



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST – February 21, 2008

**MESSAGE FROM FLASCO PRESIDENT: Robert Cassell, MD**

FLASCO extends a big thanks to **NOVARTIS** for becoming a GOLD Member for 2008.

**CLINICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE: Thomas Gaddis, MD, Chairman**

Current information on Stark II regulations and the OIG position on prompt pay discounts can be found on the following website; [http://www.magnetmail.net/actions/email\\_web\\_version.cfm?recipient\\_id=89025395&message\\_id=435912&user\\_id=MGMA](http://www.magnetmail.net/actions/email_web_version.cfm?recipient_id=89025395&message_id=435912&user_id=MGMA)

**Admin. Denials When Billing for Drugs with A Zero Charge**

Michelle Smith Flowers from OMF and the FLASCO Executive Director have been working on this issue. Providers have been receiving denials for administration codes when billing for drugs using a zero charge. Since practices see patients enrolled in Patient Assistance Programs or in Clinical Trials, it was important to resolve this issue as quickly as possible. FCSO has been researching this problem for several months now and has acknowledged as **a result of editing error**, the system denied the administration code whenever a zero charge was billed for a drug. **There was a correction to FCSO system January 15th that should avoid further denials. The question now remains, what do you do with your denied claims?**

For those of you who have denied claims and have not submitted them for redetermination **AND** for those of you who have gone thru redetermination and the denials were upheld - **The current suggestion is to call the customer service lines**, explain the issue and be sure and tell them **this was an editing error that was corrected on January 15th. There is a possibility of reopening claims for payment or, if you have already gone through redetermination, handling your claims without requiring you to go to the next level, Q2 administrator.**

Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

**Recent Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) Audits in Florida**

FLASCO heard from many members regarding audits conducted by HealthDataInsights, Inc., a recovery audit contractor (RAC). A number of the audits centered around add-on codes, which included many of the 2005 drug administration codes.

FLASCO immediately alerted ASCO staff and they immediately started working on this issue for us. Based on the scope of the audit, it was clear that the RAC did not fully understand the appropriate use of the drug administration codes. ASCO contacted the contractor and provided documentation on the correct use of the codes. ASCO also wrote a letter to CMS regarding the audits. ASCO was notified that the RAC would rescind or stop audits that were specifically related to the drug administration G-codes (more specifically the add-on codes) and that letters would be sent to providers regarding the audit status. ASCO's involvement in these audits and efforts made to educate the contractor was a direct impact of hearing from our FLASCO Members so ASCO could be alerted. **THANKS ASCO!**

If you have concerns related to a RAC or a RAC audit, contact Julia Tomkins in the Cancer Policy & Clinical Affairs Department at 703-299-1050 or [tomkinsj@asco.org](mailto:tomkinsj@asco.org).

**Revised Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Fact Sheet**

The revised Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Fact Sheet (January 2008) 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: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mLNproducts/downloads/MedcrePhysFeeSchedfetsht.pdf>

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

## **Contact Your Senators Regarding Medicare Physician Payments**

Current Medicare physician payment rates are scheduled to be cut by 10.6% on July 1, and by an additional 5% on January 1, 2009. Now is the time to reach out to your Senators and impress upon them the importance of preventing cuts to Medicare that will endanger access to care for people with cancer.

## **CMS UPDATES:**

### **Importance of "Complete" Medicare Provider/Supplier Enrollment Applications**

Correcting your 855 enrollment form can be critical to assuring your claims are processed. We are urging providers to avoid delays in 855 processing that are caused by missing or incomplete information.

### **Make sure you Understand the Key Dates: New MLN Matters Article Now Available**

The latest NPI-related MLN Matters Article is now available and illustrates information, in chart form, regarding the difference between the March 1<sup>st</sup> and May 23<sup>rd</sup> FFS Medicare NPI implementation dates. Visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0802.pdf> to view this article.

### **REMINDER for FFS Medicare Physicians, Non-Physician Practitioners & Other Suppliers**

*Effective March 1, 2008, all 837P and CMS-1500 claims must have an NPI or NPI/legacy pair in the required primary provider fields. Failure to include an NPI will cause the claim to reject.*

Visit the CMS NPI web page at [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/02\\_WhatsNew.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/02_WhatsNew.asp) for more details.

## **FDA UPDATES:**

### **Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals, in consultation with the FDA, are Announcing the Market Withdrawal of Leukine®**

Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals, in consultation with the FDA, are informing oncologists, hematologists and other health care professionals of the market withdrawal of the current liquid formulation of Leukine®, a growth factor that helps fight infection and disease in appropriate patients by enhancing immune cell function. Leukine® is presently marketed under the Berlex Laboratories name.

