



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST – January 17, 2008

2008 CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP/SUPPORTER NEWS:

FLASCO is pleased to announce that **Oncology Physician Resource (OPR)** has become a new Platinum Member for 2008, and, that **Eli Lilly** has renewed their Platinum Membership for 2008.

FLASCO Clinical Trials Network Update: Randal Henderson, MD Chairman

The FLASCO Clinical Trials Network is proud to report the approval of the network pilot study, a Multi-Center Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer trial written by Rogerio Lilenbaum, MD, of Mount Sinai Medical Center, Miami. We successfully negotiated a multimillion dollar budget with Bayer-Onyx Pharmaceuticals. We have sub-contracted CE3, a Connecticut based mid-sized clinical research organization to assist with clinical trial management, but will also provide a FLASCO regional study coordinator for the participating sites in our effort to deliver quality data, speedy accrual, and overall organization. We are actively reviewing project proposals and hope to be able to introduce more trials to our network members in 2008.

ASCO UPDATES:

January 16, 2008, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services posted to their website three important transmittals regarding coverage and payment for ESAs.

- 1) Transmittal 1412. Reporting of Hematocrit or Hemoglobin Levels on All Claims for the Administration of ESAs, Implementation of New Modifiers for Non-ESRD Indications, and Reporting of Hematocrit/Hemoglobin Levels on all Non-ESRD, Non-ESA Claims Requesting Payment for Anti-Anemia Drugs.
(<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R1412CP.pdf>)

-This transmittal makes effective a statutory requirement that all claims submitted for ESAs include reporting of hematocrit/hemoglobin. While Medicare contractors have until April 7, 2008 to prepare their systems, physicians MUST report on hematocrit/hemoglobin effective January 1, 2008. ASCO will seek clarification from CMS on whether claims that have been submitted between January 1 through today must be resubmitted with this information.

-This transmittal also requires reporting of one of the following three new HCPCS modifiers on claims for ESAs:

- EA - ESA administered to treat anemia due to anti-cancer chemotherapy
- EB - ESA administered to treat anemia due to anti-cancer radiotherapy
- EC - ESA administered to treat anemia not due to anti-cancer radiotherapy or anti-cancer chemotherapy

-The transmittal implements a CMS requirement that hematocrit/hemoglobin be reported in conjunction with claims for all anti-anemia drugs, not just ESAs.

- 2) Transmittal 1413. Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents (ESAs) in Cancer and Related Neoplastic Conditions
(<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R1413CP.pdf>)

This transmittal provides instructions to carriers on the implementation of the July 30, 2007 National Coverage Decision on ESAs in cancer. Carriers have until April 7, 2008 to implement the instructions. The effective date for the NCD policy continues to be July 30, 2007.

- 3) Transmittal 80. Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents (ESAs) in Cancer and Related Neoplastic Conditions
(<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R80NCD.pdf>)

This transmittal updates the Medicare National Coverage Determinations Manual to reflect provisions of the July 30, 2007 National Coverage Decision on ESAs in cancer.

ASCO is reviewing all of these transmittals carefully and will provide additional explanation and clarification shortly. If you have any questions, please contact Cancer Policy & Clinical Affairs staff at (703) 299-1050.

FCSO UPDATES:

Part A EMC Claims Rejected for NPI "99 BILLING NPI REQUIRED 2300 LOOP"

Part A EMC Claims rejected incorrectly between January 7, 2008, through January 10, 2008, with error message "99 BILLING NPI REQUIRED 2300 LOOP." The issue occurred sporadically during this period and has since been resolved.

Action Required by EDI Submitters

If you received message "99 BILLING NPI REQUIRED 2300 LOOP" during the above dates please resubmit those claims in question. If the entire batch rejected, you need to re-batch the claims. Sending the exact batch again with no changes will cause the batch to reject at the gateway as an exact duplicate.

Special Note:

Please see the new employment opportunity on the FLASCO Website.

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:

January 19, 2008 – 4th Annual Clinical Breakthroughs & Challenges In Hematologic Malignancies- Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, Lake Buena Vista

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

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

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