



**FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST – October 2, 2008**  
**FLASCO WEBSITE: [www.flasco.org](http://www.flasco.org)**

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

**New Corporate Member**

FLASCO extends its sincere thanks and welcomes a new **Platinum Corporate Member – the Phipps Group – Merrill Lynch**. The Phipps Group builds asset and income protection strategies for uniquely successful medical specialists whose success has put them at risk of litigation and the possible loss of personal assets. They specialize in servicing the financial, income protection and risk management needs of physicians who are interested in fully harvesting the financial potential of their specialization. By conducting financial “H&P”’s the company is able to diagnose and treat their clients wealth management issues.

**New Law that will Affect Practices:**

As many of you know, in its last session, the Florida Legislature changed the law relating to purchase and distribution of prescription drugs (including chemotherapy). This was the result of House Bill 7049. There now is a Health Care Clinic Establishment permit which is required for corporations to purchase drug. Last week on behalf of FLASCO, I attended the DOH workshop on this issue – **please see my attached report on this Workshop. This is a very important to your practice.**

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Rogerio Lilenbaum, MD, Chairman**

**FLASCO Fall Meeting – November 7 & 8, 2008**

You are encouraged to attend the FLASCO Fall Meeting which is being held at the Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel on November 7 & 8, 2008. Complete information has been sent to you previously and the information and registration form are available on the FLASCO website: [www.flasco.org](http://www.flasco.org)

**ACCC Regional Symposia Coming to Tampa – November 6, 2008 – Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel –**

The Program Committee is pleased to announce that FLASCO is co-sponsoring the ACCC Regional Oncology Economic and Management Symposia. This free meeting is designed to help the oncology team meet the challenges of delivering quality cancer care in the hospital and office settings.

To register go to: [http://www.accc-ancer.org/meetings/meetings\\_freesymposia.asp](http://www.accc-ancer.org/meetings/meetings_freesymposia.asp)

**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. You may register at [www.hematology.org/meetings/highlights](http://www.hematology.org/meetings/highlights). Let’s have a good showing of attendees from FLASCO!

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

**Leon County Judge Orders Md Medicare Choice Into Receivership For Purposes Of Liquidation**

A Leon County Circuit Court judge ordered Tampa-based MD Medicare Choice (MDMC), a Medicare Advantage plan with more than 16,000 members in 23 Florida counties, placed into receivership for the purpose of liquidation. The Department of Financial Services (DFS) was named receiver, effective at 11:59 p.m. September 30, and will work closely with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Humana, which will provide replacement coverage effective Wednesday, October 1.

As a result of the court order, CMS is terminating MDMC’s Medicare Advantage contract, and the CMS Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug contract with MDMC will be cancelled at 11:59 September 30, when policyholders were switched to Humana policies that provide similar benefits. For information about Humana benefits, beneficiaries should

call 1-800-758-4806 (TTY, please call 1-800-833-3301). For information about the receivership, call 1-800-882-3054 or visit <http://www.myfloridacfo.com/Receiver/>

MDMC has policyholders in Alachua, Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Miami-Dade, Duval, Escambia, Hernando, Hillsborough, Lake, Lee, Manatee, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Seminole, and Volusia counties.

In addition to the replacement coverage with Humana, members also have a special enrollment period if they wish to choose another plan before the end of 2008.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Julio Hajdenberg, MD, Chairman**

Due to the continuous increase in postage, in the future most of the FLASCO correspondence to FLASCO Members will be by fax or e-mail. It is extremely important for you to keep the FLASCO Executive Director **informed of your current fax number and e-mail address**. Apparently, we don't have e-mail addresses and/or fax numbers for at least 40% of the Membership. Don't miss out on important information as a benefit of your membership – keep your information current with the FLASCO Office.

