



**FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST – December 23, 2008**

**FLASCO WEBSITE: [www.flasco.org](http://www.flasco.org)**

**FLASCO CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK WEBSITE: [www.fctn.org](http://www.fctn.org)**

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

Wishing everyone a Very Happy Holiday Season!

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Rogério 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! Early registration discount **ends December 31, 2008**. REGISTER TODAY

**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**

**Health Care Clinic Establishment Permit**

The Department of Health is in the process of preparing a response to our letter with questions regarding the Health Care Clinic Establishment permit. Included with this fax blast is a the response from Rebecca Poston, Executive Director for the Department of Health, Drugs, Devices, and Cosmetics Program, on the HCCE Permit, in lieu of FLASCO's recent inquiries, as well as a packet of information including a letter of introduction, the permit application, a quick reference guide and the qualifying designated practitioner change form. Everyone is encouraged to visit the DOH web site at [www.doh.state.fl.us/pharmacy](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/pharmacy) and call their **customer service center at 850-488-0595** for assistance with their questions.

**2009 PQRI Measures Released by CMS**

Here is a summary of changes for Hem-Onc for 2009: (Source: Bobbi Buell)

- MDS And Acute Leukemias Cytogenetic Testing (**ICD-9 codes changed/added for 2009**)
- MDS Documentation of Iron Stores
- Multiple Myeloma: Treatment With Bisphosphonates (**Minor language modifier and ICD-9 changes for 2009**)
- CLL Baseline Flow Cytometry (**ICD-9 codes changed for 2009**)
- Hormonal Therapy for Stage IC-III ER/PR + Breast Cancer (**CPT II codes changed; language change, instruction change**)
- Chemotherapy for Stage III Colon Cancer Patients (**Updated language, title change, CPT II codes changed, language changes**)
- Breast Cancer Patients Who Have pT and pN category and histological grade for their cancer (**Language changes, minor coding changes**)
- Colorectal Cancer Patients Who Have pT and pN category and histological grade for their cancer (**Language changes, minor coding changes**)
- Inappropriate use of bone scan for staging low risk cancer patients (**Denominator code change, title change, language change**)
- Adjuvant hormonal therapy for high-risk prostate cancer patients (**Language, Instruction changes, rationale, and minor coding changes**)

- Three-dimensional radiotherapy for patients with prostate cancer (**CPT II changes, language changes, age change, reporting frequency**)

Here are the new Hem-Onc measures for 2009: (Source: Bobbi Buell)

- Melanoma: Follow Up Aspects of Care (2009)
- Melanoma: Continuity of Care (2009)
- Melanoma: Coordination of Care (2009)
- Oncology Med/Rad: Plan of Care for Pain (2009) goes with
- Oncology Med/Rad: Pain Quantified (2009)
- Oncology: Radiation Dose Limits to Normal Tissues (2009)
- Oncology Recording of Clinical Stage for Lung and Esophageal Cancer (2009)

**Notice #73 #74 #101 and #103 are gone** and are not part of PQRI this year. Remember that you need at least three (3) measures reported at 80% of the denominator group. Because of the low success rate of 2007 PQRI, I suggest you choose more than three measures per provider NPI. Remember there are measures outside the Hem-onc area that might be of interest to you. Again, to see the 2009 Measures go to: [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/15\\_MeasuresCodes.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/15_MeasuresCodes.asp)

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (Erin Dunbar, MD, Chairwoman)**

#### **Update From The Florida Board Of Medicine**

Earlier this month, the Physician Assistant Council met. The initial draft of the new rule change regarding the prescribing formulary (antipsychotics and parenterals) was presented to the Council. (A copy of the proposed rule changes and the minutes of the November 6, 2008 Rule Workshop as well as this December PA Council meeting can be read online from the PA Council website at [http://doh.state.fl.us/mqa/PhysAsst/pa\\_minutes.html](http://doh.state.fl.us/mqa/PhysAsst/pa_minutes.html).)

### **DRUG & INDUSTRY UPDATES:**

#### **J9033 INJECTION, BENDAMUSTINE HCL, 1 MG – (TREANDA)**

The new **J-code, J9033** for 1mg of TREANDA will replace the miscellaneous J-code J9999 under which TREANDA is currently reimbursed. The J9033 code should be accepted by the Medicare contractors for all TREANDA claims for reimbursement submitted for Medicare beneficiaries on or after **January 1, 2009**. CMS published the first quarter 2009 payment rate for J9033 in mid-December 2008. This reimbursement rate, based on 106% of the average selling price for TREANDA, will be updated quarterly thereafter. Private insurers may pay for new J-codes and the drug itself at rates different than those paid by Medicare.

TREANDA for Injection is indicated for the treatment of patients with:

- Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) Efficacy relative to first line therapies other than chlorambucil has not been established. Please refer to your appropriate carrier for proper coding.
- Indolent B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) that has progressed during or within six months of treatment with rituximab or a rituximab-containing regimen. Please refer to your appropriate carrier for proper coding

The standard administration time of TREANDA for CLL is as an intravenous infusion over 30 minutes. The recommended dose is 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> administered intravenously on days 1 and 2 of a 28-day cycle, up to 6 cycles. The standard administration time of TREANDA for Indolent NHL is as an intravenous infusion over 60 minutes. The recommended dose is 120mg/m<sup>2</sup> administered intravenously on days 1 and 2 of a 21-day cycle, up to 8 cycles. If you administer the dose as per the regimen, the code to use for administration will be 96413, if it is the initial or only chemotherapy infusion of the encounter.

*If you have reimbursement questions regarding TREANDA, please contact the Cephalon Oncology Reimbursement Expertise (CORE) Hotline at 1-888-5-TREANDA*

### **FDA UPDATES:**

#### **FDA Approves Gleevec to Prevent Recurrence of Rare Gastrointestinal Cancer (Novartis)**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved Gleevec (imatinib mesylate) for a new indication – keeping cancer from growing in patients following surgical removal of a gastrointestinal stromal tumor or GIST. See news release at: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2008/NEW01931.html>

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

**Q** With money markets and other short term savings instruments (including US Treasury's) at all time lows, what are my alternatives?

**A** Depending on your definition of SAFETY or said a different way, your RISK TOLERANCE **and** your maturity considerations, these will determine what alternative(s) you select. There is no "one size fits all". It is not as easy as it once was to make these selections. It is easy to say that your funds that are earning about 1%, being taxed at 35% plus, with inflation around 2 ½% is hardly the definition of SAFETY.

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](mailto:jeffrey_phippsr@ml.com) - <http://fa.ml.com/PhippsGroup/>

**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 2009 MEETINGS:**

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

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

**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](mailto: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 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)

