

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 May 5th.

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.]

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 at the specified addresses or via www.anco-online.org:

- The *Adapting to Changes in Medicare for 2006* audioconference discusses the

**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 practice 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.

new Medicare PET registry, 2006 *Oncology Demonstration Project* updates, and Medicare Part D clarifications and is available at www.asco.org/marchaudiocall.

- The updated 2006 *Medicare Physician Fee Schedule* for California is available at www.medicarenhic.com/cal_prov/fee_sched.shtml#60.

- **2006 drug administration CPT codes** (available at www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/3113.html; select *What's New*) and additional information:

- ✓ ASCO's cross-reference sheet between the 2006 CPT codes and Medicare's 2005 G-codes.

- ✓ FAQs for 2006 drug administration.

- **HCPCS code additions, changes, and deletions.**

- **2006 drug reimbursement remains at ASP plus 6%. 2Q06 Average Sales Prices (ASP) may be downloaded at** www.cms.hhs.gov/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/02_aspfiles.asp#TopOfPage or www.medicarenhic.com/providers/fees/drugallowlimits_apr06.htm

- **2006 Oncology Demonstration Project** 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.

- ✓ ASCO's new webpage dedicated to the 2006 *Oncology Demonstration Project* is at 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.

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.

Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDPs; MedicareRx; Part D) coverage was effective January 1st. 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. The following resources at 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 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.

- A non-formulary *Exceptions Request Form* is available at www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/Downloads/Form_Exceptions_final.pdf. It was developed by *America's Health Insurance Plans* (AHIP) and the *American Medical Association* (AMA), and is a standardized form that can be used by physicians to request an

exception, and coverage, for non-formulary drugs. Many health insurance plans are expected to begin incorporating this new form immediately.

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:

- AB2856 would require physicians to provide specific and detailed information to the patient when prescribing an off-label drug and require a physician to obtain a patient's written informed consent before the drug can be administered. The bill was scheduled to be heard before its first legislative committee this week, but was pulled from the agenda by the author. AB2856 remains alive, but must be heard by the *Assembly Health Committee* by April 28th or it will die. ANCO will continue to oppose AB2856.

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.

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. Laboratories that are not in compliance will have their Federal CLIA laboratory certificates terminated. Without a CLIA certificate, laboratories will not be able to receive Medicare or Medicaid payments. CMA is currently sponsoring, and ANCO is supporting, AB2452 that would suspend State licensure/registration requirements until a Federal CLIA waiver is obtained. In the meantime, however, laboratories must comply with the new regulations.

CMA's 9th Annual California Health Care Leadership Academy: Reengineering Health Care—Meeting Future Expectations Without Breaking the Bank takes place May 5-7th at the *Esmeralda Resort and Spa* in Indian Wells. This conference is the premiere health policy and leadership training event for physicians who need to keep abreast of trends in the health care marketplace. Visit www.cmanet.org/leadership for more information and to register.

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. Visit 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.]

An electronic version of the *Evaluation &*

Management Services Guide, which provides evaluation and management services information regarding medical record documentation; *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification*; *American Medical Association Current Procedural Terminology Codes*; and, key elements of service is now available. Visit www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/eval_mgmt_serv_guide.pdf to download your copy.

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.

Beginning in April, Medicare physicians will be given an opportunity to elect to participate in the **Competitive Acquisition Program (CAP)** on an annual basis on or after July 1st. Participating CAP providers will obtain Medicare Part B covered drugs from selected drug categories through the CAP. Physicians who elect to participate in CAP will continue to bill their local carrier for drug administration. NHIC/Medicare has posted an article on CAP at www.medicarenhic.com/providers/articles/capdrugbill_0306.htm.

The **Medicare B Resource (March 2006)** is available online at www.medicarenhic.com/news/provider_news/mbr_mar06.pdf.

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.]

ASCO State Affiliate Presidents' Reception

ANCO members attending the ASCO 2006 *Annual Meeting* are cordially invited to attend the *ASCO State Affiliate Presidents' Reception* on Sunday, June 4th, from 5:30-7:00PM. The reception will take place at the *Terraces Restaurant* at the *Georgia World Congress Center*. The reception is being held in honor of ASCO's 46 *State Affiliate Presidents* and will also serve as a time to acknowledge the award recipients of ASCO's *State Affiliate Grant Program*. Send your RSVP to stateaffiliates@asco.org by Friday, May 5th.