**DRUG & INDUSTRY UPDATES:**

**FDA grants expanded approval for Eli Lilly's Alimta in NSCLC**

Eli Lilly and Company announced it received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the use of Alimta (pemetrexed for injection), in combination with cisplatin, in the first-line treatment of locally-advanced and metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), for patients with nonsquamous histology. Alimta is not indicated for treatment of patients with squamous cell non-small cell lung cancer. NSCLC is the most common form of lung cancer, resulting in more than 180,000 new cases in the U.S. each year

Based on the same data, the FDA also approved a change to the second-line indication. Alimta is indicated as a single agent for the treatment of patients with locally-advanced or metastatic nonsquamous non-small cell lung cancer after prior chemotherapy. Alimta is not indicated for treatment of patients with squamous cell non-small cell lung cancer

**FCSO UPDATES:**

**Healthcare provider taxonomy code update effective October 1, 2008**

Effective October 1, 2008, the Healthcare Provider Taxonomy Codes (HPTC) will be updated. The HPTC is a national code set that allows medical providers to indicate their specialty. The latest version of the HPTC is available from the [Washington Publishing Company Web site](#). If a HPTC is reported to Medicare, it should be a valid code or a batch and/or claim level rejection may occur.

To ensure you do not receive a claim or file level rejection, it is recommended that you verify the HPTC submitted is a valid code on the most recent HPTC listing. If you require assistance in updating the taxonomy code in your practice management system, please contact your software support vendor.

Source: CMS Change Request 6190

**CMS UPDATES:**

**ICD-10-CM/PCS National Provider Conference Calls With Question & Answer Session**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will host a series of national provider calls (see below) that will provide an overview of ICD-10 and how it differs from ICD-9-CM. The presentations will include the major impacts providers should consider when planning to update any systems with ICD-10 codes. Issues such as differences in code length, alpha-numeric characters, and increased details captured by the codes will be explained. For the provider, payer, vendor, and publishing community, this overview will help them think about future reporting, system updates, and training, considering that ICD-10 may be implemented in the future.

The presenters will include members of the Cooperating Parties for ICD-9-CM, a formal coalition that has been working together on ICD-10 issues. The role of each will be explained, along with a similar role they will play should ICD-10 be implemented. The Cooperating Parties include CMS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), and American Hospital Association (AHA). A PowerPoint slide

presentation has been posted on the ICD-10 Web Page at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10> for you to download prior to the conference call so that you can follow along with the presentation.

### **Conference Call Details:**

Separate conference calls have been scheduled for each provider type. The same information will be presented at each conference call. Participants may select one of the times listed below to attend a conference call. Select the appropriate link below, according to your provider type, to register for a conference call.

Provider Type and Date and Time of Conference Call:

#### **Hospital Staff**

October 14, 2008

12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. EDT

To register go to [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10/downloads/ICD10\\_hospital.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10/downloads/ICD10_hospital.pdf).

Other Part A and Part B Providers

November 12, 2008

12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. EST

Registration information for this conference call will be forthcoming.

#### **Physicians**

November 17, 2008

12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. EST

Registration information for this conference call will be forthcoming.

For those who are unable to attend, a transcript will be posted on the ICD-10 Web Page at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10> shortly after the conference call.

### **CMS-1390-N on Display at the Federal Register**

CMS-1390-N (Medicare Program; Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems and Fiscal Year 2009 Rates: Final Fiscal Year 2009 Wage Indices and Payment Rates) went on display at the Federal Register on September 29, 2008. The Notice includes tables listing the final wage indices, hospital reclassifications, payment rates, impacts, and other related tables effective for fiscal year (FY) 2009. It will be published on October 3. To view the Notice, go to the web page at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/AcuteInpatientPPS/IPPS/itemdetail.asp?filterType=none&filterByDID=0&sortByDID=4&sortOrder=descending&itemID=CMS1215562&intNumPerPage=10>

### **PQRI Portal:**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is pleased to announce that a new self-service look-up tool is now available on the PQRI Portal at <http://www.qualitynet.org/pqri> on the Internet, which allows an eligible professional at the Tax Identification Number (TIN) level to see if their 2007 PQRI Feedback Report is available. Once on the site, go to the "Verify TIN Report Portlet" which is located at the bottom left of the page. Enter the TIN and a message appears that indicates if a 2007 PQRI Feedback Report is or is not available.

This self-service look-up tool does not allow the eligible professional to view their 2007 PQRI Feedback Report. The availability of the 2007 PQRI Feedback Report is helpful for eligible professionals to know because it enables them to decide if they need to register for an IACS account at this time so that they can log into the PQRI Portal and view their 2007 PQRI Feedback Report.

