



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST –January 8, 2009

FLASCO WEBSITE: www.flasco.org

FLASCO CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK WEBSITE: www.fctn.org

MESSAGE FROM THE FLASCO PRESIDENT: Robert Cassell, MD

CELGENE has renewed its Platinum Corporate Membership with FLASCO! Thank you so much for your continued support of our society!

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Rogerio Lilenbaum, MD, Chairman

Save the date for Highlights of ASH®

This year one of the Highlights of ASH is taking place in Miami, FL, on February 6-7, 2009. The following is a direct link to the Highlights information on the ASH Web site: <http://hematology.org/meetings/highlights/index.cfm#2>
The FLASCO member code is FLH09 – FLASCO special registration fee - \$110. Let's have a good showing of attendees from FLASCO! Early registration discount **ends December 31, 2008**. REGISTER TODAY

Save the date for FLASCO Annual Meeting & Spring Session:

The 2009 FLASCO Annual Meeting and Spring Session will be held on February 27 and 28, 2009, at the Marriott Sawgrass Resort near Jacksonville. The President of ASCO and the CEO of ASCO will both speak at the dinner on Friday, February 27. Please mark your calendars to attend this meeting. A meeting announcement and registration form has been mailed to all FLASCO members.

CLINICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE: Thomas Gaddis, MD, Chairman

Yesterday the FLASCO office e-mailed members a copy of an important announcement on PET – if you did not receive the e-mail the information can be found as follows: CMS Proposed Decision Memo for Positron Emission Tomography (FDG) for Solid Tumors (CAG-00181R)

<https://www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/viewdraftdecisionmemo.asp?from2=viewdraftdecisionmemo.asp&id=218&>

Please note that this year we plan to distribute important information electronically in between the weekly fax blast, if needed. Please make sure the FLASCO office has your e-mail address.

Florida Department of Health:

The department began issuing the Health Care Clinic Establishment (HCCE) permits this week. This permit authorizes the purchase of prescription drugs by a professional corporation or professional limited liability company. It also authorizes the purchase of prescription drugs by corporations that employ veterinarians. Health care practitioners or veterinarians who are personally purchasing prescription drugs through the use of their professional license number need not apply.

The Health Care Clinic Establishment applicant listing is available by visiting:

1. Go to www.flhealthsource.com
2. Click on the "Citizen/Consumer" button
3. Click on "Download Data Files"
4. Go to the bottom of the page and click on "Health Care Clinic Establishments"
5. Click on the "Health Care Clinic Establishments Applicant Listing"

This downloaded file contains a listing of applicants that are applying for the HCCE permit and have NOT yet been issued a permit.

For additional information, please visit www.doh.state.fl.us/pharmacy or you may call us at (850) 488-0595 or (850) 245-4227. We are committed to providing prompt and reliable information and processing your application as quickly as possible

DRUG & INDUSTRY UPDATES:

TREANDA® (bendamustine HCl) for Injection.

Drug-specific HCPCS code - J9033 INJECTION, BENDAMUSTINE HCL, 1 MG

The new J-code, J9033 for 1mg of TREANDA will replace the miscellaneous J-code J9999 under which TREANDA was reimbursed in 2008. The J9033 code should be accepted by Medicare for all TREANDA claims for reimbursement submitted for Medicare for dates of service on or after January 1, 2009. CMS published the first quarter 2009 payment rate for J9033 in mid-December 2008. This reimbursement rate, based on 106% of the average selling price for TREANDA, will be updated quarterly thereafter. Private insurers may pay for new J-codes and the drug itself at rates different than those paid by Medicare.

The standard administration time of TREANDA for CLL is as an intravenous infusion over 30 minutes. The recommended dose is 100 mg/m² administered intravenously on days 1 and 2 of a 28-day cycle, up to 6 cycles. The standard administration time of TREANDA for Indolent NHL is as an intravenous infusion over 60 minutes. The recommended dose is 120mg/m² administered intravenously on days 1 and 2 of a 21-day cycle, up to 8 cycles. If you administer the dose as per the regimen, the code to use for administration will be 96413, if it is the initial or only chemotherapy infusion of the encounter.

