



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST –March 12, 2009

FLASCO WEBSITE: www.flasco.org

FLASCO CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK WEBSITE: www.fctn.org

MESSAGE FROM THE FLASCO PRESIDENT: Gerald Robbins, MD

IMPORTANT NOTICE: You will be receiving some **extremely important information from the FLASCO Executive Committee later today or tomorrow – please watch for this special fax!!!!**

I am pleased to report that **NOVARTIS PHARMACEUTICALS CORP, GLAXOSMITHKLINE, ELI LILLY & COMPANY,** and **PFIZER** have renewed their Platinum Corporate Memberships for 2009. **MILLENNIUM PHARMACEUTICALS** and **WYETH PHARMACEUTICALS** have both renewed their Gold Corporate Membership for 2009 as well. Thank you so much for your continued support of FLASCO!

Correction to the 2008 FLASCO Accomplishments that was distributed last week: Under FCTN's accomplishments for 2008, we should have said that the Pfizer study was also opened in 2008.

FLASCO extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Syed Ahmed, MD	Amit I. Shah, MD, PA - Sebring, FL	Regular Member
Louis Astra, MD	MPM Bay Area Surgical Specialists – New Port Richey, FL	Regular Member
John Nanfro, MD	Northwest Florida Hematology Oncology – Lynn Haven, FL	Regular Member
Eduardo Rios, PA	MPM Bay Area Surgical Specialists – New Port Richey, FL	Affiliate Member
Rosemary Giuliano, ARNP	MPM Bay Area Surgical Specialists – New Port Richey, FL	Affiliate Member

Moffitt PA Announcement: FLASCO Member, Alan F. List, MD., Executive Vice President/Physician-in-Chief at the Moffitt Cancer Center has announced the integration of mid-level representation into the Moffitt Medical Group Mid-Level and hospital oversight committees beginning April 1, 2009. FLASCO expresses congratulations to our **Affiliate Member, Dave Johnson, PA-C** on being named the new Mid-level Practice Leader. In this role he will be responsible for communicating developments to mid-level colleagues at the monthly meeting of the mid-level membership, identify emerging challenges to the practice and insure commensurate programmatic utilization.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Jose Lutzky, MD, Chairman

PA/NP Conference:

The first Annual PA/NP Conference, which is being co-sponsored by FLASCO and The Moffitt Cancer Center, is being held at **Moffitt on March 20, 2009**. For additional information please visit our website at: **www.flasco.org**. The meeting announcement and registration form are available on the website.

FLASCO would like to extend a sincere thank you to the following companies who have provided educational grants in order to make this conference possible: **GlaxoSmithKline, Sanofi-Aventis, Cephalon Oncology, Celgene and Gentenech**. Thank you for your continued support of FLASCO's efforts. Also, a special thanks to the companies who will be exhibiting at this Conference.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Erin Dunbar, MD, Chairman and Scott Tetreault, MD, Vice Chairman
2009 Legislative Session Week #1

The Florida Legislature started its active consideration of bills this past week.

In official Senate Activity, the Health Regulation Committee voted unanimously to approve a Prescription Monitoring Program in an effort to stop the proliferation of “pill mills” and “doctor shopping. That same Committee also **voted to exempt physician practices from having to obtain a Health Care Establishment Permit in order dispense drugs**, and to eliminate the Low Income Pool Advisory Council while reaffirming its commitment to the Low Income Pool funding mechanism for hospitals that provide significant amounts of uncompensated care.

The House Health Regulation Committee’s major action was to approve legislation that would eliminate the need for physician supervisors to co-sign the notes of physician assistants.

Despite these notable record votes, much of the work centered on larger issues, such as Medicaid spending and a proposed merger of the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of Health. While the federal stimulus bill will provide some relief, there is a growing belief that the tough fiscal decisions need to be made this year. As for the proposed merger of AHCA and DOH, we have received assurances that DOH would be the ultimate survivor, with a physician as its head, although many legislators are expressing a belief that any such merger is not warranted at this time.

UNITED HEALTH CARE UPDATE: (Source: Lee Newcomer, MD)

Dr. Lee Newcomer has sent us an update on the UnitedHealth Premium[®] physician designation program for oncology. In the past, oncologists were invited to participate in the program by completing a survey about important clinical characteristics regarding their individual practice. Those who submitted a survey response and met the program requirements were recognized on their online Web sites with the Quality designation.

