



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST – May 10, 2007

GET WELL WISHES:

Charles S. Eytel, MD, long time member and Past President of FLASCO, suffered a stroke back in March. We have just learned that he still is not doing well – many set setbacks, including a pulmonary embolism three weeks ago and he is currently in acute care. Added on to all of this, his wife Mary Ann was in the hospital last week with pneumonia. Get Well Wishes and notes may be sent to Dr. Eytel at his home:
741 Belair Court, Naples, FL 34103

CLINICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE: Thomas Gaddis, MD, Chm.

The FLASCO CPC had a question submitted from a member regarding PQRI. The question was sent to ASCO and below is their reply:

It is our understanding of PQRI that all reporting and analysis is based on the individual NPI. Even though the group is billing under a group ID number, the individual physician's NPI must also appear on the claim and this is what will be used to track participation and determine whether the 80 percent threshold is met for a bonus. The bonus checks are sent to the holder of the tax ID number - not the individual NPI.

LCD REVISIONS:

J2505: Pegfilgrastim (Neulasta)

The “Indications and Limitations of Coverage and/or Medical Necessity” section of the LCD was revised to correct wording related to the administration of Neulasta. The following sentence, “The administration should not occur within 14 days before or 24 hours after, administration of cytotoxic chemotherapy,” was revised to read per the product label. The revised sentence reads as follows: “The administration should not occur within 14 days before, and 24 hours after, administration of cytotoxic chemotherapy.” Effective Date: April 30, 2007.

ASH UPDATES:

ASH Develops Resources to Help Guide Practitioners through the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative – Medicare's New Bonus Program

To help hematologists/oncologists participate in this program, ASH has created [on-line resources](#). To find out more, please visit the [ASH Web site](#).

ASH Luncheon:

ASH is hosting a luncheon on July 13, 2007, for all state society administrators and executive directors who will in Washington attending another meeting. This luncheon will provide an opportunity to discuss common issues and concerns.

FDA UPDATES:

FDA Approves Fragmin® for Extended Treatment to Reduce the Recurrence of Blood Clots in Patients with Cancer

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a new indication for Fragmin® (dalteparin sodium injection), for the extended treatment of symptomatic venous thromboembolism (VTE) [proximal deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and/or pulmonary embolism (PE)] to reduce the recurrence of VTE in patients with cancer. Fragmin is the first low-molecular-weight heparin (LMWH) approved in the U.S. for the extended treatment of recurrent VTE in patients with cancer. Patients with cancer have an increased risk of VTE compared to those without cancer. Additionally, patients with cancer may be immobilized, which predisposes the patient to this condition.

CMS:

CMS Revamps IVIG Codes, Urges Off-Label Studies As OIG Weighs In

CMS will grant a longstanding stakeholder request by splitting up Medicare reimbursement codes for intravenous immune globulin (IVIG) products in July, a move industry says will help alleviate IVIG access problems. Also, in response to new Inspector General concerns over inadequate IVIG reimbursement, CMS is calling for additional research on the role off-label uses and distributors' inflated IVIG prices play in limiting access to the life-saving drugs, often used to treat patients with cancer or immune disorders such as HIV/AIDS.

The agency's HCPC committee is set to ratify the changes at its May 15 public meeting. The agency also indicates it will not increase IVIG reimbursement rates in the near future.

MLN MATTERS:

MLN #MM 5480 – this article was revised on April 30, 2007 – **HCPCS code Q4055** has been replaced with **J0886**.

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

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EVENTS:

Sept. 13-16, 2007 – Joint Cancer Conference – The Breakers, Palm Beach

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

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