In addition, the eligible professional can call the QualityNet Help Desk in order to determine if a 2007 PQRI Feedback Report is available. The representatives at the QualityNet Help Desk can only inform the provider if a 2007 PQRI Feedback Report is available; they are unable to disclose the information on the 2007 PQRI Feedback Report. The QualityNet Help Desk can be reached via telephone at 1-866-288-8912 from the hours of 7am-7pm CST or via email at [Qnetsupport@ifmc.sdps.org](mailto:Qnetsupport@ifmc.sdps.org).

NOTE: The TIN must be the one used by the eligible professional to submit Medicare claims and valid PQRI quality data codes for dates of service July 1 – December 31, 2007.

## **Medicare Publishes Billing Edits to Reduce Payment Errors**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced that, beginning October 1, 2008, it will publish most of the edits utilized in its Medically Unlikely Edit (MUE) program to improve the accuracy of claims payments. The October 1, 2008, version of MUE will contain edits for about 9,700 HCPCS/CPT codes that have been assigned unit values for MUEs. MUEs are cumulative for each quarter. However, CMS will not publish all MUEs on October 1, 2008. The edits will be published on the CMS Web site at

**[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/08\\_MUE.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/08_MUE.asp#TopOfPage)**

## **SNF PC PRICER:**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released the SNF PC Pricer for FY 2009. If you use SNF PC Pricer software, please go to the web page at [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PCPricer/04\\_SNF.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PCPricer/04_SNF.asp#TopOfPage) and download version FY 2009.0, posted on October 1, 2008

## **MLM MATTERS:**

### **New:**

**SE0822** – Clarification of Medicare Payment for Routine Costs in a Clinical

Trial <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0822.pdf>

**MM6062** – 2008 Jurisdiction List for Durable Medical Equipment Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supply (DMEPOS) Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS)

Codes <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6062.pdf>

**MM6052** – Physician Payment Amounts When Physicians Furnish Excluded Procedures in Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs)

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6052.pdf>

**SE0832** – The ICD-10 Clinical Modification/Procedure Coding System (CM/PCS)—The Next Generation of Coding

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0832.pdf>

## **FMA UPDATE:**

### **It's time to renew your medical license...**

In October, the Florida Board of Medicine will be sending out license renewal reminders to those Florida physicians whose medical licenses must be renewed by January 31, 2009. These reminders will come to you in a postcard format, therefore, please be careful not to overlook them. ***This will be the only reminder that the Board of Medicine will send to you!***

If you are a physician who is required to renew your license in 2009, please do so at your earliest convenience. You can renew online or on paper, although you are strongly encouraged to renew online. The online process is quick and easy. Click the following link to renew your license now. [www.FLHealthsource.com](http://www.FLHealthsource.com) If you have any questions, please call the Board of Medicine at 850.245.4131 or Jennifer Forshey at the FMA at 850.521.3221.

## **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **Nursing Liability Center Webcast**

10 Documentation Tips That May Keep You Out of Trouble - In this webcast, learn key documentation tips that may help you defend yourself in a malpractice lawsuit and perhaps keep you out of court in the first place!

[http://www.accelacommunications.com/microsite/liability\\_center/](http://www.accelacommunications.com/microsite/liability_center/)

### **AstraZeneca is presenting a “Welcome to the Hormonal Aspects of Breast Cancer Web-Based Lecture Series”**

The Hormonal Aspects of Breast Cancer (HABC) Lecture Series is comprised of interactive Web-based meetings and conferences led by nationally recognized breast cancer experts who will share current information related to the management and hormonal treatment of breast cancer patients. The series are available on various dates between September 24, and October 30, 2008. To register please visit: <http://www.hormonalaspectsofbc.com/> or you may contact your local sales representative.

