



## FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST – March 15, 2007

### **CMS UPDATES:**

**The March 2007 Medicare Bulletin is available at:**

[http://www.floridamedicare.com/partb\\_whatsnew\\_March%202007%20Medicare%20B%20Update!.pdf](http://www.floridamedicare.com/partb_whatsnew_March%202007%20Medicare%20B%20Update!.pdf)

### **Important Medicare Notice Regarding the Revised Form CMS-1500**

A special fax was sent to all FLASCO Members on this issue – if you did not receive it and need information please contact the FLASCO Executive Director.

### **FDA:**

#### **MedWatch - The FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program**

FDA notified healthcare professionals of new safety information for erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (ESAs) Aranesp (darbepoetin alfa), Epogen (epoetin alfa), and Procrit (epoetin alfa). Four new studies in patients with cancer found a higher chance of serious and life-threatening side effects or death with the use of ESAs. These research studies were evaluating an unapproved dosing regimen, a patient population for which ESAs are not approved, or a new unapproved ESA. FDA believes these new concerns apply to all ESAs and is re-evaluating how to safely use this product class. FDA and Amgen, the manufacturer of Aranesp, Epogen and Procrit, have changed the full prescribing information for these drugs to include a new boxed warning, updated warnings, and a change to the dosage and administration sections for all ESAs.

Read the complete MedWatch 2007 Safety summary, including links to the Public Health Advisory, Q and A's, and updated healthcare professional information sheet, at:

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

#### **FDA approves GlaxoSmithKline's Tykerb**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Tykerb (lapatinib), a new targeted anti-cancer treatment, to be used in combination with capecitabine (Xeloda), for patients with advanced, metastatic breast cancer that is HER2 positive. The combination treatment is indicated for women who have received prior therapy with other cancer drugs, including an anthracycline, a taxane, and trastuzumab (Herceptin). The drugmaker noted that the compound is the first targeted, once-daily oral treatment for this indication, and the company anticipates that the drug will be available in the US within the next two weeks.

### **PHARMA UPDATES:**

#### **FENTORA Patient Assistance Program**

Patients who do not have prescription drug coverage could be eligible for the FENTORA® Patient Assistance Program. The patient must not be eligible for public and private insurance reimbursement (including Medicare Part D), and must meet certain income restrictions and U.S. residency requirements.

**Contact Information:** Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 8:00 pm EST - 1-877-4FENTORA (1-877-433-6867)

Fax: 1-866-495-0657

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

**New Members:** The following have become recent FLASCO Members – Thanks for joining!

Regular Membership: Rebecca Kosloff, MD, John McBroom, MD, Craig Deligdish, MD, Craig Badolato, MD, and Mamta Choksi, MD. Affiliate Membership: Asha Jiawan, Lanell Kommatas, MBA, and Krystal Nimsger.

## **FCSO UPDATES:**

The Provider Outreach and Education Department invites you to participate in “Ask the Contractor” Teleconference on Thursday, April 12, 2007, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. This session will cover information on Evaluation & Management Coding and To Duplicate Claim Denials. To participate: Register on line at [www.floridamedicare.com](http://www.floridamedicare.com) by April 11 - select Education and Training from the Site Map and continue to Event Registration Online..

## **MLN MATTERS:**

### **New:**

MM5558 – Program Overview: 2007 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI)

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5558.pdf>

**Provider Types Affected:** Physicians, practitioners, and therapists (as defined in the “Eligible Professionals” section on page 2 of this article) submitting claims to Medicare carriers or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

### **New**

#SE0712 – Common Billing Errors to Avoid When Billing Medicare Carriers:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0712.pdf>

MM5492 – Quarterly Update to Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) Edits, Version 13.1, Effective April 1, 2007

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5492.pdf>

**Provider Types Affected:** Physicians who submit claims to Medicare carriers and A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs).

MM5495 – Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs)

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5495.pdf>

**Provider Types Affected:** Physicians, suppliers, and providers who submit claims to Medicare contractors (Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), carriers, Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs), DME Medicare Administrative contractors (DME/MACs), and/or regional home health intermediaries (RHHIs)).

MM5535 – End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Composite Payment Rates Update for 2007

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5535.pdf>

**Provider Types Affected:** Providers and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) for ESRD services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

### **Revised:**

MM5208 – Use of Nine-Digit ZIP codes for Determining the Correct Payment Locality for Services Paid Under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) and Anesthesia Services

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5208.pdf>

**Provider Types Affected:** Physicians and providers who bill Medicare contractors (carriers, fiscal intermediaries (FI), or Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs)) for services paid under the MPFS and for anesthesia services

## **BENCHMARKING FACT OF THE WEEK:**

The Medical Group Management Association (MGMA), has studied oncology practices and provides benchmarking information to assist physicians in practice. A total of 178 Onmark member practices consisting of single-site and multi-site community-based oncology practices throughout the United States were surveyed. The data is for calendar year 2005. Results are as follows:

Results showed an average of 0.7 FTE mid-level provider per FTE physician. There was 0.3 FTE mid-level provider per hematology/oncology physician at the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile, 0.5 at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile, and 1.0 at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile.

## **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:

### **PLATINUM**

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

### **GOLD**

Cephalon Oncology  
Pharmion Corporation  
OSI Pharmaceuticals  
GlaxoSmithKline  
Roche  
Pfizer

### **SILVER**

Genomic Health, Inc.  
Talecris Biotherapeutics  
Millennium

### **BRONZE**

Abraxis Oncology  
Oncology Pharmaceutical Services

## **EVENTS:**

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

**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:**

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