C.** This will be a valuable opportunity to interact directly with *Congress* and other national leaders responsible for policies that affect oncology. Visit [www.asco.org/legislative\\_conference](http://www.asco.org/legislative_conference) for more information and to register. Please let ANCO know if you intend to attend this conference.

**The American Society of Hematology (ASH)** recently hosted a focus group of hematology/oncology state societies at which ANCO participated. One of the items that came out of that meeting was sharing of information on regulatory issues. For example:

- The April 2006 *Relative-Value Update Committee* (RUC) may consider codes that describe physician monitoring/management of patients on anticoagulant (warfarin) therapy. Physicians who provide these services and who are willing to participate in a RUC survey related to the services should contact the ANCO office as soon as possible.

**Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDPs; MedicareRx; Part D) coverage was effective January 1<sup>st</sup>.** Medicare beneficiaries who are interested in obtaining more information about enrollment, coverage, and more details should contact 800-Medicare (or 800-633-4227), the *Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program* (HICAP) at (800) 434-0222, or visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). The following resources at [www.anco-online.org/mma.html](http://www.anco-online.org/mma.html) may also be helpful to member practices:

- ACCC's Medicare Part D presentation, *Choosing Directions: Oncology Reimbursement at the Crossroads*, and the

Bayer/Onyx presentation entitled *Demystify Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Benefits*.

- ASCO's Medicare Part D Fact Sheet. Please contact ASCO's *Cancer Policy and Clinical Affairs Department* at (703) 299-1050 or [publicpolicy@asco.org](mailto:publicpolicy@asco.org) to share your experience with Medicare Part D.
- CMS's fact sheet for use in offices regarding the new transition policy, as well as the exceptions and appeals process, for the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit.

### ***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:

- Last year, the *California Radiological Society* (CRS) sponsored AB561 that would have limited the ability of physicians, other than radiologists, to use diagnostic imaging machines in their offices. This bill was opposed by ANCO and died without a hearing. This year, CRS is sponsoring AB2805 that would prohibit a physician from having a CT, PET, or MRI diagnostic imaging machine in their office that is not owned or leased less than full-time. The bill's proponents argue they are attempting to mitigate fraud by making it more difficult for physicians to use the equipment as a "cash cow" and arguing that some physicians who lease the imaging devices less than full-time "pay per click" and then charge the health plans or the state for more than they paid for the "click." The bill has not yet been set for hearing and ANCO has not yet taken a position on this bill.

ANCO and MOASC have formed the ***California Oncology Political Action Committee*** or CalCancerPAC. ANCO launched fund-raising efforts for CalCancerPAC in December 2005 with its membership dues renewal. CalCancerPAC's goal is to support candidates sensitive to the needs of oncologists and their patients in California.

CMA is cosponsoring the ***Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society's*** conference entitled ***Physicians Adopting Computer Technology*** on March 25<sup>th</sup> at the *San Francisco Airport Marriot*. Attendees will receive step-by-step guidance on selecting and implementing electronic medical records. Visit [www.calphys.org/html/cc057.asp](http://www.calphys.org/html/cc057.asp) for more information.

CMA's ***32nd Annual Legislative Leadership Conference*** is April 4<sup>th</sup> at the *Sheraton Grand Hotel* in Sacramento. This conference provides physicians with a unique opportunity to learn about issues that affect the practice of medicine in California. As always, the day's schedule includes time for physicians to meet face to face with their legislators for frank discussions of state and local health care issues. ANCO is a cosponsor of this *Conference*. Please contact the ANCO office for additional information.

**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 next in San Francisco in September 2006. Visit [www.cmanet.org/painmanagementfiles/Brochure.pdf](http://www.cmanet.org/painmanagementfiles/Brochure.pdf) for more information. CMA and the *University of California, San Diego*, have also 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.]

