



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST – July 6, 2007

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Gerardo Colon-Otero, MD

FLASCO will be providing Regional Conferences in July - Please see flyer with this fax blast and register ASAP.

CMS UPDATES:

Warning about Tracheoesophageal Fistula with Avastin

<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/psn/transcript.cfm?show=65#6>

Genentech recently alerted healthcare professionals about patients with limited-stage small cell lung cancer who developed tracheoesophageal (TE) fistulae after receiving a treatment regimen that included Avastin. Avastin (bevacizumab) is approved to treat certain patients with non-small cell lung cancer and colorectal cancer, but it is not approved for small cell lung cancer.

The patients were enrolled in a clinical study of combined chemotherapy and radiation plus Avastin. Two confirmed cases of TE fistula, one of them fatal, were reported in the first 29 patients enrolled in this study. Another fatal event was also reported, where TE fistula was suspected but not confirmed. All three events occurred during the Avastin maintenance phase of the study in patients who had been experiencing persistent esophagitis. Patient enrollment in the study has been stopped.

The current labeling describes GI fistulae in patients with colorectal and other types of cancer who were given Avastin. Genentech says the company will update the product label to provide more detailed information on the incidence of all cases of fistula in patients treated with Avastin.

June 29, 2007 Special Medicare Provider Enrollment Open Door Forum

An audio replay of this Forum can be accessed by dialing 1-800-642-1687 and keying in conference ID# 3630576 beginning Monday, July 2, 2007. The recording will be available for 4 business days, expiring on Friday, July 6, 2007. Also, you can download an audio replay of the conference by visiting the CMS Special Open Door Forum webpage at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/OpenDoorForums/05_ODF_SpecialODF.asp beginning July 5, 2007.

The Testing Opportunity for the 2007 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) has Ended

Effective June 30, 2007, PQRI testing with the G8300 test code will end. The test code G8300 will no longer be accepted by Carriers and A/B MACs on claims for dates of service after that date.

Reminder: For dates of service beginning July 1, 2007, when 2007 PQRI line items are included on claims, the PQRI line item will be denied and Remittance Advice (RA) remark code message N365, "This procedure code is not payable. It is for reporting/information purposes only" will appear on the RA.

HHS Fights Durable Medical Equipment Fraud

HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt announced a two-year effort designed to further protect Medicare beneficiaries from fraudulent suppliers of durable medical equipment, prosthetics and orthotics supplies (DMEPOS). The initiative is focused on preventing deceptive companies from operating in **South Florida and Southern California**.

Miami and Los Angeles have been identified as high-risk areas when it comes to fraudulent billing by DMEPOS suppliers. HHS, working with the Department of Justice (DOJ), formed a Medicare Fraud Strike Force to combat fraud through the use of real-time analysis of Medicare billing data. In just three months, 56 individuals have

been charged in the Southern District of Florida with fraudulently billing Medicare for more than \$258 million. The strike force is made up of federal, state and local investigators.

For more information, you can view the HHS Press Release at <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2007pres/07/pr20070702a.html> and the HHS Fact Sheet at <http://www.hhs.gov/news/facts/medicarefraud/index.html>

New MLN Matters Article Available!

A new Special Edition *MLN Matters* article is now posted on the CMS website with important information for Medicare providers and suppliers. Some of the topics include:

- Common Enumeration Errors in NPPES
- Dos and Don'ts When Reporting "Other Provider Identification Numbers" in NPPES
- How to Use Your NPI When Billing Medicare Part A (Institutional) Claims to a Fiscal Intermediary (FI) or A/B MAC
- How to Use Your NPI When Billing Medicare Part B (Professional) Claims to Carriers and A/B MACs
- Important Reminders Regarding 835 Remittance Advice Changes Effective July 2, 2007 for DME Suppliers Submitting Claims to DME MACS Only

You can view this article by visiting <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0725.pdf> on the CMS website.

Proposed CMS Policy, Payment Changes for Physician Services in 2008.

CMS has posted its proposed 2008 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Rule (CMS-1385-P) ASCO, ASH, ACCC, COA and US Oncology are reviewing the fee schedule and will provide details about the provisions that affect oncology in the near future. Information will be provided to FLASCO members at that time and you will be asked to make comments prior to August 31, 2007.

