



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST –February 11, 2009

FLASCO WEBSITE: www.flasco.org

FLASCO CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK WEBSITE: www.fctn.org

MESSAGE FROM THE FLASCO PRESIDENT: Robert Cassell, MD

Congratulations to FLASCO Member, **Dr. Lewis E. Auerbach**, a hematologist/oncologist from Brandon, on being awarded the Florida Board of Medicine Chairman's Recognition Award for his work in providing care to the poor.

I am pleased to report that **Cephalon Oncology** has renewed its **Platinum** Membership and **Bristol Myers Squibb** has renewed its **Gold** Membership with FLASCO. Thank you so much for your continued support of FLASCO

The Highlights of ASH which was held in Miami this past weekend was an outstanding conference. We had 23 FLASCO members in attendance.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Rogério 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.

DRUG AND INDUSTRY UPDATES:

Abraxane Monograph - DrugDex

On February 4th, DrugDex updated its Abraxane monograph to include first-line combination treatment of NSCLC. The language from the DrugDex monograph appears below.

4.5.E Non-small cell lung cancer, Advanced or metastatic, first-line treatment, in combination with carboplatin and bevacizumab

1) Overview

FDA Approval: Adult, no; Pediatric, no

Efficacy: Adult, Evidence favors efficacy

Recommendation: Adult, Class IIb

Strength of Evidence: Adult, Category B

See Drug Consult reference: RECOMMENDATION AND EVIDENCE RATINGS

2) Summary:

In an open-label, phase 2 study presented in abstract form and as a presentation (n=50), 31.3% of patients with advanced non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) achieved a partial response following first-line therapy with nanoparticle albumin-bound paclitaxel, carboplatin, and bevacizumab.(Reynolds et al, 2007; Reynoldset al,null).

Copies of the updated Abraxane monograph are available at Abraxis Oncology's ARC of Support, (800) 564-0216, Option 3. That number is staffed 8 AM to 8 PM, Monday to Friday

Degarelix

Ferring Pharmaceuticals (Parsippany, N.J.) received approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for degarelix, a new injectable gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) receptor antagonist, indicated for patients with advanced prostate

cancer. Degarelix is the only GnRH (gonadotropin releasing hormone) receptor antagonist approved by the FDA for the treatment of hormonally-sensitive advanced prostate cancer. Degarelix achieves medical castration differently than LHRH agonists, specifically by binding reversibly to GnRH receptors on cells in the pituitary gland, quickly reducing the release of gonadotropins and consequently testosterone.

NEW PRODUCTS:

Mozobil (Genzyme)

Pharmacological class: Hematopoietic stem cell mobilizer

Active Ingredient: Plerixafor 20mg/mL; soln for SC inj; preservative-free.

Indication: In combination with granulocyte colony stimulating factor (G-CSF): To mobilize hematopoietic stem cells to the peripheral blood for collection and autologous transplantation in patients with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma or multiple myeloma.

FIRST COAST SERVICE OPTIONS:

Claims denied in error

First Coast Service Options Inc. (FCSO) recently discovered that some claims that were processed on and after Tuesday, February 3, 2009, were denied incorrectly with claim adjustment reason codes CO-23 or CO-119.

- CO-23: The impact of prior payer(s) adjudication including payments and/or adjustments.
- CO-119: Benefit maximum for this time period has been reached.

FCSO is working diligently to resolve this issue. Once it has been corrected, FCSO will reprocess any claims that were denied inappropriately. **No action by the provider will be required.** Additional information will be posted to the FCSO Medicare provider Web site as it becomes available.

CMS UPDATES:

The Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Fact Sheet

The Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Fact Sheet (January 2009), which provides general information about the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, is now available in downloadable format from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services **Medicare Learning Network** at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/MedcrePhysFeeSchedfctsht.pdf>

RAC Protest Resolved:

Protest Resolved: On February 4, 2009 the parties involved in the protest of the award of the Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) contracts settled the protests. The settlement means that the stop work order has been lifted and CMS will now continue with the implementation of the RAC program.

Under the program, the four RACs will contract with subcontractors to supplement their efforts. PRG-Schultz, Inc. will serve as a subcontractor to HDI, DCS and CGI in regions A, B and D. Viant Payment Systems, Inc. will serve as a subcontractor to Connolly Consulting in region C. Each subcontractor has negotiated different responsibilities in each region, including some claim review. <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/RAC/>

Understanding the Remittance Advice: A Guide for Medicare Providers, Physicians, Suppliers, and Billers

(October 2008) is now available to download from the CMS Medicare Learning Network (MLN). This publication is designed to help fee-for-service Medicare providers understand the remittance advice (RA), its applicable uses, and how to interpret RA fields and codes communicated by Medicare contractors. To view, download and print this guide, please go to the **CMS Medicare Learning Network (MLN)** at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/RA_Guide_Full_03-22-06.pdf

Medicare Fee-for-Service Professional Providers and Suppliers:

The latest Claim Adjustment Reason Codes and Remittance Advice Remark Codes are available in the Codes.ini file for the MREP software. You can access this file in the Zipped folder for "Medicare Remit Easy Print - Version 2.5" at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/AccessstoDataApplication/02_MedicareRemitEasyPrint.asp on the CMS website.

MEDLEARN MATTERS:

Revised:

SE0833 – Medicare Part B Drug Competitive Acquisition Program (CAP) Postponed for 2009

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0833.pdf>

MM6100 – Physician Signature Requirements for Diagnostic Tests

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6100.pdf>

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 – I understand there has been an increasing number of Letter of Inquiries from patients/plaintiffs attorneys. What do I need to know about asset and Income protection?

A – Florida laws and statutes offer a degree of protection, for all citizens, against legal judgments. Also, there are various asset ownership structures that can be employed to assist in protecting your assets and income. For further information, please contact us.

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/>

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, FLORIDA DIVISION, INC., UPDATE:

PASS THE BUCK for a Healthier Florida! The Campaign to Raise Florida's Tobacco Excise Tax

Last week's most significant development occurred in Washington, D.C., as the President signed into law a 61.6-cents per pack increase in the federal cigarette tax, raising that levy to just over a buck. This represents a huge victory for public health, as tobacco consumption will surely decline in every state, including Florida, as a result of this national, across-the-board increase. Our separate and distinct effort to raise the cigarette tax here in Florida will continue in earnest, as we still have the sixth lowest in the country and we still have a health care system that is hit hard by the scourge of tobacco use. The action by Congress actually presents us with an opportunity for one of the greatest public health victories of our time...the prospect of leveraging the federal increase with a concurrent hike at the state level could encourage an enormous number of smokers in this state to quit. More importantly, it would discourage significantly more kids from ever taking up the deadly habit in the first place.

The Florida Senate formally began discussions of the ACS issue last week, as the upper chamber's Finance and Tax Committee, chaired by Senator Thad Altman (R-Melbourne), heard a staff report on the history tobacco taxes in Florida. It is widely anticipated that the Senate will be open to considering the cigarette tax as at least part of a package to adjust the state's tax structure during the 2009 legislative session. The American Cancer Society and its allies look forward to being an active part of that conversation

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) **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.thebcce.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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