



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST – March 22, 2007

GET WELL WISHES:

Charles S. Eytel, MD, long time member and Past President of FLASCO, suffered a stroke earlier this week and is in the Naples Community Hospital. Get Well Wishes and notes may be sent to Dr. Eytel at his home: 741 Belair Court, Naples, FL 34103.

FCSO UPDATES:

Cancer Policy Alert: Follow-up on Medicare Coverage for Darbepoetin Alfa and Epoetin Alfa

FCSO has posted new information on LCD Revision – (copy included with this fax blast) or go to the following website: <http://www.floridamedicare.com/> go to Part B – scroll down to What's New Part B – New 3/21/07

Claims for Hemophilia Clotting Factor – HCPCS Code J7187

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services HCPCS Committee changed one of the codes for hemophilia clotting factors with the January 1, 2007, HCPCS update. Effective January 1, 2007, the following HCPCS code change is: Old Code: J7188 – Replace Code: J7187 – Name of Factor: von Willebrand factor complex, human, ristocetin, cofactor, per IU VWF:RCO. If you desire additional information, please contact the FLASCO Executive Director.

CMS UPDATES:

Decision Memo for Blood Brain Barrier Disruption (BBBD) Chemotherapy (CAG-00333N)

CMS has determined that there is sufficient evidence to conclude that the use of osmotic blood brain barrier disruption (BBBD) used as part of a treatment regimen for brain tumors in Medicare beneficiaries is not reasonable and necessary under Section 1862(a)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act. Accordingly, we are issuing a national coverage determination (NCD) that states:

The use of osmotic blood brain barrier disruption is not reasonable and necessary when it is used as part of a treatment regimen for brain tumors. This NCD does not alter in any manner the coverage of anticancer chemotherapy.

Release of ASP Second Quarter 2007 Data

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has posted a file on its Website that contains the payment amounts that will be used to pay for Part B covered drugs for the second quarter of 2007.

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/01a_2007aspfiles.asp#TopOfPage

IVIG:

CMS continues to monitor IVIG marketplace developments and patients' access to intravenous immune globulin services (IVIG, HCPCS codes J1566 and J1567). For the second quarter of 2007, the Medicare payment amount is increasing about 0.42 percent for lyophilized IVIG (powdered form) and about 0.45 percent for liquid IVIG. In 2007, Medicare will continue to make a temporary separate payment to physicians and hospital outpatient departments for preadministration-related services associated with administration of IVIG. The IVIG pre-administration service payment is in addition to Medicare's payments to the physician or hospital for the IVIG product itself and for administration of the IVIG product via intravenous infusion.

Physician Quality Reporting Initiative:

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has over 50 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) available on its website. You can access these FAQs by

visiting the PQRI webpage at www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI. Once on the Overview page, scroll down to the “Related Links Inside CMS” section and click on the “Frequently Asked Questions” link.

FDA:

Soliris™ (eculizumab) - Alexion Pharmaceuticals

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Soliris (eculizumab), the first product for the treatment of paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH), a rare type of blood disorder that can lead to disability and premature death. Soliris is classified as an Orphan Drug and is a new molecular entity containing an ingredient not previously marketed in the United States. See FDA press release at:

<http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01589.html>

MEMBERSHIP:

2007 Final Dues Notices:

The FLASCO Office has faxed out final dues notices to members who have not paid their 2007 dues. If you have not paid your dues, please do so immediately. If you have retired please contact the FLASCO Office so your membership status can be changed.

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.

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:

The number of treatment chairs per FTE chemotherapy nurse average was 3.8 treatment chairs per FTE nurse. There were 4.9 chairs per chemotherapy nurse at the 25th percentile, 3.3 chairs at the 50th percentile, and 4.9 chairs at the 75th percentile.

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

FLASCO extends a special thanks to Ortho Biotech for becoming a Platinum Corporate Member and to Pfizer for becoming a Gold Corporate Member. 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

SILVER

Genomic Health, Inc.
Talecris Biotherapeutics
Millennium

BRONZE

Abraxis Oncology
Oncology Pharmaceutical Services

EVENTS:

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. 410 - Cell Phone: 813.294.2620 - Fax: 813.254.5857 or 813.349.4472
e-mail: Dorothy.Green@cancer.org