**CMA recently learned that NHIC/Medicare has begun reprocessing Medicare claims paid under the old 2006 fee schedule.** Physicians should not resubmit claims. NHIC/Medicare will automatically make retroactive payments for eligible claims. It may, however, take a few months to reprocess all the claims. The oldest claims will be processed first.

The *Medicare B Resource* (March 2006) is available online at [www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider\\_news/mbr\\_mar06.pdf](http://www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider_news/mbr_mar06.pdf).

Visit [www.medicarenhic.com/whats\\_new/whats\\_new.shtml](http://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](http://www.anco-online.org/news/index.html); under *California News*).

*United Government Services* (UGS), the Medicare Part A fiscal intermediary for California, has formulated a new draft *Local Coverage Determination* (LCD) for darbepoetin alfa. The draft LCD is open for comment through March 17<sup>th</sup>. It may be viewed at [www.ugsmedicare.com/providers/lmrp/DraftIndex.asp](http://www.ugsmedicare.com/providers/lmrp/DraftIndex.asp).

## Private Payers

ANCO is aware of **Blue Cross/Blue Shield claims processing problems and decreased reimbursement**. The ANCO *Board of Directors* has decided to bring the claims processing problems to the attention of the *California Medical Association* for action in light of their recent RICO legislation and attention to prompt pay regulation. However, given anti-trust restrictions, ANCO cannot intervene on behalf of member practices with regard to contractually negotiated reimbursement. Members are urged to carefully analyze any and all changes to their contractual reimbursement for professional services and drugs in the context of their current and projected practice costs.

## EDUCATION

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

### SAVE THE DATE

#### ANCO/NOA ASCO Highlights 2006

ANCO's annual *ASCO Highlights 2006*, this year in collaboration with the *National Oncology Alliance*, will take place on Saturday morning, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at the *Hotel Nikko* in San Francisco. *Program Chairs* are Lawrence Einhorn, M.D., *Indiana University*, and Margaret Tempero, M.D., *UC San Francisco*. Faculty from *Indiana University* (Lawrence Einhorn, M.D.), *Stanford University* (George Fisher, M.D., Amreen Husain, M.D.), *UC Davis* (Primo Lara, M.D.), *UC Los Angeles* (John Glaspy, M.D.), and *UC San Francisco* (Hope Rugo, M.D.) will review the clinically most important research results presented at June's *ASCO Annual Meeting*. This meeting will be accredited by *Indiana University*. Meeting announcements and registration forms will be mailed in late May.

### Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

March 15<sup>th</sup>, April 19<sup>th</sup>, May 17<sup>th</sup>  
*Improving Your Chemotherapy Experience*  
 CancerCare  
 Telephone Education Workshop

March 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>  
*37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting*  
 Society of Gynecologic Oncologists  
 Palm Springs

March 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>  
*59<sup>th</sup> Annual SSO Cancer Symposium*  
 Society of Surgical Oncology  
 San Diego

March 27<sup>th</sup>-April 1<sup>st</sup>  
*Stem Cells*  
 Keystone Symposia  
 Whistler, BC

March 29<sup>th</sup>  
*Understanding New Concepts in Cancer: Targeted Treatments*

**CancerCare****Telephone Education Workshop**April 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>**97<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**American Association for Cancer Research  
Washington, DCApril 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>**MGMA Administrators in Oncology & Hematology  
Conference**Medical Group Management Association  
Las Vegas, NVApril 5<sup>th</sup>, May 10<sup>th</sup>**Living, Coping and Working with Cancer****CancerCare****Telephone Education Workshop**April 7-12<sup>th</sup>**Wnt and beta-Catenin Signaling in Development  
and Disease**Keystone Symposia  
Snowbird, UTApril 28<sup>th</sup>-May 1<sup>st</sup>**19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**American Society of Pediatric  
Hematology/Oncology  
San FranciscoPlease 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).]***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, 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](http://www.anco-online.org/news/index.html) are:

- ACCC Alerts
- ANCO Meeting Announcements
- ASCO's e-News and Medicare & Quality Care Alerts/Updates
- CMS/Medicare Website Updates
- NHIC/Medicare Website Updates

ANCO urges its members to bookmark [www.anco-online.org/news/index.html](http://www.anco-online.org/news/index.html) (or subscribe to [www.anco-online.org/news/rss.xml](http://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.

