



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST – November 25, 2008

FLASCO WEBSITE: www.flasco.org

FLASCO CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK WEBSITE: www.fctn.org

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Rogerio Lilenbaum, MD, Chairman

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. The following is a direct link to the Highlights information on the ASH Web site: <http://hematology.org/meetings/highlights/index.cfm#2>
The FLASCO member code is FLH09 – FLASCO special registration fee - \$110. Let's have a good showing of attendees from FLASCO!

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.

CLINICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE: Thomas Gaddis, MD, Chairman

PQRI Payments

Our CPC has received several comments from practices stating that they had not received any PQRI payments. We have learned that ASCO has been working with the American Medical Association (AMA) in regards to resolving the PQRI payment issues. Below is the contact information for a CMS staff member providers may contact with questions on their PQRI problems.

Michael Rapp, MD – Director, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Quality Measurement & Health Assessment Group – Email address: michael.rapp@cms.hhs.gov

Leucovorin Shortage (Source: First Word)

Teva and Bedford have announced a shortage of leucovorin calcium powder for injection due to manufacturing delays. Additionally, Bedford has announced a shortage of leucovorin calcium solution for injection.

Leucovorin is indicated for palliative treatment of advanced colorectal cancer in combination with 5-fluorouracil, rescue treatment after high-dose methotrexate therapy in osteosarcoma and the treatment of megaloblastic anemia due to folic acid deficiency when oral therapy is not feasible.

For more information: visit <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/shortages/default.htm#Leucovorin>.

Top Denials – Tip/Resources – visit FLASCO website for additional Denials, Tips/Resources

C0-B9 – Services not covered because the patient is enrolled in a hospice.

TIP:

There are specific guidelines pertaining to Medicare hospice benefits. Certain Medicare coverage does not apply to a beneficiary enrolled in a hospice program. This link will produce a document titled “Medicare Hospice Benefits”, which details the guidelines applying to hospice cases:

http://www.hospiceelpaso.org/files/cms_medicare.pdf

2009 HCPCS Changes

Here are the new HCPCS changes for Hematology-Oncology for 2009. Do not use these codes for service dates before 1/1/09.

New Codes

J0641 INJECTION, LEVOLEUCOVORIN CALCIUM, 0.5 MG
J1453 INJECTION, FOSAPREPITANT, 1 MG
J1459 INJECTION, IMMUNE GLOBULIN (PRIVIGEN), INTRAVENOUS, NON-LYOPHILIZED (E.G.)
J8705 TOPOTECAN, ORAL, 0.25 MG
J9033 INJECTION, BENDAMUSTINE HCL, 1 MG
J9207 INJECTION, IXABEPILONE, 1 MG
J9330 INJECTION, TEMSIROLIMUS, 1 MG

Changed Code Descriptors

- J1572 INJECTION, IMMUNE GLOBULIN, (FLEBOGAMMA/FLEBOGAMMA DIF), INTRAVENOUS,
- J2788 INJECTION, RHO D IMMUNE GLOBULIN, HUMAN, MINIDOSE, 50 MICROGRAMS (250 I.U.)
- J2790 INJECTION, RHO D IMMUNE GLOBULIN, HUMAN, FULL DOSE, 300 MICROGRAMS (1500 I.U.)

Deleted Codes

- Q4096 INJECTION, VON WILLEBRAND FACTOR COMPLEX, HUMAN, RISTOCETIN COFACTOR (NOT
- Q4097 INJECTION, IMMUNE GLOBULIN (PRIVIGEN), INTRAVENOUS, NON-LYOPHILIZED (E.G.)
- Q4098 INJECTION, IRON DEXTRAN, 50 MG

Reinstated Code

- J1750 INJECTION, IRON DEXTRAN, 50 MG

These are only a preliminary list of codes that apply to Hem-Onc. To see the total list, check it out in EXCEL.
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HCPCSReleaseCodeSets/ANHCPCS/>

ASCO UPDATES:

Prepare for Coding Changes in the New Year

Several important coding changes will take effect in early 2009, including updates to the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS), and ICD-9-CM codes.

As previously reported in *Cancer Policy Today*, the CPT codes for hydration and therapeutic/diagnostic/prophylactic administration have been renumbered. The codes have been moved from the 90,000 series to the 96,000 series. The reassignment of the code numbers is part of an effort to group all the drug administration services/codes in one area. ASCO has published a reference sheet comparing the new 2009 hydration and therapeutic/diagnostic codes to the existing 2008 codes. These changes will be effective January 1, 2009. (Reference Sheet is included with this fax blast)

Earlier this month, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced changes to the HCPCS codes for 2009. The updates are effective January 1, 2009, and are available at the HCPCS Web site. Additionally, several ICD-9-CM code changes went into effect October 1. ASCO distributed a list of oncology-related ICD-9-CM code changes.

