



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST – September 20, 2007

MESSAGE FROM THE FLASCO PRESIDENT: Robert Cassell, MD

I regret to report that Dr. Alvin Smith, a long time member of FLASCO, passed away this week.

Viewing services for Alvin are this Friday from 5pm to 7pm in the Social Hall of Central Baptist Church in Daytona. The service will be held at the same church, located at 142 Fairview on Saturday, September 22 at 11:00 am. Condolence to the family may be sent to: 2032 John Anderson Dr., Ormond Beach, FL, 32176

CLINICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE UPDATES: Thomas Gaddis, MD, Chairman

Aloxi Clarification

Question #1 – Can Aloxi be used daily if the patient is receiving chemotherapy daily that is moderate and highly emetogenic? **Answer:** Yes, Aloxi can be used at the physicians discretion as long as Aloxi is given 30 minutes prior to Chemotherapy. The 7 day label was removed based on FDA's review of safety data.

Question #2 – Aloxi has been approved for the prevention of delayed nausea and vomiting associated with initial and repeat courses of moderately emetogenic cancer chemotherapy. Does this mean that Aloxi can be used days after chemotherapy (single agent or with Decadron), without chemotherapy administration? (To help prevent delayed nausea).

Answer: - No. Can not recommend use with hydration alone. It is MIG's understanding none of the other 5HT3's have this indication. Based on company PI you must give Aloxi 30 minutes prior to chemo.

United Healthcare (UHC) Response to ASCO letter regarding ESAs

Earlier this month ASCO contacted UHC regarding the new Medicare coverage policies for ESAs. FLASCO also sent a similar letter to UHC. Lee N. Newcomer, MD, Senior Vice President, of UHC Oncology, has responded to ASCO and he copied FLASCO President Robert Cassell, MD.

In summary the letter indicated that on April 2, 2007, UHC instituted a policy requiring the hematocrit level to be submitted with all claims for ESAs. UHC will not cover any ESA administered to oncology patients with a hematocrit exceeding 36. UHC does not have any requirements for initiation of therapy, escalation of dosages or specific diagnoses in its policy.

UHC is aware of the new Medicare coverage policies and they are not adopting them for their commercial clients. However, It is noted that all UHC MEDICARE plans will have to follow MEDICARE guidelines.

Meeting with First Coast Service Options (Florida Medicare)

Representatives of FLASCO, OMF, SCOOP, Major Cancer Centers and Major Cancer Center Billers will be meeting with FCSO on Friday, September 21. A complete report from this meeting will be shared as soon as possible following the meeting. Many important issues on the agenda for this meeting.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Gerardo Colon-Otero, MD, Chairman

REMINDER - The FLASCO Fall Session will be held at the Rosen Single Creek Resort on November 9 and 10, 2007. The deadline for hotel reservations is October 1, 2007. The Program Committee has put together an outstanding Fall Session. Nancy Davidson, MD, ASCO President, will be a keynote speaker. Please make every effort to attend this Session. A Registration Form is included with this Fax Blast.

JOB OPPORTUNITY:

An oncology practice located approximately 20 miles north of Tampa has an immediate opening for a Hematologist/Medical Oncologist. For additional information please contact: Chris Hightower, Office Manager, telephone # 352.795.6674 or email choc1@mindspring.com.

CMS UPDATES:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has made available the Medicare Part B Drug and Biological Average Sales Price (ASP) Payment Amounts for October 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007 on the CMS website at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/01a_2007aspfiles.asp - [TopOfPagehttp://www.cms.hhs.gov/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/01a_2007aspfiles.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/01a_2007aspfiles.asp) . The files are located in the "Downloads" section of this web page.

DRUG UPDATES:

Evista Now Approved to Reduce Breast Cancer Risk in Postmenopausal Women (Eli Lilly)

FDA has approved Evista (raloxifene hydrochloride) for reducing the risk of invasive breast cancer in postmenopausal women with osteoporosis or at a high risk of invasive breast cancer. Evista was approved in 1997 for osteoporosis prevention in postmenopausal women and in 1999 for treating postmenopausal women who have osteoporosis.

<http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01698.html>

FDA SAFETY ALERTS:

Medical Device Recall: - B. Braun Medical Inc. Issues Nationwide Recall of Normal Saline Flush Syringes with Lot Numbers Ending in "SFR"

Normal Saline Flush syringes with lot numbers ending in "SFR" Reason for recall: customer complaints about particles in the saline. This voluntary recall affects normal saline 3mL in 12mL syringes, designated by product code 513584, and normal saline 10mL in 12mL syringes, designated by product code 513587.

http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/braun09_07.html

Customers that have the recalled product in their possession should discontinue use immediately and contact their physician if they have experienced any problems that may be related to usage of this product. Customers that have the affected product in their possession may contact the B. Braun Medical Inc. Customer Support Department at (800) 227-2862, Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 7 PM EST for instructions for handling the affected product and to arrange for replacement product

Cephalon – FDA Safety Alert

Cephalon issued two Dear Healthcare Professional Letters to inform prescribers and other healthcare providers of important safety information regarding Fentora. Fentora is indicated only for the management of breakthrough pain in patients with cancer who are already receiving and who are tolerant to opioid therapy for their underlying persistent cancer pain. Serious adverse events, including deaths, have occurred in patients treated with Fentora. These deaths occurred as a result of improper patient selection (e.g., use in opioid non-tolerant patients), improper dosing, and/or improper product substitution. The healthcare professional letters provide key points regarding appropriate patient selection and proper dosing and administration of Fentora to reduce the risk of respiratory depression.