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 22nd 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:

April 25th, May 23rd, June 20th

The Fourth Annual Cancer Survivorship Series: Living With, Through, and Beyond Cancer
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

April 26-28th

*Today's Education, Tomorrow's Quality Care:
7th Clinical Team Conference and Scientific
Symposium*
National Hospice and Palliative Care
Organization
San Diego

April 27th

*The Management of Rash and Dry Skin: How
Cancer Treatments May Affect Your Skin*
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

April 28-29th

*Bridging the Gap in Pain Medicine: Effective,
Practical and Integrative Approaches*
Starfish Health Partners
& Continuing Education Alliance
Oakland

April 28th-May 1st

19th Annual Meeting
American Society of Pediatric
Hematology/Oncology
San Francisco

May 3rd-6th

22nd Annual Conference
Association of Oncology Social Workers
Minneapolis, MN

May 4-7th

31st Annual Congress
Oncology Nursing Society
Boston, MA

May 10th

Living, Coping and Working with Cancer
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

May 11th

Older People Living with Lung Cancer
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

May 17th

Improving Your Chemotherapy Experience
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

May 24th

*Update on Colon Cancer: Insights, Diagnosis, and
Treatment*

CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

June 2nd-6th

2006 Annual Meeting
American Society of Clinical Oncology
Atlanta, GA

June 10-16th

Food As Medicine
Center for Mind-Body Medicine, Georgetown
University, & University of Minnesota
Baltimore, MD

June 14th

Living with Lung Cancer
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

June 15th

Living Now: Post-Transplant Challenges
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

June 16-17th

Best of ASCO
American Society of Clinical Oncology
Beverly Hills

June 24th

*Late Effects of Cancer Treatment and Survivorship:
Strategies for Primary Care and Oncology Care
Providers*
Blue Cross of California
Marina Del Rey

June 24-25th

*Essentials of Pain Medicine: What You Need to
Know on the Front Line of Medicine*
American Academy of Pain Medicine
Newport Beach

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).]

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 are:

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

ANCO continues to seek ways to make membership more beneficial. 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 and value added services from a number of vendors, including:

- **Onmark, OTN's preferred group purchasing organization.** Contact Monique Weston at (650) 871-2108 or monique.weston@onmarkservices.com for more information.

- **Oncology Pharmaceutical Services (OPS)**, a division of *US Oncology*. Contact Sean Taylor at (415) 235-4673 or 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) for oncology pharmaceuticals and a wide-range of value-added services.

ION, in association with the *Vanderbilt School of Medicine* and *AMGEN*, is presenting a month-long audio conference series entitled *New Directions in Managing Febrile Neutropenia*. The series, comprising a 1-hour multimedia CD-ROM and a live, 15-minute Q&A session moderated by the program faculty, continues through April 27th. For information and to register visit www.ionline.com. or www.nprcsc.org/neutropenia.

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* teleconferences will take place on May 10th. Please call José Luis González, *ANCO Executive Director*, at (415) 472-3960 if you wish to participate in a future meeting.

Individual Member News

Marin Breast Cancer Watch will recognize Richard J. Cohen, M.D., past ANCO *Secretary*

and ANCO *Board* member, as its 2006 Healing Professional Honoree at its May 11th awards celebration.

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 PHYSICIAN MEMBERS

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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
AstraZeneca
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 *AstraZeneca*, *Clariant Diagnostics*, and *Pharmion* as new Corporate Members in 2006.

AMGEN reports that the U.S. *Food and Drug Administration* (FDA) has approved every-three-week dosing of *Aranesp* (darbepoetin alfa) for the treatment of chemotherapy-induced anemia (low red blood cell count) in patients with non-myeloid malignancies. *Aranesp* is the only erythropoiesis-stimulating agent approved by the FDA for every-three-week administration.

Genentech BioOncology is pleased to support *The Wellness Community's Advances in Cancer Therapy and Emotional Support*, an interactive course available at www.thewellnesscommunity.org.

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
- 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 4-5th. (This program will be repeated on November 16-17th.) 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 for more information.

UCD's *7th Annual Advances in Oncology* takes place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Sacramento on September 30th.

The *8th Annual UCSF/UCD Thoracic Oncology Conference* takes place in San Francisco on November 18th. Visit www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MSU07004 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. Visit www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/Confrnce/Confrnce.htm for additional information.

Publications, Services, & Surveys

ANCO and Sullivan/Luallin Healthcare Consulting have cooperated on *Patient Satisfaction Surveys* for the past several years. Another *Patient Satisfaction Survey* will be offered in 2006. In addition, ANCO and Sullivan/Luallin will be offering a *Referring Physician Satisfaction Survey* for your benefit. For both *Surveys*, ANCO is

using its negotiating leverage to offer you expert and reliable *Surveys* at steep discounts. ANCO will fund the set-up fee so that members may participate at discounted per physician rates. An announcement of the *Referring Physician Satisfaction Survey* was FAXed to all ANCO member practices on April 11th (see attached).

The March/April (Vol. 21, No. 2) issue of ACCC's *Oncology Issues* features articles on growing your strategic plan, CAP, and how one oncologist became a certified practice administrator. Visit www.accc-cancer.org/ONIS/onis_archives.asp to view these articles.

The March (Vol. 2, Issue 2) issue of ASCO's *Journal of Oncology Practice* features articles on the NICCQ, EMRs, and P4P. Visit www.jopasco.org to view these articles.

Membership Dues for 2006

Second notices of membership renewal were mailed the week of March 6th. 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 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!