If you have reimbursement questions regarding TREANDA, please contact the Cephalon Oncology Reimbursement Expertise (CORE) Hotline at 1-888-5-TREANDA

J-code, for TORISEL® (temsirolimus) for Injection

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals recently announced that CMS has established a product-specific billing code, or J-code, for TORISEL® (temsirolimus) for Injection. The J-code is effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2009. The new J-code, J9330 for 1 mg of TORISEL, replaces the miscellaneous J-code J9999 under which TORISEL was reimbursed in 2008. The J9330 (for 1 mg) code should be accepted by the Medicare contractors for all TORISEL claims for reimbursement submitted for Medicare beneficiaries for dates of service on or after January 1, 2009.

CMS published the first quarter 2009 payment rate for J9330 for 1 mg on December 15, 2008. This reimbursement rate, based on 106% of the average selling price for TORISEL, will be updated quarterly thereafter. Private insurers may pay for new J-codes and the drug itself at rates different than those paid by Medicare.

The standard patient administration of TORISEL is as an intravenous infusion over 30-60 minutes. The recommended dose is 25 mg administered weekly until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity. To bill this dosage, use 25 units of J9330. If the drug is administered as per the aforementioned regimen, the code to use for administration will be 96413*, if it is the initial or only infusion of the encounter.

To enroll in the TORISEL reimbursement program, please go to [this website](#) or call 866-993-8466.

Drug Shortages for Cisplatin and Leucovorin

The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and the American Society for Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) have recently reported a shortage of cisplatin 1 mg/mL injections. The shortage has been reported by the three manufacturers; Bedford, Teva, and APP. APP currently has some availability, and Teva is on backorder with an expected release date sometime in January 2009. At this time Bedford is backordered and no release date is being provided.

The shortage of Leucovorin remains and no additional information on the manufacturing delays or release dates have been provided by Bedford or Teva.

More detailed information on these shortages can be found at the FDA website at <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/shortages/default.htm#Current> and the ASHP website at <http://www.ashp.org/DrugShortages/Current/>.

FCSO UPDATES:

January 2009 quarterly average sales price update and revision to prior files

Beginning January 1, 2009, under the outpatient prospective payment system (OPPS), payment allowance limits for specified covered outpatient drugs are paid at average sale price (ASP) plus 4 percent. Drugs and biologicals with pass-through status under the OPPS continue to have a payment allowance limit of 106 percent of the ASP. These limits are updated quarterly.

Exceptions include payment allowance limits for blood and blood products (other than blood clotting factors) that are not paid on a prospective payment basis and the payment allowance limits for influenza, pneumococcal and hepatitis B vaccines. Other exceptions are detailed in the article.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has instructed contractors not to search and adjust claims that have already been processed unless brought to their attention. Here is the link to the MLN Matters article [MM6288](#)

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6288.pdf>

Change Request (CR) 6139.

Effective March 1, 2009, when contacting the Interactive Voice Response unit (IVR) or a customer service representative (CSR), you will be required to provide your National Provider Identifier (NPI), your provider transaction access number (PTAN), **and the last 5-digits of your Tax Identification Number (TIN)**. Written inquiries on etherhead will require only one of these elements, along with your provider's name and address.

Please review the article on the FCSO Medicare provider Web site based on this CR at [http://www.floridamedicare.com/Part B/Billing and Coverage/131272.asp](http://www.floridamedicare.com/Part_B/Billing_and_Coverage/131272.asp) for additional details.

CR 6194 - Deceased Individuals and the Provider Enrollment Process

CMS recently released Change Request (CR) 6194, which directs FCSO that, effective January 20, 2009, we shall ask all provider organizations, associations, societies, institutions, and group practices to ensure they promptly inform FCSO of the death of **any** of its member physicians or non-physician practitioners.

The organization with which the person is associated is required to submit the proper CMS-855 form to FCSO to change the provider's information to delete the individual from provider enrollment's records. Please be sure to follow the instructions provided in the CMS Internet-only manual, publication 100-08 Medicare Program Integrity Manual, Chapter 10, Section 16 - Date of Death Verification, Documentation, and Processing Activities (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/pim83c10.pdf>).