ANCO continues to seek ways to make membership more beneficial to the practicing oncologist. The *Board* constantly identifies, reviews, and approves of additional membership benefits. In addition to the benefits derived from its advocacy, educational, and information dissemination activities, ANCO members also benefit from group purchasing activities from a number of vendors, including:

- OTN's preferred group purchasing organization, *Onmark*, that shares OTN's longstanding commitment to extend and enhance the lives of cancer patients and provide the support community oncology practices need to prosper.
- *Oncology Pharmaceutical Services (OPS)*, a division of *US Oncology*. Contact Sean Taylor at (415) 235-4673 or [sean.taylor@usoncology.com](mailto:sean.taylor@usoncology.com) for more information.

**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), and *National Oncology Alliance* (NOA)/*Cardinal* for oncology pharmaceuticals and a wide-range of value-added services.

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* teleconferenced on March 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss and/or act upon the following issues:

- National and California legislative/regulatory issues, proposed California legislation, and public and private payer issue updates.

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 individual physician members. The **next regularly scheduled ANCO Board of Directors teleconferences** will take place on March 21<sup>st</sup> and May 10<sup>th</sup>. 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 2005 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):

## ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF NURSE & OFFICE MANAGER CONTACTS

### Bonnie Castillo, R.N.

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Oroville, CA 95966  
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### Lynn Henderson

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### Kelly Liddle

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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  
Cephalon Oncology • Chiron Corporation  
Clariant Diagnostics • 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 Pharmaceutical Services

*Oncology Supply*  
*OTN • Onmark*  
*Ortho Biotech/Tibotec Therapeutics*  
*OSI Pharmaceuticals • Pfizer Oncology*  
*Pharmion • Roche Oncology*  
*Sanofi Aventis Oncology*  
*Schering-Plough Oncology • SuperGen*  
*Wyeth Oncology*

We especially wish to thank and welcome *Clariant Diagnostics* and *Pharmion* as new Corporate Members in 2006.

**AMGEN is supporting *Incorporating New Concepts in the Adjuvant Therapy of Breast Cancer into Your Practice***, a series of audio conferences featuring Larry Norton, M.D. These audio conferences are being offered on various dates/times through March 17<sup>th</sup>. Visit [www.larrynortoncme.com](http://www.larrynortoncme.com) for additional information and to register.

**Bayer Oncology/Onyx Pharmaceuticals is repeating its Medicare Part D web/audio conference programs** through March 16<sup>th</sup>. A registration form is available from the ANCO office.

**Genentech BioOncology's ASCO 2005: Paradigm Shift in Breast Cancer Treatment** is now available via CD-ROM or on-demand webcast at [www.projectsinknowledge.com/breastca-update](http://www.projectsinknowledge.com/breastca-update).

### ***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:

- [med.stanford.edu/seminars/cme-all.jsp?qcme=on](http://med.stanford.edu/seminars/cme-all.jsp?qcme=on)
- [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrnce/Confrnce.htm](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrnce/Confrnce.htm)
- [www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/index.aspx?Display=Date](http://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 4-5<sup>th</sup>. (This program will be repeated on November 16-17<sup>th</sup>.) 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=MDM06P26](http://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MDM06P26) for more information.

UCD's **online CME pain management courses** are now available at [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/DistEd/WebEvents/PainEvents.htm](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/DistEd/WebEvents/PainEvents.htm). In addition, UCD is offering several **live pain management courses** in California. Visit [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrnce/Confrnce.htm](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrnce/Confrnce.htm) for additional information.

### ***Clinical Trial News***

ANCO members can obtain information about **Institutional Member's clinical trials** at [www.anco-online.org/trials.html](http://www.anco-online.org/trials.html).