### **Oncotype DX -New HER2 Score Web Conference – Genomic Health**

Gary Palmer, MD, JD, MBA, MPH • Friday, October 3 • 12 pm EDT

To register: **Physicians may register by contacting Nikki Detore at 1-866-984-5114 or [ndetore@envisioncomm.net](mailto:ndetore@envisioncomm.net)**

### **Webcast Series On Advanced Rcc And Imatinib-Resistant Gist**

Pfizer is sponsoring both Oncologist and Nurse Webcast on Advanced RCC and Imatinib-Resistant GIST. There are multiple dates for Oncologist: Sept. 24, 25, 30, OCT. 22, 28, Nov.5, and 19. Nurse dates are: Sept. 17, 19, 22, Nov. 11 and 18. You may register at: [www.PfizerOncology.com/webcast](http://www.PfizerOncology.com/webcast) or call the registration line at 1-877-426-3662. Enter Promotion Code: DR276W

### **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

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OPR

Pharmion

AMGEN

Genentech

Abraxis Oncology.

Ortho Biotech

GlaxoSmithKline

The Phipps Group –

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#### **GOLD**

Celgene

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#### **SILVER**

Eisai, Inc.

US Oncology

ImClone Systems

OSI Pharmaceuticals

Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

#### **BRONZE**

Boehringer Ingelheim  
Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Alexion

Genzyme

#### **FLASCO EVENTS:**

**November 6, 2008** - ACCC Regional Oncology Economic and Management Symposia – Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel

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

**January 17-18, 2009** – Clinical Breakthroughs & Challenges in Hematologic Malignancies – Grand Floridian Resort – Lake Buena Vista

**February 6 & 7, 2009** – Highlights of ASH - Miami

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

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

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

#### **OTHER EVENTS:**

October 19-22, 2008 – MGMA 2008 Annual Conference – San Diego

October 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – ASCO State Leadership Conference – Alexandria, VA

December 6-9, 2008 – ASH Annual meeting – San Francisco

February 26-28, 2009 – ASCO - GU Symposium, Orlando World Center Marriott

March 22-24, 2009 - 2009 AOHA Assembly Conference – Los Angeles, California

**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](mailto:Dorothy.Green@cancer.org)

## **SPECIAL UPDATE REPORT FROM ROBERT CASSELL, MD, FLASCO PRESIDENT**

As many of you know, in its last session the Legislature changed the law relating to purchase and distribution of prescription drugs (including chemotherapy). This was the result of House Bill 7049. There now is a Health Care Clinic Establishment permit which is required for corporations to purchase drugs.

On September 25, I attended a rules workshop at the Department of Health concerning the new Health Care Clinic Establishment permit. I was surprised that I was the only physician in attendance at this workshop. Most of those attending represented pharmaceutical companies or distributors. They are very concerned about possible requirements to change their ordering and shipping procedures.

My impression is that the Department of Health considers the permit a way to regulate purchase of drugs by vague entities, such as the fraudulent infusion centers in South Florida, rather than as a way to control purchase of drugs by legitimate medical practitioners.

Each permit will require the name and license number of a “qualifying practitioner.” This person must be employed by the establishment acquiring the permit. If the qualifying practitioner changes, there is a 10 day requirement for notification of the Department of Health.

The law says that a qualifying practitioner may still purchase prescription drugs under the practitioner’s license number, but apparently these drugs can only be used by that practitioner. It would seem that it would probably be more efficient for multi-physician groups to have one of these permits. They will cost \$255 for two years. I asked the question whether satellite offices of the same group would require separate permits, particularly if these offices are only used on a part-time basis. The Department of Health did not have an answer to this question. It also is not clear whether the permits will allow for drugs to be shipped to one address and used at another address.

Another question, also not yet answered, is whether an individual physician whose practice is incorporated will need to have a permit in order to have the corporation to pay for the drugs.

The DOH says the application for the health care clinic establishment permit will be available on the DOH web site on December 1. Permits will be issued beginning January 1. (According to the law, the permits are required on January 1. This discrepancy will need to be resolved.)

Unfortunately the permit itself is established under the law, and the Department of Health is not able to change this. What they are able to change is the rules which will be used to enforce the law. Hopefully FLASCO and other medical organizations such as FMA will be able to influence these rules in a way that they will be as little of a burden as possible to the practice of oncology.

We plan to stay involved and will plan to have a FLASCO representative at the next DOH workshop, which is scheduled for December 4, 2008, in Tallahassee. If any members of FLASCO are able to attend, please contact Dorothy Green Phillips. **IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT FLASCO BE REPRESENTED AT THESE MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS.**