



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST –February 4, 2009

FLASCO WEBSITE: www.flasco.org

FLASCO CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK WEBSITE: www.fctn.org

MESSAGE FROM THE FLASCO PRESIDENT: Robert Cassell, MD

I am pleased to report that US ONCOLOGY has renewed its Silver Corporate Membership with FLASCO. Thank you so much for your continued support of FLASCO.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Rogerio Lilenbaum, MD, Chairman

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. A registration form can be found on our website: www.flasco.org – under events or contact the FLASCO Office.

CLINICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE: Thomas Gaddis, MD, Chairman

Leucovorin:

ASCO has provided some information on the leucovorin situation. They issued a Cancer Policy Alert about 2 weeks ago that addressed the shortage and talked about using levoleucovorin in place of leucovorin. Others have already cautioned about the dosing – another consideration is reimbursement. Levoleuc is significantly more expensive and payers (including Medicare) may not cover so be sure to check coverage before you use it. To read ASCO's Cancer Policy Alert, to go www.asco.org, click on Practice Resources on the left, then Cancer Policy Alert: Leucovorin Shortage on the right.

In this week's issue of Cancer Policy Today, ASCO said the following: ASCO has learned that Leucovorin manufacturers, Teva and Bedford, have confirmed production plans for the remainder of January and for the months of February and March. Teva has increased production and confirmed they are working at full production capacity. The company has, however, noted that it will take several weeks to fill back orders. Bedford has an emergency supply available that can be accessed by contacting the customer service line at 1-800-562-4797.

CMS UPDATES:

2009 Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is pleased to announce that a new educational resource has been posted to the Electronic Prescribing (E-Prescribing) Incentive Program section page on the PQRI web page.

The following item is available for download on the E-Prescribing section page:

2009 Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program Made Simple - This Fact Sheet provides detailed information on how to participate in the 2009 Electronic Prescribing (E-Prescribing) Incentive Program by reporting the E-Prescribing measure.

To access this new, and all, available E-Prescribing educational resources, visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI> on the CMS website and click on the Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program tab. Once on the E-Prescribing page, scroll down to the "Downloads" section and click on the "2009 Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program Made Simple" link.

Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI): Frequently Asked Questions Update The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is pleased to announce that updates to many of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) are now available on the PQRI webpage. A number of FAQs have been revised, while many new FAQs have been added to the system. The purpose of the FAQs is to provide detailed answers to

common questions regarding the PQRI program. Among the various FAQs included in this update are several related to the 2007 PQRI data re-run. The FAQs may be found in the “Related Links Inside CMS” section of the PQRI webpage at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri/> on the CMS website.

2009 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI): New Educational Products Now Available

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is pleased to announce that two new educational resources have been posted to the PQRI webpage on the CMS website.

To access these new, and all, available educational resources, visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI> on the CMS website and click on the Educational Resources tab. Once on the Educational Resources page, scroll down to the “Downloads” section and click on the “2009 PQRI Fact Sheet: What’s New for the 2009 PQRI” and the “2009 PQRI Made Simple- Reporting the Preventive Care Measures Group” links

MEDLEARN MATTERS:

New:

SE0902 – Important Information for Providers Serving Medicare Beneficiaries Enrolled in Private Fee-for-Service Plans –

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced a new process for handling payment disputes raised by providers who serve Medicare patients enrolled in MA PFFS plans. Such disputes arise when the billing provider is not satisfied with the MA PFFS organizations payment and the provider has exhausted the dispute resolution process with that organization. Effective January 1, 2009, CMS has delegated the adjudication of Private Fee-for-Service Plan (PFFS) Provider Payment disputes to an Independent Review Entity, i.e., First Coast Service Options, Inc. (FCSO). Therefore, as of January 1, 2009, after having exhausted the appeals process with the PFFS plan; providers should begin submitting payment dispute decision requests directly to FCSO. This process applies to providers treating such patients, where the provider has not contracted with the MA PFFS organization. Providers rendering such services without contracting with the MA PFFS plan are “deemed” providers for that plan. Please go to the following link for more detail.

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0902.pdf>

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, FLORIDA DIVISION, INC.