**BreastCancerTrials.org (BCT)** is a web-based, pilot project, to match breast cancer patients with clinical trials sponsored by the *National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Center for Bioinformatics*, the *University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Comprehensive Cancer Center*, and the *Center of Excellence for Breast Cancer Care*. Patients looking for trials may enter detailed information about their cancer history into a completely confidential and secure online database. The patient's Personal Health Record (PHR) is used to match the patient with breast cancer trials that medical researchers have registered with BCT. Visit [www.breastcancertrials.org](http://www.breastcancertrials.org) for more information.

Learn more about **California's law requiring the coverage of routine care costs for patients enrolled in clinical trials** at [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cancer/clinical\\_trials/bigc/](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cancer/clinical_trials/bigc/) where you can download ANCO's patient education brochure on SB37.

The *National Cancer Institute (NCI)* also has a ***Clinical Trials Education Series*** to help recruit patients. It is available from (800) 4-CANCER or [www.cancer.gov/publications](http://www.cancer.gov/publications).

## Patient News

ASCO, in association with *People Living With Cancer* (PLWC), has prepared and published several *Guides to Cancer*. These *Guides* provide information for patients on breast, colorectal, lung, and prostate cancers. For more information, please contact ASCO's *Communications and Patient Information Department* at (703) 519-2927 or [contactus@plwc.org](mailto:contactus@plwc.org).

*CaringBridge* is a nonprofit organization providing the most widely used free online service connecting patients to friends and families during their challenging times. For additional information for you and your patients, visit [www.caringbridge.com](http://www.caringbridge.com).

*Caring Kids*, a support group for children ages 6-13 years old who have a relative with cancer, is a program of the *Leukemia & Lymphoma Society*. The group will meet weekly through April 24<sup>th</sup> at UCSF Medical Center. For additional information and to register, please contact Jim Peterson at (415) 971-5281 or [james.peterson@ucsfmedctr.org](mailto:james.peterson@ucsfmedctr.org).

The *HealthWell Foundation*, a non-profit, charitable organization, provides financial assistance to eligible patients to cover certain out-of-pocket health care costs, including coinsurance, copayments, and deductibles; health insurance premiums; and, the Medicare "donut hole" coverage gap. The *HealthWell Foundation* offers assistance in several disease areas, including the following that may be of interest to oncology providers and case managers:

- Chemotherapy induced anemia
- Chemotherapy induced neutropenia
- Multiple myeloma
- Myelodysplastic syndromes

Applications are available online at [www.healthwellfoundation.org](http://www.healthwellfoundation.org) or by calling (800) 675-8416.

The *Patient Access Network Foundation* (PANF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving access to needed health services for insured patients who cannot afford the out-of-pocket costs associated with their treatment. The PAF *Co-Pay Relief Program* (CPR) currently

provides financial assistance to eligible patients who are being treated for breast, colon, lung and/or prostate cancers, lymphoma, macular degeneration, and secondary issues as a result of chemotherapy treatment. Patients must financially and medically qualify to access co-payment assistance. Patients and physicians can contact the PAF CPR at (866) 512-3861 to initiate a request for assistance or request additional information, or visit [www.copays.org](http://www.copays.org) or [www.patientadvocate.org](http://www.patientadvocate.org).

PhRMA has printed a directory of patient assistance programs offered by its member companies that provide free or reduced price medicine to people in need. Download this directory at [www.asco.org/asco/downloads/PhRMA\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.asco.org/asco/downloads/PhRMA_Brochure.pdf).

## Membership Dues for 2006

Second notices of membership renewal were mailed the week of March 6<sup>th</sup>. Return your 2006 membership dues to ANCO now to ensure your inclusion in *The ANCO Directory 2006*. Be sure to provide ANCO with the name(s) of office and/or nurse manager contact(s). Those not renewing their membership by June 1<sup>st</sup> 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!**