The UnitedHealth Premium designation program, which has evaluated physicians in 21 different specialties, continues to evolve based upon the input of practicing physicians and medical specialty societies. As a result of this input, UnitedHealthcare has decided to discontinue the current, survey-based approach to Premium designation for oncology. This spring, the online directories will display “Specialty Not Evaluated” next to the name of network oncologists. This is how they currently display the names of other physicians who are in specialties that are not evaluated in the Premium designation program.

The company will continue to work with oncologists and their specialty organizations to develop programs that support practice improvement. For example, in the future, they will recognize physicians on their consumer Web sites, for their participation in the American Society of Clinical Oncology’s Quality Oncology Practice Initiative program (QOPI[®]). Additionally, they are testing a set of measures for oncology quality and cost efficiency based on national standards from specialty societies and the NCCN. Only after these measures are validated, will they be used in the future releases of the UnitedHealth Premium designation program for oncology.

If you would like more information on these changes or the QOPI recognition program, please go to the “News” section of the physician portal at www.UnitedHealthcareOnline.com. The company will post news articles throughout the year as updates are made. You can also call their Premium program line toll-free at (866) 270-5588.

All of their contracted physicians will receive a letter this week notifying them of the change in the program. Dr. Newcomer wanted to give State Societies an advance notice of this mailing in case you get questions

FCSO UPDATES:

Diagnostic tests subject to the anti-markup pricing limitation

Effective date: July 1, 2009

Implementation date: July 6, 2009

Summary

This article clarifies changes related to diagnostic tests (formerly known as "purchased diagnostic tests" and the revised anti-markup provisions of the Medicare regulations. It also provides instructions for determining when the anti-markup payment limitation applies and when it does not apply.

The anti-markup provision applies when a physician or other supplier orders a diagnostic test (payable under the Medicare physician fee schedule and excluding clinical diagnostic laboratory tests) and bills for the technical component (TC) or professional component (PC) performed or supervised by another physician or other supplier, who does not “share a

practice” with the physician or supplier that ordered the test. **Note:** This new provision does not apply to independent laboratories.

Until the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services changes all references to “purchased diagnostic tests” in Medicare manuals to “anti-markup test(s),” any reference to a “purchased diagnostic test” should be considered as an anti-markup test. Here is the link to the MLN Matters article [MM6371](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6371.pdf)
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6371.pdf>

DRUG & INDUSTRY UPDATES:

Oxaliplatin Coverage:

Mayo Clinic Jacksonville asked FSCO to reconsider adding ICD-9-CM diagnosis code range 150.0-150.9 (malignant neoplasm of the esophagus) to the LCD determination for Oxaliplatin (J9263) Dr. George Kim, who spoke at our recent FLASOC Meeting, provided Journal Articles supporting the treatment.

In the letter Mayo received from FCSO it stated that: It was determined that the off-label indication of esophageal cancer, when used in combination with other FDA approved or CMS approved compendia supported chemotherapy regimens, will be added to the LCD. This will include the addition of the above range of ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes.

The normal revision process will be followed which usually takes several weeks. The revised LCD will be posted to the CMS website (which can be viewed through the website for FCSO www.fcso.com, when completed

Degarelix for advanced prostate cancer

On December 29, 2008, Degarelix (injectable gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) receptor antagonist, from Ferring Pharmaceuticals) was approved by the FDA for treatment of hormonally-sensitive advanced prostate cancer. Clinical trials demonstrated its effectiveness in reducing and sustaining castrate levels of testosterone, a hormone that stimulates prostate cancer growth. Presently, a tradename is still pending for degarelix. It is available in 80mg and 120mg vials of powder for reconstitution. For more information call (888) FERRING or visit www.ferringusa.com

NEW PA PROGRAM IN THE TAMPA AREA

A new PA program is starting in Tampa. They are part of South University out of Savannah, but the Tampa branch will be completely based here. Future PA clinical rotations for heme/onc, med/onc, gyn/onc, gen onc surgery, ortho/onc, and pain/palliative care at Moffitt. They are **looking for individual community docs** as well. They won't need rotation sites until 2010, however, it takes times for the paperwork.

