



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST – April 19, 2007

CLINICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE: Thomas Gaddis, MD, Chairman

Webcasts: - Oncology Today – free CE/CME webcast replay to view at your leisure: “Update in Treatment Options for Myelodysplastic Syndromes.” Available at www.OncologyToday.com

FCSO UPDATES:

Tampa Medifest – May 15-17, 2007

This three-day symposium will include a wide range of concurrent classes for medical professionals, opportunities to network, professional speakers, and much more. Please note that the third day of this convention specifically targets certain specialties/facilities, with sessions lasting 3 hours. These sessions will cover Medicare policies and procedures unique to these individual specialties/facilities. Below is a list of the specialty courses that will be offered this third day and the corresponding part of Medicare with which they are associated (Part A or B):

Ambulatory Surgery Center	(B)
Chiropractic Services	(B)
E/M Documentation-Advanced	(A/B)
Independent Diagnostic Testing Facility	(B)
Rehabilitation Services	(A/B)
Skilled Nursing Facility	(A/B)

To register, simply access our web site ([Florida Medicare Website](http://FloridaMedicareWebsite)), and select the Educations link on the top toolbar. This will result in a screen that lists “What’s New – Education”, with a link to the Medifest Class Schedule – selecting this will bring up the class schedule and registration form. The cost for the third day (Specialty Day) is \$149.

ASCO UPDATES:

ASCO Submits Comments to CMS on the National Coverage Analysis for ESAs

On April 9, ASCO sent [comments](#) to CMS on the initiation of a National Coverage Analysis (NCA) on the use of Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents (ESAs) for non-renal disease applications.

Based on an initial assessment, ASCO supports the off-label use of ESAs in certain conditions (e.g., use of epoetin for patients with anemia associated with low-risk myelodysplasia who are not receiving chemotherapy). Pending the completion of a comprehensive review, ASCO has urged CMS and Medicare contractors to carefully analyze the use of ESAs in particular conditions and maintain access to these therapies where clinical data support their use.

ASCO is planning to submit more detailed comments after analyzing additional data which is expected to be presented during the review of ESA safety and efficacy at the FDA's Oncologic Drug Advisory Committee (ODAC) meeting in early May..

CMS Opens Comment Period on Proposed Revisions to Clinical Trial Policy

On April 10, CMS opened a 30-day comment period on its proposed revisions to the Clinical Trial Policy (CTP) national coverage determination. First initiated in September 2000, the CTP provides Medicare coverage for certain items and services for patients involved in clinical trials. The purposed is to enable Medicare beneficiaries diagnosed with cancer to participate in clinical trials.

Based on recommendations from the Medicare Evidence Development and Coverage Advisory Committee (MedCAC) and a federal panel led by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the revised Clinical Trial Policy would include the following changes:

- Removing IND-exempt studies from those that are automatically covered by Medicare.

- Adding FDA post-approval studies and Coverage with Evidence Development (CED) to studies that would qualify under this policy.
- Paying for investigational clinical services if they are covered by Medicare outside the trial.
- Requiring all studies to be registered on the NIH ClinicalTrials.gov website before enrollment begins.
- Requiring that studies specify and fulfill a method and timing for public release of results.
- Expanding the deeming agencies to all DHHS Agencies so that research designed and run by federally supported centers and groups, including those that support cancer related programs, will be eligible for the review process which determines whether a trial has met the general standards outlined in the policy.
- Adding a definition of “research” and renaming the policy as the Clinical Research Policy.

ASCO is reviewing the proposed revisions and will submit comments to CMS and provide additional information in subsequent issues of *Cancer Policy Today*. ASCO encourages its members to review the policy and submit their comments, as well. To review the coverage policy and submit comments, visit the CMS coverage [Web site](#).

For more information, contact ASCO’s Cancer Policy and Clinical Affairs Department at 703-299-1050 or publicpolicy@asco.org.

CMS UPDATES:

MLN Matters:

Clarification of MM5488 Article Regarding Coding on CMS-1500
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0716.pdf>

Provider Education for Handling NPI Issues Related to Deceased Providers
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5508.pdf>

MEDICAID UPDATES:

Procrit/Aranesp Protocol Changes

Effective, May 1, 2007, the continuation of therapy lab criteria has changed for Procrit/Aranesp. Patients must have a hemoglobin level less than 12 gm/dl for continuation of therapy. When the hemoglobin is greater than 12 gm/dl, reduce the dose by 25% and continue therapy when the hemoglobin falls below 12 gm/dl. Prior authorization forms and criteria can be found on the website at, http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/Prescribed_Drug/pharm_thera/paforms.shtml.

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

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

PLATINUM

Astra Zeneca
 Genentech
 Oncology Supply/ION
 Sanofi-Aventis
 Bristol-Myers Squibb
 Eli Lilly
 Bayer/Onyx
 Ortho Biotech

GOLD

Cephalon Oncology
 Pharmion Corporation
 OSI Pharmaceuticals
 GlaxoSmithKline
 Roche
 Pfizer
 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

FLASCO Contact Information:

Dorothy Green Phillips, Executive Director - 3709 W. Jetton Ave., Tampa, Florida 33629
 Tel: 800.444.1410, Ext.4410 - Cell Phone: 813.294.2620 - Fax: 813.254.5857 or 813.349.4472
 e-mail: Dorothy.Green@cancer.org