It is important to note that the upward trend in reporting rates for certain adverse events (increase in reporting rates of syncope, with or without documented hypotension) is only associated with the current liquid Leukine® containing EDTA. The lyophilized formulation of Leukine® is not affected.

Bayer is withdrawing current stock, and no longer accepting new orders, nor will any existing orders be fulfilled of the liquid Leukine®. Healthcare professionals are to return all supplies of liquid Leukine®500 mcg vials to Bayer. Questions can be directed to Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals toll-free at 1-888-84Bayer (1-888-842-2937). The "Dear Health Care Professional" letter and background information can be viewed on the [FDA MedWatch site](#) FDA issues draft guidance for dissemination of information about off-label drug use

**The FDA issued draft guidance detailing recommendations for ways in which the pharmaceutical industry can distribute medical and scientific journal articles that involve off-label uses for approved products.** As part of its guidance, the FDA recommended that journal articles distributed by drugmakers which involve unapproved uses of products should be peer-reviewed and published by an organization that has an editorial board. [Full story - http://www.firstwordplus.com/Fws.do?articleid=3F6352F6CFF64F359EE00FF1CD9E0A6E](http://www.firstwordplus.com/Fws.do?articleid=3F6352F6CFF64F359EE00FF1CD9E0A6E)

## **DRUG AND INDUSTRY NEWS:**

AAP Pharmaceuticals announced that it is increasing production of heparin in order to help meet US demand after Baxter halted production of its heparin product last week on safety concerns. APP stated that the FDA has acted rapidly to approve the company's new production lines for the anticoagulant and the company said it is now in a situation to be able to supply the entire US market.

## **ASH UPDATES:**

### **Medicare Reimbursement for Radioimmunotherapy Agents for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma Continues to be Controversial**

Despite legislative language included in the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007, the 2008 hospital outpatient payment level does not cover the full costs of the radioimmunotherapies (RIT) of Bexxar (tositumomab/iodine

I131 tositumomab) and Zevalin (indium111 ibitumomab tiuxetan/yttrium 90 ibitumomab tiuxetan) used as treatment options for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma.

ASH is concerned that inadequate payment will jeopardize patient access to this important therapy. ASH has been actively involved in this issue and has expressed its concerns in a [letter to CMS](#) and a [letter to the Senate Finance Committee](#). Consequently, a Senator on the Finance Committee has asked ASH to help draft new legislative language and work with CMS to understand the intent of the current legislation. ASH also will attend the March APC Meeting where RITs will be discussed and continue to monitor the situation. If you become aware of any reluctance by hospitals to provide radioimmunotherapy treatment to Medicare patients because of cost considerations, contact [Carol Schwartz](#), Senior Manager of Policy and Practice.

### **ESA Update: ODAC to Continue ESA Discussions in March**

The FDA's Oncologic Drugs Advisory Council (ODAC) will be meeting on March 12-13 and will address recent study results on the risks of erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (ESAs) in the cancer population. This is a continuation of ODAC discussions from last May that helped prompt the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) restrictions in its National Coverage Determination (NCD). ASH will present its views on the design of a research agenda on ESAs with the American Society of Clinical Oncology at the March meeting. The upcoming meeting will also address the biologic license application for Romiplostim for specific treatment issues in chronic idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura and supplemental license application for peginterferon alfa-2b for adjuvant treatment of melanoma. ASH will keep members informed of developments.

### **NCI INFORMATION:**

#### **NEW Cancer Clinical Trials DVD and Patient Booklet are available!**

The National Cancer Institute is pleased to announce the availability of two new resources: a new DVD, *Understanding Cancer Clinical Trials* and a new booklet, *Taking Part in Cancer Treatment Research Studies*. These resources will help you discuss clinical trials with potential participants, their families, peers, and community groups.

**How Can I Order Free Materials?** Call 1-800-4-CANCER or go to [NCI's Clinical Trials Education Series](#) to view the booklet or place an order for the DVD

## **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  
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Genentech

### **GOLD**

Celgene  
Genomic Health  
Novartis

### **SILVER**

MGI Pharma  
US Oncology Physician Services

### **BRONZE**

Boehringer Ingelheim  
Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
Alexion

### **FLASCO EVENTS:**

**March 7-8, 2008** – FLASCO Spring Meeting – Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel

**November 7-8, 2008** – FLASCO Fall Meeting – Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel

### **FLASCO Contact Information:**

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