If your practice in the Tampa area would be interested in participating in this program please let the FLASCO Executive Director know by March 15, 2009.

MEDICAID UPDATES:

2009 Fee Schedules

Medicaid implementation of the 2009 Health Care Procedure Codes (HCPCS) and fees has been delayed until approximately the end of March 2009. Until the codes are finally implemented, codes deleted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on January 1, 2009, will remain deleted and can no longer be used for billing.

Deleted codes that have been given replacement codes by CMS will have a January 1, 2009, effective date. New 2009 codes designated for Medicaid coverage will also have a January 1, 2009, effective date.

Medicaid will not reprocess any claims due to delayed implementation of HCPCs. Providers may resubmit any claim that may have been denied between January 1 and March 31, 2009, if the denial is due to the delayed implementation of code and fee changes. The same applies to affected Medicare crossover claims. Medicaid will notify you when they are activated.

CMS MLNMATTERS:

New: MM6306 – Disclosure of Physician Ownership in Hospitals

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6306.pdf>

MM6329 – Providers Submitting Information Regarding Medicare Beneficiaries Entitled to Medicare Advantage (MA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 for the Medicare/Supplemental Security Income

(SSI)<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6329.pdf>

Revised: SE0837 – Preparing for a Transition from an FI/Carrier to a Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC)

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0837.pdf>

Revised: MM6321 – Outpatient Therapy Caps with Exceptions in Calendar Year (CY)

2009<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6321.pdf>

MM6139 – Implementation of New Provider Authentication Requirements for Medicare Contractor Provider Telephone and Written Inquiries

Effective April 6, 2009, when you call either the IVR system, or a CSR, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will require you to provide three data elements for authentication: 1) Your National Provider Identifier (NPI); 2) Your Provider Transaction Access Number (PTAN); and 3) The last 5-digits of your tax identification number (TIN). For complete information: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6139.pdf>

CMS UPDATES:

CMS Advised MedPac About Drastic Cuts, Minus 21.5 percent, to Physician Payments

In a March 1, 2009, letter to Glenn M. Hackbarth, chair, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provided new estimates that the statutory formula used to determine the physician update will result in a 2010 conversion factor of \$28.3208 and a Physician Fee Schedule update of minus 21.5 percent.

In the past few years, Congress has acted to halt cuts due to the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula. These cuts have all been short-term fixes, lasting from 6 to 18 months. There is talk this year by members of Congress of attempting to fix the problem for the long term. The biggest issue, however, is that a long-term fix could cost upwards of \$200 billion over 10 years. It is believed that the SGR issue will likely be addressed by Congress in the second half of the year

Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program (E-Prescribing) web page

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is pleased to announce the new Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program (E-Prescribing) web page at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ERXIncentive> on the CMS website. All information about the E-Prescribing Incentive Program has been moved from the CMS PQRI web page at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI> to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ERXIncentive>.

This new web page provides information about the new E-Prescribing incentive program that was authorized by the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA).

FDA UPDATES:

FDA Public Health Advisory Risk of Burns during MRI Scans from Transdermal Drug Patches

The FDA has issued a public health advisory regarding the risk of burns during MRI scans from transdermal drug patches. The FDA recommends that healthcare professionals referring patients to have an MRI scan identify those patients who are wearing a patch before the patients have the MRI scan.

The FDA also urges health care professionals to report possible cases of skin burns while wearing patches during an MRI to the FDA through the MedWatch program by phone (1-800-FDA-1088) or [MedWatch website](#).

To review the full public health advisory including a list of affected transdermal drug patches, please visit the [FDA webpage](#). A brief podcast by FDA on this public health advisory is also available by visiting the [FDA Drug Safety Podcasts webpage](#)

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

Q Are their opportunities being created because of the historically low interest rates?

A Yes. Many of our practices and individual physician clients are finding they have the ability to optimize their net income because of the rate situation. Several ways to take advantage of this. Please contact us if you have an interest.

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
Pfizer

GOLD

Abraxis Oncology
Bristol Myers Squibb
Genomic Health
Wyeth
Roche
Millennium

SILVER

OSI Pharmaceuticals
US Oncology

BRONZE

Genzyme

FLASCO 2009 MEETINGS:

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 Event:

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

OTHER EVENTS:

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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