



## FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST – March 5, 2008

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

Please try to attend our FLASCO Spring Session and Annual Meeting this weekend at the Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel. .

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

#### **Ixempra™ (ixabepilone) Assigned C-Code**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has assigned a specific C-code, C9240, to Ixempra (ixabepilone) effective dates of service January 1, 2008. Billing for Ixempra should be done by total dose, in 1-mg billing units.

### **CMS UPDATES:**

#### **Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Quarterly Posting**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has reposted the recent scheduled release of modifications to the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code set to incorporate new changes. The revised update has been posted to the HCPCS website at

[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HCPCSReleaseCodeSets/02\\_HCPCS\\_Quarterly\\_Update.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HCPCSReleaseCodeSets/02_HCPCS_Quarterly_Update.asp) .

### **FDA UPDATES:**

#### **Baxter to Proceed with Recall of Remaining Heparin Sodium Vial Products (Feb. 28)**

Baxter International Inc. announced that the company is proceeding with the voluntary recall of all remaining lots and doses of its heparin sodium injection multi-dose, single-dose vials and HEP-LOCK heparin flush products.

#### **Eisai's Aloxi receives expanded approval in US**

The FDA granted expanded approval to Eisai's Aloxi injection to prevent postoperative nausea and vomiting for up to 24 hours following surgery. The drugmaker is also seeking approval from the FDA for an oral capsule version of its drug, with a decision expected in August. Aloxi is already approved in the US for the prevention of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting.

### **INDUSTRY UPDATES:**

#### **Pfizer to acquire Serenex to boost oncology pipeline**

Pfizer announced that it entered into an agreement to acquire privately-held biotechnology company Serenex. As part of the deal, Pfizer will gain experimental oral Hsp90 inhibitor SNX-5422, which is currently in Phase I testing for the potential treatment of solid tumors and haematological malignancies. Under the terms of the agreement, Pfizer will also obtain the rights to Serenex' drug discovery technology and small molecule Hsp90 inhibitor compound library. CEO Jeffrey Kindler called the deal "the latest step in the execution of Pfizer's strategy to expand its commitment to oncology

### **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:**

#### **New Directions in Quality Audio Conference**

Thursday, April 10, 2008, 1:00 PM (EDT) - This educational series brought to you by Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation is a 45- minute session – the first in a series – it will address how employers are exploring alternative models of benefit design that promote shared decision making and gain more value from dollars spent on employee health benefits. The presentation will focus on trends in consumer-directed healthcare, disease management, prevention and wellness and value-based insurance design. **To register:** Copy and past the following into your browser:

[http://panastream.com/New\\_Directions\\_in\\_Quality/Registration.php](http://panastream.com/New_Directions_in_Quality/Registration.php)

**DISCLAIMER:** FLASCO has not reviewed this program and “any views presented are not the views of FLASCO”

**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:**

**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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