Read the complete MedWatch 2007 Safety Summary including a link to the Dear Doctor and Dear Healthcare Professional Letters and Prescribing information, at:

<http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety/2007/safety07.htm#Fentora>

ASH UPDATES:

House-Senate Continue Work on Children's Health Bill and Medicare Physician Payment Legislation

The Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act ([HR 3162](#)), which the House passed on August 1, would reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and also replace scheduled cuts in Medicare physician payments with two years of positive updates. The Senate passed legislation ([HR 976](#)) in August, that focused solely on SCHIP. Senate Republicans had indicated that they would not support the increased SCHIP funding in the House bill (\$50 billion

vs. \$35 billion) and plan to address Medicare physician payment cuts in separate legislation later this year. Meanwhile Senate Democratic leadership also strongly support advancing an SCHIP-only agreement that would be sent to the White House before the September 30th deadline for reauthorization of the program, although House Democrats have advocated for including Medicare provisions in the bill. As this Practice Update was going to press, congressional staff reported that an agreement to separate the Medicare provisions – including the physician payment update – had been reached and Medicare physician payment legislation will be taken up by the House and Senate in the coming weeks.

Take Action: All physicians are strongly encouraged to contact Congress to prevent the scheduled 10% cut in physician payment.

FCSO UPDATES:

Understanding Overpayments and Offsets *Last Modified: 9/14/2007*

Information to help you understand Medicare rules regarding overpayments and how you can prevent offsets.

http://www.floridamedicare.com/Part_B/Articles/112783.asp

Do Your Claims Need a Rendering Provider? *Last Modified: 9/14/2007*

Are you receiving claim denials due to NPI or legacy numbers? Want to avoid these denials? This article explains how to correctly bill your NPI and legacy numbers the first time. [CR 5595]

<http://www.floridamedicare.com/EDI/Headlines/112785.asp>

Extended Service Telephone Line goes live October 1 - *Last Modified: 9/14/2007*

Comprehensive service available soon for specific inquiries related to provider enrollment and debt collection activities.

http://www.floridamedicare.com/Part_A/Articles/111513.asp

CMS MedLearn Matters

New:

MM5718 – October 2007 Update of the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS): Summary of Payment Policy Changes <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5718.pdf>

Provider Types Affected: Providers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (fiscal intermediaries (FIs), regional home health intermediaries (RHHIs), and/or Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)) for outpatient services furnished under the OPPS.

MM5719 – Medicare Clinical Trial Policy (CTP)

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5719.pdf>

Provider Types Affected: All physicians, providers, and suppliers who submit claims related to clinical trials to Medicare contractors (carriers, Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs), durable medical equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME/MACs), fiscal intermediaries (FIs), and regional home health intermediaries (RHHIs)).

Revised:

MM5710 - October 2007 Quarterly Average Sales Price Medicare Part B Drug Pricing Files *Last Modified: 9/17/2007*

The October 2007 quarterly average sales price drug pricing file for Medicare Part B drugs as well as the revised January 2007, April 2007, July 2007 and October 2006 ASP payment files are now available.

MM5584 – Discontinuance of the Unique Physician Identification Number (UPIN) Registry

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5584.pdf>

Provider Types Affected: Physicians, providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (carriers, Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs), Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs), and/or Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHIs)) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

MM5499 Present On Admission Indicator *Last Modified: 9/17/2007*

CMS has revised this article on September 11 2007, to add a statement on handling the reporting of the present on admission (POA) indicators between October 1, 2007 and December 31 2007, timeframe. See page 2 under the Background section.

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

FLASCO Members extends a big thanks to all of our 2007 Corporate Members/Sponsors

PLATINUM

Astra Zeneca
Genentech
Oncology Supply/ION
Sanofi-Aventis
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Eli Lilly
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GOLD

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Roche
Pfizer
Amgen

SILVER

Genomic Health, Inc.
Talecris Biotherapeutics
Millennium
Celgene
Novartis

BRONZE

Oncology Pharmaceutical Services

FLASCO EVENTS:

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

March 7-8, 2008 – FLASCO Spring Meeting – Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel

November 7-8, 2008 – FLASCO Fall Meeting – Location TBD

OTHER EVENTS:

ACCC's 24th National Oncology Economics Conference – October 3-6, 2007 – Hyatt Regency, Dallas, TX

The Florida Association of Pediatric Tumor Programs will hold its 30th Anniversary Annual Seminar at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress in Orlando from November 15-17, 2007. To register please visit the following Web Site: www.faptp.org

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