Free Clinical Practice Tools for State Affiliates

You may already be familiar with ASCO's Clinical Practice Guidelines, but did you know they are accompanied by easy-to-use clinical tools? These tools include slide sets, and summaries of the guideline, and may also include patient chart tools, such as flow sheets.

In the midst of a busy practice, these tools enable oncologists to use the latest guidelines on emerging issues in clinical oncology. All of the following tools are free of charge and available online through www.asco.org/guidelines:

- Breast Cancer Surveillance
- HER-2 Testing
- Sentinel Node Biopsy
- Colon and Rectal Cancer Surveillance
- GI Tumor Markers
- Androgen Sensitive Prostate Cancer Treatment
- Larynx Preservation
- Antiemetics
- White Blood Cell Growth Factors
- Fertility Preservation Options

Additional tools will be released throughout the upcoming year. Please check ASCO.org for updates.

ACCC UPDATES:

Two important healthcare-related bills were introduced into the House of Representatives. ACCC joined the National Patient Advocate Foundation in support of both bills: HR 2842, the Children's Health Promotion Act of 2007, and HR 2833, the Pre-existing Condition Exclusion Patient Protection Act of 2007. HR 2842, sponsored by

Representative Allyson Schwartz (D-PA), seeks to eliminate pre-existing condition limitation periods for all children in the private insurance market. HR 2833, sponsored by Representative Joe Courtney (D-CT), seeks to protect patients from pre-existing condition limitations by 1) expanding HIPAA protections to the individual market and 2) shortening the pre-existing condition limitation period and the look-back period of insurers. ACCC supports these bills. **NOTE: FLASCO is reviewing these Bills and is working with the Florida Association of Pediatric Tumor Association to determine appropriate action to be taken on these Bills.**

FLASCO MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

FLASCO extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Dimitrios Agaliotis, MD – Jacksonville	Jeffrey Harris, MD – Jacksonville
Augusto Villegas, MD – Jacksonville	John Wingrad, MD – Gainesville
Elisabeth McKeen, MD – Palm Beach Gardens	Nikesh Jassani, MD – Jacksonville
Diely Pichardo, MD – Melbourne	Peyman Salimi-Tani, MD – Jacksonville
Shalin Shah, MD – Jacksonville	James Chingos, MD – Jacksonville
Carlos Alemany, MD – Ocoee	Hadi Yazji, MD – Miami
Nancy Payne, CEO, Cancer Centers of Fl – Ocoee (Affiliate Member)	

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

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

<u>PLATINUM</u>	<u>GOLD</u>	<u>SILVER</u>	<u>BRONZE</u>
Astra Zeneca	Cephalon Oncology	Genomic Health, Inc.	Oncology Pharmaceutical Services
Genentech	Pharmion Corporation	Talecris Biotherapeutics	
Oncology Supply/ION	OSI Pharmaceuticals	Millennium	
Sanofi-Aventis	GlaxoSmithKline	Celgene	
Bristol-Myers Squibb	Roche	Novartis	
Eli Lilly	Pfizer		
Bayer/Onyx	Amgen		
Ortho Biotech			
Abraxis Oncology			

FLASCO EVENTS:

July 23 – Regional Conference – Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel – 7:30 – 9:30 am
July 24 – Regional Conference – Orlando Marriott Downtown - 7:30 – 9:30 am
July 25 – Regional Conference – Jacksonville Marriott– 7:30 am – 9:30 am
July 26 – Regional Conference – Marriott Harbour Beach, Ft. Lauderdale – 7:30 am – 9:30 am
July 27 – Regional Conference – Marriott Airport Miami – 7:30 am – 9:30 am
July 31 – August 4, 2007 – Mayo Clinic's 17th Annual Hematology/Oncology Reviews – The Ritz Carlton, Amelia Island – visit: www.mayo.edu/cme for additional information and registration
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

OTHER EVENTS:

The 2007 Annual Meeting of FRS FRBMA, (Florida Radiological Society...Florida Radiology Business Management Association) will be held on July 13-15, at the Ritz Carlton in Sarasota. To register please visit the following site: <http://www.flrad.org/meetings.asp>

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 website: www.faptp.org

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