



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST – February 8, 2007

FLASCO 2007 ANNUAL MEETING AND SPRING SESSION:

The 2007 FLASCO Annual Meeting and Spring Session will be held on March 2-3, 2007, at the Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel. A meeting announcement and registration form has been mailed to all members. **In the event you do not receive your materials, please contact the FLASCO Executive Director.** This is an outstanding meeting – Dr. Joe Bailes from ASCO will provide a Legislative Update and ASCO President, Dr. Gabriel Hortobagyi will speak at the Saturday session. **PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND THIS MEETING AND MEET AND HEAR THE ASCO PRESIDENT!**

CLINICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE UPDATES: Gerald Robbins, MD,

Chairman

Coding Issue: Monitoring Anticoagulation with Coumadin

The Florida Society of Clinical Oncology (FLASCO) recently alerted ASH to concerns regarding reimbursement for monitoring Anticoagulation with Coumadin. And ASH responded as follows:

Code 99363 is a new 2007 code for coagulation management for the first 90 days. It is assigned 2.10 RVUs in the facility (hospital) setting and 3.01 in the office setting. For each additional 90 days of coagulation management, the physician can bill Code 99364. For the hospital setting, 0.82 RVUs are assigned and for the office setting 1.05 RVUs are assigned. Medicare has decided not to pay for these codes as CMS considers these services to be "bundled" into the E/M services provided.

ASH will take the following steps to address member concerns:

- Write to the CMS Administrator requesting Medicare to reconsider its position
- Attempt to place this issue on Practicing Physicians Advisory Council (PPAC) agenda
- Work with other medical societies affected
- Work with ASH members to develop model language to use with private payers in an attempt to reverse their position.

BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD UPDATE:

Two new documents have been added to the Tips section of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Physicians & Providers website at www.bcbsfl.com: - Medicare Crossover for Other Blue Plan Members (CMS-1500) - Medicare Crossover for Other Blue Plan Members (UB-04) Use these documents to assist you in the claims filing process when you see a member from another Blue Plan with Medicare Supplement coverage.

<http://www.bcbsfl.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=AncRTTips.home>

UNITED HEALTH CARE:

United Healthcare will not be giving preferential reimbursement to either erythropoietin drug.

CMS UPDATES:

Issue with Medicare 835 Electronic Remittance Advice and Crossover Claims

Due to a problem associated with Change Request 5250 (Coordination of Benefits Agreement [COBA] Eligibility File Claims Recovery Process), 835 Remittance Advices (RAs) associated with claims processed as of January 2, 2007 were missing the remark code "MA18" for TRICARE crossover claims produced by their

Medicare carriers. That missing remark is the statement that says that the claim has been crossed over by Medicare. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has verified that the claims have in fact crossed over, so there is no need to send paper RAs to TRICARE.

A coding correction has been sent to the contractors, however, only those claims received on or after February 5, 2007, will have the remark code present on the RA.

Form CMS-1500 (08/05) Claims Returned Due To NPI/PIN Submitted Incorrectly

Before submitting claims on the new Form CMS-1500 (08/05), be aware it contains “split” fields (fields 17a & b, 24j, and 33a & b) for National Provider Identifier (NPI) and Provider Identification Numbers (PIN). Many providers using the new 08/05 version of Form CMS-1500 have not changed their print layout, resulting in the PIN and/or NPI numbers printing in an incorrect position on the form. Medicare must return these claims as unprocessable.

Check to ensure the PIN and/or NPI numbers are printing in the correct blocks on the new form. If not printing correctly, contact your software vendor and have them update your software. Do not use Form CMS-1500 (08/05) until your software is corrected. A recommended solution is to submit your claims electronically

Medicare Learning Network (MLN) Matters article MM 5498 has been posted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website. This article describes additional changes to the 2007 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database. To view the article, click on <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5498.pdf>.

The related CMS Manual instruction is posted at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R1161CP.pdf>.

The Physician Fee Schedule National Payment Amount Files are located at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PhysicianFeeSched/PFSNPAF/list.asp#TopOfPage> (View calendar year 2007.)

USP DI DRUG UPDATES:

Among the monographs recently updated by the United States Pharmacopeia Drug Information (USP DI) are:

- Abraxane® (paclitaxel protein-bound particles for injectable suspension) to include metastatic breast cancer as a monotherapy for first-line treatment. (Abraxis Oncology)
- Trisenox™ (arsenic trioxide) to include myelodysplastic syndrome, monotherapy in transfusion-dependent patients. (Cephalon Oncology)
- Evista® (raloxifene) to include breast cancer prophylaxis in high-risk, postmenopausal women. (Eli Lilly and Company)

FDA UPDATES:

The U.S. FDA has approved Pharmion Corporation's (Boulder, Colo.) new drug application (NDA) supplement to add intravenous (IV) use as a new route of administration to the instructions in the approved prescribing information for Vidaza® (azacitidine for injection). The FDA approval of IV administration of Vidaza was based on existing clinical data from the original NDA, an uncontrolled Phase II study and a bioavailability study, as well as additional data from an in-use stability and compatibility study and a pharmacokinetic modeling study recently completed by Pharmion.

Millenium Pharmaceuticals, Inc., (Cambridge, Mass.) announced the U.S. FDA has granted full approval of Velcade® (bortezomib) for Injection for the treatment of patients with mantle cell lymphoma (MCL) who have received at least one prior therapy. The approval is based on data from the PINNACLE trial, the largest study to date in patients with MCL. PINNACLE was a prospective, multi-center, single-arm, open-label study in patients with MCL whose disease progressed following at least one prior therapy.

The U.S. FDA has granted priority review status to Wyeth Pharmaceutical's (Madison, N.J.) new drug application for the investigational drug Torisel™ (temsirolimus). The company is seeking an indication for Torisel for the treatment of advanced renal cell carcinoma (RCC). The FDA previously granted fast track designation and orphan drug status for investigational temsirolimus for the treatment of advanced RCC. Torisel is the first mTOR (mammalian target of rapamycin) inhibitor to be filed for approval the treatment of cancer. It is an investigational drug that specifically inhibits the mTOR kinase, a protein that regulates cell proliferation, cell growth, and cell survival.

Medarex, Inc., (Princeton, N.J.) has received FDA fast track designation for MDX-010 (Ipilimumab) used in combination therapy with chemotherapy (dacarbazine) in previously untreated (first-line) metastatic melanoma patients. The FDA also granted fast track designation for ipilimumab used as monotherapy in previously treated (second-line) metastatic melanoma patients. Ipilimumab is an investigational fully human antibody against human CTLA-4, a molecule on T cells that is believed to be responsible for suppressing the immune response.

2007 CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP/SPONSORSHIP: (January 1 – December 31, 2007)

FLASCO Members extend a big thanks to the following companies who are 2007 Corporate Members/Sponsors:

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Genomic Health, Inc.

Talceris Biotherapeutics

Millennium

BRONZE

Abraxis Oncology

Oncology Pharmaceutical Services

EVENTS:

March 2-3, 2007 – FLASCO Spring & Annual Meeting – Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel

March 16-18, 2007 – Fourth Annual Winter Lung Cancer Conference – The Eden Roc Renaissance Resort & Spa, Miami Beach, FL

November 9-10, 2007 – FLASCO Fall Meeting – Rosen Shingle Creek – Orlando

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