For questions relating to coding changes, contact Laura Cathro or Julia Tomkins in ASCO's Cancer Policy & Clinical Affairs Department at 571-483-1670 or practice@asco.org.

CMS UPDATES:

Medicare Establishes a New Hemophilia Clotting Factor and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Code

CMS has established a new HCPCS code for hemophilia clotting factor for inpatient services provided to Medicare beneficiaries on claims submitted to Medicare Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) and/or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs).

Effective January 1, 2009 HCPCS code J7186, Antihemophilic VIII/VWF comp, will be payable by Medicare. CMS is also retiring HCPCS code Q4096, VWF complex, not Humate-P (NOS), effective January 1, 2009. These changes are detailed in [MedLearn Matters article #6268](#).

Coding Analyses for Labs

Prothrombin Time (PT) NCD 190.17 (Addition of ICD-9-CM diagnosis code 197.7 Secondary Malignant Neoplasm of Liver) Posted decision memo <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/viewdecisionmemo.asp?id=225>

E-Prescribing:

CMS has posted the E-Prescribing codes and description of the Measures to their website. The program is slated to begin January, 2009. You can find the fact sheet and measure specifications by going to www.cms.hhs.gov then go to the Top 10 Links box and select #9, PQRI, then select E Prescribing Incentive Program link. Downloads are at the bottom of the page

“Medicare’s Practical Guide to the E-Prescribing Incentive Program” explains the e-prescribing incentive program, how eligible professionals can participate, and how to choose a qualified e-prescribing system. To read or print the guide, visit: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/downloads/11399.pdf>.

By adopting e-prescribing through Medicare’s program, eligible professionals can save time, enhance office and pharmacy productivity, and improve patient safety and quality of care while earning incentives from Medicare.

For additional information about e-prescribing, you can also visit:

www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI. Select “E-prescribing Incentive Program”;

www.cms.hhs.gov/eprescribing. (for information on Part D e-prescribing standards that will be effective April 1, 2009); and

www.ehealthinitiative.org to download “A Clinician’s Guide to Electronic Prescribing.”

MLN MATTERS NEW AND REVISED:

New:

MM6187 – 2008 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative Claims-Based Reporting of Measures Groups

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6187.pdf>

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

Q – I keep hearing about medical groups using Bermuda as a depository for their malpractice insurance premium payments. **What does this mean?**

A – It means that some physician groups prefer to own **versus** rent their malpractice insurance premiums. It is a very involved legal transaction that if designed properly, complies with all federal and state of Florida laws as well as IRS regulations. The funds also enjoy a high degree of creditor protection.

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/>

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Sanofi-Aventis: Live Satellite Program: Evolving Paradigms in the Adjuvant Treatment of HER2 Overexpressing Breast Cancer: The Role of Anthracyclines

Date: Wednesday, January 14th, 2009

Faculty: Dr. Dennis Slamon, Dr. Stephen Jones, and Dr. Michael Ewer

Locations: Choose from one of the restaurants below

Morton’s 5050 Town Center Circle - Boca Raton

Morton’s 2333 Ponce de Leon Blvd.- Coral Gables

Maggiano’s 10367 Midtown Parkway – St. John’s Towne Center - Jacksonville

Morton’s 1200 Brickell Avenue- Miami, FL

Morton's Dr. Phillips Market Place – 7600 D. Phillips Blvd-, Orlando, FL
Morton's 777 S. Flagler Drive W.- Palm Beach, FL
Maggiano's 203 West Shore Plaza -Tampa, FL

Contact your local Sanofi-Aventis Sales Representative with any questions and additional information.

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP/SPONSORSHIP: (January 1 – December 31, 2008)

FLASCO Members extends a big thanks to all of our 2008 Corporate Members/Sponsors

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FLASCO EVENTS:

FLASCO is co-sponsoring the following three Events:

- (1) **January 17-18, 2009** –Clinical Breakthroughs & Challenges in Hematologic Malignancies – Grand Floridian Resort – Lake Buena Vista - **For more information, call (813) 745-1247 or e-mail: Melissa.Pearson@MOFFITT.org**
- (2) **February 6 & 7, 2009** – Highlights of ASH – Miami - <http://hematology.org/meetings/highlights/index.cfm#2>. The FLASCO member code is FLH09
- (3) **March 20, 2009** – Statewide PA & NP Conference, Moffitt Cancer Center – Tampa

FLASCO 2009 MEETINGS:

February 27 & 28, 2009 – FLASCO Spring Meeting – Marriott Sawgrass – Jacksonville
November 6-7, 2009 – FLASCO Fall Meeting – Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel

OTHER EVENTS:

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
June 13-17, 2009 – AMA Annual Meeting – Chicago, IL
July 23-26, 2009 – FMA Annual Meeting – Boca Raton, FL

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