



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST – October 31, 2007

PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE: Gerardo Colon-Otero, MD, Chm.

Please plan to attend the November 9-10, 2007, FLASCO Fall Meeting at the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel near Orlando. We really **need members to attend this meeting** and show the strength of FLASCO to the ASCO President, Dr. Nancy Davidson, who will speak at this meeting.

CLINICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE UPDATES: Thomas Gaddis, MD, Chm.

Tertiary Grade Influences Risk of Prostate Cancer Recurrence

Among prostate cancer patients with a biopsy Gleason score of 7, those with a tertiary grade of 5 are more likely to experience a post-treatment PSA increase (PSA failure) than those without a tertiary grade of 5. These results were published in the **Journal of the American Medical Association**

Addition of Taxotere® Improves Survival in Head and Neck Cancer

According to two articles recently published in the **New England Journal of Medicine**, the addition of the chemotherapy agent Taxotere® (docetaxel) to Platinol® (cisplatin) and 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) improves survival over cisplatin/5-FU alone in the treatment of head and neck cancer

DRUG & INDUSTRY UPDATES

Oral Hycamtin® Approved for Relapsed Small Cell Lung Cancer (10/15/2007) (GlaxoSmithKline)

The United States Food and Drug Administration has approved an oral capsule formulation of the chemotherapy agent Hycamtin® (topotecan) for the treatment of relapsed small cell lung cancer. Hycamtin is aimed at patients who had a complete or partial response to initial chemotherapy treatment and have stopped that treatment at least 45 days prior. The company said Hycamtin will be available in 2008.

Tasigna for leukaemia (Novartis)

The FDA approved Novartis' Tasigna (nilotinib) to treat adults with chronic-phase and accelerated-phase Philadelphia chromosome-positive chronic myeloid leukaemia who are resistant or intolerant to prior treatment, including Gleevec. The twice-daily drug will be available in the US "within days."

CMS UPDATES:

Revised FY 2008 Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) Rates

The revised FY 2008 IPPS rates, effective for discharges occurring on or after October 1, 2007, based on the implementation of Section 7 of the "TMA, Abstinence Education, and QI Programs Extension Act of 2007" for FY 2008, are posted on the CMS website at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/AcuteInpatientPPS/downloads/Revised_FY08_IPPS_Rates.pdf

These revised rates and CMS's Implementation of the "TMA, Abstinence Education, and QI Programs Extension Act of 2007" will be detailed in the near future in the Federal Register.

FCSO UPDATES:

Key Medicare News for 2008 for Physicians and Other Health Care Professionals

Last Modified: 10/26/2007

Important Medicare initiatives and new Medicare benefits available in calendar year (CY) 2008. [SE0730]

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMArticles/downloads/SE0730.pdf>

Tips for Correcting Previously Denied Claims - Last Modified: 10/26/2007

Having trouble getting denied claims corrected? See these helpful hints.

http://www.floridamedicare.com/Part_B/Articles/115303.asp

Upcoming Provider Outreach and Education Events November - December 2007

Last Modified: 10/26/2007

Be sure to mark your calendar for upcoming Provider Outreach and Education events, including Ask the Contractor teleconferences, Hot Topics teleconferences, and webcasts

http://www.floridamedicare.com/Education/Upcoming_Medicare_Events/105593.asp

New Graduates of Academic Medical Institutions Enrolling in Medicare

Last Modified: 10/29/2007

12/6/07 Part B Webcast. This webcast will cover information for new graduates of academic medical institutions enrolling in Medicare for the first time.

NEW FAX BLAST FEATURE – QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

In an attempt to obtain some general information regarding hematology/oncology practices in Florida, the FAX BLAST will ask one question each week. The Officers would appreciate all of you participating in this endeavor – it will be a great way to share important information to our membership. A summary of the responses will be included in the following week's Fax Blast. Your responses should be e-mailed to the FLASCO Executive Director at: Dorothy.Green@cancer.org

Also, we would appreciate your feed back on whether you would rather receive the question by e-mail so you can directly respond? The answers could still be included in the Fax Blast the next week.

QUESTION: An employee has taken a new position which is responsible for a six physician, two site Oncology/Hematology practice. There are some staffing issues relating to the practice's laboratory. For those of you with laboratory services would you please share your lab staffing per Physician FTE in total and by type of lab staff (e.g., lab technician, phlebotomists, etc?)

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

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

PLATINUM

Astra Zeneca
Genentech
Oncology Supply/ION
Sanofi-Aventis
Bristol-Myers Squibb

GOLD

Cephalon Oncology
Pharmion Corporation
OSI Pharmaceuticals
GlaxoSmithKline
Roche

SILVER

Genomic Health, Inc.
Talecris Biotherapeutics
Millennium
Celgene
Novartis

BRONZE

Oncology Pharmaceutical Services

Eli Lilly
Bayer/Onyx
Ortho Biotech
Abraxis Oncology

Pfizer
Amgen

FLASCO EVENTS:

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 – Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel

OTHER EVENTS:

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 Web Site: www.faptop.org

FLASCO Contact Information:

Dorothy Green Phillips, Executive Director - 3709 W. Jetton Ave., Tampa, Florida 33629
Tel: 800.444.1410, Ext. 4410 - Cell Phone: 813.294.2620 - Fax: 813.254.5857 or 813.349.4472
Email: Dorothy.Green@cancer.org