Pass the Buck campaign

The American Cancer Society, Florida Division, is advocating for a \$1 per pack tax increase on cigarettes. By raising the tax, the state can reduce tobacco consumption, reduce the health care costs from tobacco-related diseases, and generate significant funding to invest in our state’s health care system. FLASCO supports this initiative.

ACS has also seen a flurry of tobacco tax activity in Washington, D.C. in recent days, as the U.S. Senate last week followed the House’s lead in adopting a 61-cents per pack increase in the federal levy. While the bills have to be reconciled before heading to the President’s desk, it is likely to expect that the new federal cigarette tax increase will be officially adopted by the time ACS arrives at the state capitol for its annual Advocacy Day in Tallahassee, February 17-18. This congressional action will not deter their completely separate STATE initiative. In fact, this concurrent national effort presents one of the greatest public health opportunities of our time. Should the initiative be successful in Tallahassee, the timing of multiple increases going into effect at roughly the same time would dramatically enhance the public health impact, which is our number one aim.

New cigarette tax legislation for 2009 is expected to be filed in Tallahassee in the coming days. In the Senate, Senator Ted Deutch (D-Delray Beach) once again will be the prime sponsor of our legislation. While Representative Jim Waldman (D-Coconut Creek) has once again stepped forward on the House side, we are anticipating another piece of legislation by Representative Juan Zapata (R-Miami). There is also greater interest in co-sponsorship in both chambers. ACS will continue to work closely with all legislators on this important public health priority.

COA UPDATE:

The **NEW COA Administrators’ Network (CAN)** website will be officially launched at the Community Oncology Conference this Thursday, 2/5. Bobbi Buell, the CAN Web Mistress, presides over a website that features the latest information and resources for community oncology practice administrators. The underlying theme of CAN is to help

community oncology practices communicate on a variety of operational, clinical, and strategic matters. The CAN website is accessible via the main COA website (<http://www.communityoncology.org>).

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

The CBCE, along with conference chairmen Dr. Rogerio Lilenbaum and Dr. Mark Socinski, would like to invite all FLASCO members to the upcoming Winter Lung Cancer Conference, **March 6-8th in Sunny Isles Beach, FL**. They are pleased to extend to FLASCO members a discounted conference registration rate of **\$75.00**.

This activity is intended for medical, surgical, and radiation oncologists; thoracic surgeons; pulmonologists; nurses; pharmacists; advanced practitioners; physician assistants; and other healthcare professionals interested in the treatment of patients with lung cancer. The program is accredited for physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and physician assistants.

Registration Link: www.thebce.com/wlcc

BUSINESS AND FINANCE: (Source: Phipps Wealth Management Group

Q – If I am looking for a proactive TAX ADVISOR versus just a tax preparer, how do I find one? The only time I ever hear from my person is when I call them!

A – After building a Florida physician practice for the last 30 years, the Phipps Wealth Management Group has identified CPAs all over the state who are much, much more than just reactive – we will be more than happy to put you in touch with someone from your area if you are interested.

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/>

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP/SPONSORSHIP: (January 1 – December 31, 2009)

FLASCO Members extend a big thanks to all of our 2009 Corporate Members/Sponsors (Companies listed below have either paid 2009 dues or have submitted letters of intent)

PLATINUM

AMGEN
Bayer/Onyx
Cephalon Oncology
Eli Lilly
Oncology Supply/ION
Sanofi-Aventis
Celgene
Eisai, Inc.
Ortho Biotech
Genentech
GlaxoSmithKline
The Phipps Wealth
Management Group
Novartis
Astra Zeneca

GOLD

Abraxis Oncology
Bristol Myers Squibb
Genomic Health
Wyeth
Roche
Millennium

SILVER

OSI Pharmaceuticals
US Oncology

BRONZE

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

March 6-7, 2010 – Location TBD

FLASCO EVENTS:

FLASCO is co-sponsoring the following two Events:

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

The FLASCO member code is FLH09

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

OTHER EVENTS:

March 6 – 8, 2009 – Sixth Annual Winter Lung Cancer Conference – Sunny Isles Beach, FL - <http://www.thebce.com/>

April 3 – 4, 2009 – OMF 2009 Spring Conference – Renaissance Orlando at Sea World – registration form is available at:

<http://www.oncologymanagersofflorida.com/>

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