CR 6194 can be viewed at this link: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R276PI.pdf>

CMS UPDATES:

New:

MM6351:

Emergency Update to the 2009 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database (MPFSDB)

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/MM6351.pdf>

MM6282: Incorporation of Recent Regulatory Revisions Pertinent to Suppliers of Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS) <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/MM6282.pdf>

MM6285:

New Contractor Numbers for the Jurisdiction 9 (J9) Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) Part A and Part B Workloads for the State of Florida and Territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/MM6285.pdf>

MM6320 – January 2009

Update of the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS)

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6320.pdf>

MM6328

Claim Status Category Code and Claim Status Code Update
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6328.pdf>

MM6261

Signature and Date Stamps for DME Supplies-Certificates of Medical Necessity (CMNs) and DME MAC Information Forms (DIFs) <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6261.pdf>

MM6290

Quarterly Update to Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) Edits, Version 15.0, Effective January 1, 2009
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6290.pdf>

Revised:

MM6070:

Calendar Year (CY) 2009 Annual Update for Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule and Laboratory Services Subject to Reasonable Charge Payment <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/MM6070.pdf>

MM6072

Application of the Hospital Outpatient Quality Data Reporting Program under the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6072.pdf>

Medicare Part B Drugs Competitive Acquisition Program (CAP) – Reminder about CAP Claims Submission Deadlines and Unused CAP Drugs

The following is a reminder about upcoming CAP deadlines. It is very important that participating CAP physicians understand and comply with these deadlines because failure to do so will affect physicians' ability to be reimbursed.

CAP Drugs Administered during 2008

§ CAP drug claims must be submitted on or before January 30, 2009. CAP drug claims and corresponding physicians' drug administration claims must have a date of service on or before December 31, 2008.

§ CAP drugs that have not been administered by December 31, 2008 are the property of the Approved CAP Vendor.

§ Do not submit CAP claims for dates of service after December 31, 2008 because they will be denied.

CAP Drugs NOT Administered by December 31, 2008

§ CAP physicians must return any unused CAP drugs to the Approved CAP Vendor by February 28, 2009.

§ CAP drugs are the property of the Approved CAP Vendor. Therefore, physicians who have not returned these drugs to the Approved CAP Vendor on or before February 28, 2009 will be liable for the cost of drugs.

§ Please note that CAP physicians may contact the Approved CAP Vendor to discuss the option of purchasing unused CAP drugs.

Emergency Restocking of CAP Drugs for Dates of Services on or before December 31, 2008

§ When permitted under the emergency restocking provision, physicians may submit a prescription order for a CAP drug to replace what they used from their own stock (the emergency restocking provision). Physicians may request replacement drugs ONLY if the date of service is on or before December 31, 2008, AND the corresponding drug administration claim has been submitted on or before January 30, 2009.

§ Physicians must request replacement drugs by January 30, 2009.

§ The Approved CAP Vendor will not send replacement products under the CAP emergency restocking provision (J2 modifier claims) after February 28, 2009.

§ CAP physicians who have not submitted a prescription order and a request for replacement drugs under the emergency restocking provision as described above will not be able to bill Medicare under the ASP system for the CAP drugs that they administered on or before December 31, 2008 from their private stock.

For more information

Physicians who participated in the CAP during 2008 are encouraged to contact the Approved CAP Vendor and reconcile their inventories as soon as possible. Contact information for the Approved CAP Vendor, BioScrip, is available on their

website at www.bioscrip.com. Additional information on the 2009 CAP Postponement is available on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services website at: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcquisforBios/01_overview.asp

2009 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative National Provider Call with Question & Answer Session

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Provider Communications Group will host the first in a series of national provider conference calls on the 2009 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI). This toll-free call will take place from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., EST, on Wednesday, January 14, 2009. Please see complete information included with this fax blast.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE: (Source: Phipps Wealth Management Group)

Q Why are “jumbo” (currently defined as \$417,000 +) mortgage interest rates not coming down like conventional rates?

A Most lenders are not interested in doing initial **or** refinancing jumbos mainly due to the risk now associated with these. The last 12 months have witnessed a continued reevaluation of real estate lending practices in America. The good news is Bank of America/Merrill Lynch, as many of you know, offer some very creative, **historically low** interest rate strategies for qualified clients.

For additional information you may contact: 561-276-1635 Direct - 877-276-1635 Toll Free - 561-922-3275 - Fax - E-mail: jeffrey_phippsr@ml.com - <http://fa.ml.com/PhippsGroup/>

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Genomic Health, Inc. sponsored Interactive Web Conferences

Oncotype Dx Post San Antonio Breast Conference Data Review

Call in number for all: 1-888-504-7949

January 8th, 12PM EST Pass code 9330354

Meeting URL: <http://web.envisioncomm.net/OncotypeDX/Jan8.htm>

January 13th, 1PM EST Pass code 6052549

Meeting URL: <http://web.envisioncomm.net/OncotypeDX/Jan13.htm>

January 22nd, 3PM EST Pass code 9135429

Meeting URL: <http://web.envisioncomm.net/OncotypeDX/Jan22.htm>

Tech support 1 888 569 3848 - To pre register 1 866 984 5114

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP/SPONSORSHIP: (January 1 – December 31, 2008)

FLASCO Members extends a big thanks to all of our 2008 Corporate Members/Sponsors

PLATINUM

Astra Zeneca

Bayer/Onyx

Cephalon Oncology

Eli Lilly

Oncology Supply/ION

Sanofi-Aventis

OPR

Pharmion

AMGEN

Genentech

Abraxis Oncology.

