



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST – April 12, 2007

CLINICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE: Thomas Gaddis, MD, Chairman

CPC Conference Call

The FLASCO Clinical Practice Committee will be holding a telephone conference call on Tuesday, May 1, 2007. If you have any issues you would like for this committee to consider, please send them to the FLASCO Executive Director immediately.

CMS released its proposed NCD on Clinical Trials

The link is below. There is a 30 day comment period. - Clinical Trial Policy - Posted proposed decision memo <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/viewdraftdecisionmemo.asp?id=186>

FCSO UPDATES:

Medicare's latest quarterly update of Part B average sales prices (second quarter 2007) is available.

Effective April 2007 here are the latest Average Sales Prices for selected Part B oncology drugs:

- Bevacizumab (Avastin) 10 mg, \$57.27 April 2007 vs. \$57.48 Jan. 2007
- Bortezomib (Velcade) 0.1 mg, \$32.68, April 2007 vs. \$32.68 Jan. 2007
- Cetuximab (Erbix) 10 mg, \$49.81 April 2007 vs. \$49.83 Jan. 2007
- Epoetin alfa, ESRD (Epopo) 1000 units, \$9.577 April 2007 vs. \$9.57 Jan. 2007
- Filgrastim (Neupogen) 300 mcg, \$189.47 April 2007 vs. \$188.29 Jan. 2007
- Goserelin acetate (Zolodex) 3.6 mg, \$198.69 April 2007 vs. \$200.43 Jan. 2007
- Leuprolide acetate (Lupron) 3.75 mg, \$433.92 April 2007 vs. \$431.95 Jan. 2007
- Pegfilgrastim (Neulasta) 6 mg, \$2,163.33 April 2007 vs. \$2,152.34 Jan. 2007
- Rituximab (Rituxan) 100 mg, \$496.22 April 2007 vs. \$486.55 Jan. 2007
- Trastuzumab (Herceptin) 10 mg, \$57.87 April 2007 vs. \$56.76 Jan. 2007

ACCC :

A survey of oncology pharmacists by the Association of Community Cancers (ACCC) reveals that about 41 percent of respondents do not have standardized orders or protocols for more than 80 percent of their chemotherapy orders.

“Pharmacies need to do better,” said study co-author Philip E. Johnson, MS, RPh, FASHP. “There are several components to a complete medication order, and more complex orders like chemotherapy that include multiple drugs given in varying doses and in a required sequence are especially prone to errors. It has been demonstrated that pre-printed orders reduce the chance of errors, and also make the ordering process more efficient.” Johnson is the founding director of pharmacy at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute in Tampa, Fla. Of the 49 percent who say they do have standardized orders or protocols, about one in three have pre-printed orders; 14 percent have order protocols built into the computer software; and 15 percent have a combination of pre-printed or computer-based order protocols.

The survey also reveals that when a drug dose requires adjustment, about 33 percent of respondents report they are not involved in the decision, which is made by a physician. Two out of three respondents indicate that a pharmacist approves all adjustments prior to drug administration or that the pharmacist calculates all adjustments prior to physician approval.

MEMBERSHIP:

We regret to report that approximately 40 FLASCO memberships have been terminated due to non-payment of dues.

CMS UPDATES:

MM5530 – Blood Brain Barrier Osmotic Disruption for Treatment of Brain Tumors

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM5530.pdf>

Provider Types Affected: Physicians and providers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), Part Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) and carriers)

PHARMA/DRUG UPDATES:

GlaxoSmithKline and FDA informed healthcare professionals of an apparent third-party tampering that resulted in the misbranding of Ziagen as Combivir and employed counterfeit labels for Combivir Tablets. Both medications are used as part of combination regimens to treat HIV+infection. Two 60-count misbranded bottles of Combivir Tablets contained 300 mg tablets of Ziagen. The counterfeit labels identified are Lot No. 6ZP9760 with expiration dates of April 2010 and April 2009. The incident appears to be isolated and limited in scope to one pharmacy in California. Pharmacists should immediately examine the contents of each bottle of Combivir in their pharmacy to confirm that the bottles contain the correct medication. The Dear Pharmacy Professional Letter contains photos of actual Combivir and Ziagen Tablets. If a bottle contains anything other than Combivir Tablets, pharmacists should notify the manufacturer.

Read the complete MedWatch 2007 Safety summary, including a link to the firm's "Dear Pharmacy Professional Letter" regarding this issue, at: <http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety/2007/safety07.htm#Ziagen>

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

A special thanks to **CELGENE** for renewing its Corporate Silver Membership for 2007!

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

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Amgen

SILVER

Genomic Health, Inc.
Talecris Biotherapeutics
Millennium
Celgene

BRONZE

Abraxis Oncology
Oncology Pharmaceutical Services

EVENTS:

April 21, 2007 – “Reality Hematology Oncology” Program – The Tradewinds Resort, St. Petersburg. FLASCO is co-sponsoring this program with The American School of Oncology

Sept. 13-16, 2007 – Joint Cancer Conference – The Breakers, Palm Beach

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

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NOTE: FLASCO Executive Director will be out of the office from Friday, April 13 until Wednesday, April 18, attending AOHA in Austin, Texas. If needed, please call cell phone: 813.294.2620