



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST – March 27, 2007

CLINICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE: Thomas Gaddis, MD, Chairman

ESAs

First Coast Service Options (FCSO) only addressed aranesp (dpo) because the manufacturer sent a letter to health care professionals in January specifying their concern and the LCD had some inaccurate language not related to recent label changes. Given the recent FDA black box warning for all ESAs, FCSO is evaluating all off-label uses of ESAs. The FDA and CMS are also addressing the labeled indications, dosing, and endpoints.

The FLASCO CPC encourages all physicians that prescribe ESAs to reevaluate their use of ESAs, the dose, and endpoints in terms of hgb level and length of treatment. There is more of a focus on preventing the need for transfusions. Since the patient has financial liability related to coverage, FCSO will give notice when coverage is removed from an LCD based on the safety concerns.

Medicare Rights Center Part D Appeals Manual

The Medicare Rights Center has created a **free**, comprehensive, easy-to-understand Part D appeals manual for advocates who help people with Medicare get the drugs they need. This 25-page manual offers a complete overview of the entire appeals process, real-life case examples from our Client Services department, a glossary of important Part D appeals terms, a sample appeals protocol for advocates, and links to important resources and documents. All in the consumer-friendly language you have come to expect from the Medicare Rights Center. You may register at the website below to order the manual. <http://www.medicarerights.org/appealsmanual.html>

FCSO UPDATES:

FCSO Special Release Articles

(Please go to the FCSO Website, Part B – Special Release Articles)

New 3/22/07 Revised Physician Quality Reporting Initiative Presentation - Module One [Source: CMS PERL Message 200703-15]

New 3/22/07 2007 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative National Provider Conference Call with Question and Answer Session [Source: CMS PERL Message 200703-16]

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 April 1 to June 30, 2007 on the CMS website at

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/01a_2007aspfiles.asp -
[TopOfPagehttp://www.cms.hhs.gov/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/01a_2007aspfiles.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/01a_2007aspfiles.asp#TopOfPage)

The files are located in the "Downloads" section of the web page.

PHARMA UPDATES:

Tykerb (GlaxoSmithKline)

There seems to be some confusion around the dosing of Tykerb based on the way the P.I. reads. Some physicians are prescribing on a 21 day cycle. The dosing for Tykerb is continuous while the dosing of Xeloda is based on a 21 day cycle. Therefore, a months supply of 5 tabs daily for Tykerb should be written as 150 tabs for a 30 day supply. Please refer to the package insert regarding dosing for Tykerb. **Additionally, Tykerb is to be given continuously until progression or unmanageable toxicity occurs.**

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE: Lowell Hart, MD, Chairman

Key Contacts:

You received a fax from me earlier this month asking if you would be willing to serve as a "Key Contact" to your US Florida Congressman. To-date, only two FLASCO Members have responded! Serving as a Key Contact means that you would be willing to phone, fax or e-mail your Congressman as requested on specific issues. It is anticipated this would be a

maximum of six times per year and perhaps less. Please remember that with all of the Medicare changes it is extremely important for FLASCO to support ASCO, ASH and ACCCs legislative requests. Please fax the form back to the FLASCO office immediately if you are willing to serve as a Key Contact. If you can't find your form, contact the FLASCO office for another form.

House Cancer Care Working Group Enrollment Underway Contact Your Representatives and Urge Them to Join!
On Thursday, March 22nd, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and Congressman Mike Rogers (R-MI) contacted their colleagues in the House of Representatives and urged them join the Cancer Care Working Group (CCWG). **Please contact your Representatives today and urge them to join by contacting Kelly Childress in Congressman Mike Rogers' office at 202-225-4872 or Tim Carey in Congresswoman Eshoo's office at 202-225-8890.**

The CCWG is a bi-partisan, working coalition of House Members that share the common goal of fighting the War on Cancer. Originally established in the 109th Congress by Congressman Rogers, the CCWG meets regularly to discuss substance and details of policy positions, regulatory actions or legislative initiatives affecting cancer care, patient treatment options, evidence-based medicine, chemotherapeutics and drug integrity. The CCWG has proven itself as a vital outlet in the House of Representatives to ensure that every Member is familiar with the policy and legislative agenda of patient oriented oncology.

MEMBERSHIP:

FLASCO welcomes the following new members:

Cynthia Jensesn, MD – Regular Member – Florida Cancer Institute, New Port Richey

Shyroll Morris, MBA, MPH – Affiliate Member – Broward Medical Center, CCC – Deerfield Beach

MLN MATTERS:

New:

MM5517 – April 2007 Quarterly Average Sales Price (ASP) Medicare Part B Drug Pricing File, Effective April 1, 2007, and Revisions to the January 2007 Quarterly ASP Medicare Part B Drug Pricing Files

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5517.pdf>

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

A special thanks to AMGEN for renewing its Corporate Platinum Membership for 2007!

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

PLATINUM

Astra Zeneca

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Amgen

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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