Ortho Biotech

GlaxoSmithKline

The Phipps Wealth

Management Group

GOLD

Celgene

Genomic Health

Novartis

Pfizer

Roche

Bristol Myers Squibb

Wyeth

SILVER

Eisai, Inc.

US Oncology

ImClone Systems

OSI Pharmaceuticals

Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

BRONZE

Boehringer Ingelheim
Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Alexion

Genzyme

FLASCO 2009 MEETINGS:

February 27 & 28, 2009 – FLASCO Spring Meeting – Marriott Sawgrass – Jacksonville

November 6-7, 2009 – FLASCO Fall Meeting – Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel

FLASCO EVENTS:

FLASCO is co-sponsoring the following three Events:

(1) January 17-18, 2009 –Clinical Breakthroughs & Challenges in Hematologic Malignancies – Grand Floridian Resort – Lake Buena Vista - **For more information, call (813) 745-1247 or e-mail: Melissa.Pearson@MOFFITT.org**

(2) February 6 & 7, 2009 – Highlights of ASH – Miami - <http://hematology.org/meetings/highlights/index.cfm#2>.

The FLASCO member code is FLH09

(3) March 20, 2009 – Statewide PA & NP Conference, Moffitt Cancer Center – Tampa

FLASCO Contact Information: Dorothy Green Phillips, Executive Director -3709W. Jetton Ave., Tampa, Florida 33629 - Tel: 800.444.1410, Ext. 4410 - Cell Phone: 813.294.2620 - Fax: 813.349-4410 or 813.349.4472
Email: Dorothy.Green@cancer.org

2009 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative National Provider Call with Question & Answer Session

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Provider Communications Group will host the first in a series of national provider conference calls on the 2009 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI). This toll-free call will take place from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., EST, on Wednesday, January 14, 2009.

The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA) made the PQRI program permanent, but only authorized incentive payments through 2010. Eligible professionals who meet the criteria for satisfactory submission of quality measures data for services furnished during the reporting period, January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009, will earn an incentive payment of 2.0 percent of their total allowed charges for Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) covered professional services furnished during that same period. The 2009 PQRI consists of 153 quality measures and 7 measures groups.

Following a short presentation on what's new for the 2009 PQRI, the lines will be opened to allow participants to ask questions of CMS PQRI subject matter experts.

Educational products are available on the PQRI dedicated web page located at, <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI>, on the CMS website, in the Educational Resources section. Feel free to download the resources prior to the call so that you may ask questions of the presenters, Dr. Michael Rapp and Dr. Daniel Green.

Conference call details:

Date: January 14, 2009

Conference Title: 2009 PQRI- National Provider Call

Time: 1:30 p.m. EST

In order to receive the call-in information, you must register for the call. It is important to note that if you are planning to sit in with a group, only one person needs to register to receive the call-in data. This registration is solely to reserve a phone line, NOT to allow participation. If you cannot attend the call, replay information is available below.

Registration will close at **1:30 p.m. EST on January 13, 2009**, or when available space has been filled. No exceptions will be made, so please be sure to register prior to this time.

1. To register for the call participants need to go to: <http://www2.eventsvc.com/palmettogba/011409>
2. Fill in all required data.
3. Verify your time zone is displayed correctly the drop down box.
4. Click "Register".
5. You will be taken to the "Thank you for registering" page and will receive a confirmation email shortly thereafter. **Note:** Please print and save this page, in the event that your server blocks the confirmation emails. If you do not receive the confirmation email, please check your spam/junk mail filter as it may have been directed there.

For those of you unable to attend, a replay option will be available shortly following the end of the call. This replay will be accessible from 2:30 p.m. EST 1/14/2009 until 11:59 p.m. EST 1/21/2009. The call-in data for the replay is (800) 642-1687 and the passcode is 79451256.