



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST – March 12, 2008

MESSAGE FROM FLASCO PRESIDENT: Robert Cassell, MD

FLASCO extends a special thanks to the following companies for becoming Corporate Members/Supporters for 2008: Roche (Gold); Millennium Pharmaceuticals (Silver) and OSI Pharmaceuticals (Silver).

The FLASCO Annual Meeting was held this past weekend in Tampa. A special fax blast will be forthcoming with information on this meeting.

Please note: Third and Final Dues Notices have been sent out to members who have not paid their 2008 Dues. If you believe you have already paid and received one of these notices, please contact the FLASCO Executive Director immediately. Otherwise, if payment is not received by April 1, 2008, you will be dropped from FLASCO Membership. I encourage you to continue your FLASCO Membership – it is extremely important that we all remain united! FLASCO serves as the Voice of Oncology in Florida.

CLINICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE: Thomas Gaddis, MD, Chairman

The following issue was sent to FLASCO and it has been addressed with FCSO:

Issue: Currently Medicare is denying the 96523 as inclusive when billed with J1644. So we are getting paid \$0.21. Medicare is claiming that you cannot be reimbursed for the 96523 when you bill it with another chemotherapy admin. or nonchemotherapy admin. injection or infusion service provided on the same day. Medicare is claiming the J1644 is an injection (I believe the descriptor is misleading: Inj. heparin sodium per 1000u)

Response from FCSO: Effective March 10, 2008 and forward , 96523 is allowed when billed with J1642 and J1644

Neupogen Denials:

FCSO reports that unfortunately there was a “system glitch” which led to blanket denials of Neupogen in February. According to FCSO as of March 12, 2008, you should no longer receive denials for appropriately billed claims. There will be a mass adjustment within 30-45 days to Neupogen claims that denied during the glitch period.

FLASCO extends a big thank you to the staff at FCSO who were involved in this issue and for all of their efforts on behalf of our members.

FCSO UPDATES:

Medicare Part B April 2008 Release Prepass Edit Notification

The following prepass edits will become active effective April 1, 2008:

When a claim is received with a Referral Number (2300 REF01 = 9F or 2330 REF01 = 9F) and the Referring Provider Loop (2310A/NM1 or 2420F NM1) is not present, the claim will **reject** with the prepass edits listed below:

Provider	Loop	Prepass Edits	Level Edit
Referring Provider Loop	2300	M430	Batch/claim
Referring Provider Loop	2330B	M431	Batch/claim

In an effort to ensure clinical trial demonstration values are submitted appropriately the following edits will be modified/created. Prepass edit M057 will be modified to validate the demonstration identifier (2300 REF01=P4 verify

REF02 present) by setting if the demonstration number is only one position or if it is a two-position value that is not valid. New prepass edit M058 will validate the clinical trial registry number (if REF01=P4 verify 2300 REF03) by setting if the number is not equal to 8 positions in length or if it contains non-numeric values.

Provider	Loop	Prepass Edits	Level Edit
Demonstration Project Identifier	2300	M057	Batch/claim
Demonstration Project Number	2300	M058	Batch/claim

For additional information related to these prepass edits, please contact Medicare EDI Transaction Support for Florida at (904) 354-5977, option 4

CMS UPDATES:

The Medicare Appeals Process: Five Levels to Protect Providers, Physicians and Other Suppliers brochure has been updated and is now available to order print copies or as a downloadable PDF file. To view the PDF file, go to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/MedicareAppealsProcess.pdf> or to order hard copies, please visit the MLN Product Ordering Page at http://cms.meridianksi.com/kc/main/kc_frame.asp?kc_ident=kc0001&loc=5 on the CMS website.

The Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System Fact Sheet (revised January 2008), which provides general information about the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System, ambulatory payment classifications, and how payment rates are set, is now available in print format from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services **Medicare Learning Network**. To place your order, visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mlngeninfo/>, scroll down to “Related Links Inside CMS” and select “MLN Product Ordering Page.”

FDA UPDATES:

FDA approves updated labelling for ESAs over risks in patients with cancer

The FDA approved revised labelling for erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (ESAs) including Amgen's Aranesp and Epogen as well as Johnson & Johnson's Procrit, Amgen announced. As part of the changes, the boxed warning has been updated to state that ESAs "shortened overall survival and/or time-to-tumour progression in clinical studies in patients with breast, non-small-cell lung, head and neck, lymphoid and cervical cancers, when dosed to target haemoglobin of greater than or equal to 12 grams per decilitre."

The revised labelling has also been updated to include additional data from studies of the product in the oncology setting, but Amgen noted that "in general, these results have not changed the benefit-risk profile significantly of ESAs in this setting from the previously available data." ESA labels were updated in November to include additional information about the risks of the drugs in patients with cancer and chronic renal failure.

An FDA oncology advisory panel is scheduled to meet on March 13 to discuss updated safety information for ESAs in patients with cancer.

Amgen Press Release March 7, 2008:

http://wwwext.amgen.com/media/media_pr_detail.jsp?year=2008&releaseID=1116580

ACADEMIC CENTERS/INSTITUTIONS NEWS & UPDATES:

Moffitt Cancer Center Hematology Active Clinical Trials

The Moffitt Cancer Center has provided FLASCO with a list of Active Hematology Clinical Trials currently being conducted at Moffitt. If you are interested in participating and would like to have a list of the Malignant Hematology Clinical Trials, please contact the FLASCO Executive Director.

FMA UPDATES:

Regulatory Boards Monitored by FMA

The FMA monitors the activities of each of the 33 regulatory board or councils of the Department of Health, paying especially close attention to the Boards of Nursing, Chiropractic Medicine, Dentistry, Medicine, Optometry, Osteopathic Medicine, Pharmacy, Podiatric Medicine, and Psychology. When necessary, the FMA vocally supports or opposes certain issues that come before these boards. http://www.fmaonline.org/regulatoryboards3_10_08.pdf

Supreme Court Upholds Patients' Right to Know about Medical Errors

Overtuning decades of "peer review" records, the state Supreme Court on Thursday fully upheld a constitutional amendment that gives Floridians the right to know about doctors' and hospitals' mistakes. Read more:

<http://floridahealthnews.org/index.cfm/go/public.articleView/article/6130/top/true>

'Perfect Storm' Threatens Florida Health Care

Florida faces a "perfect storm" of adverse conditions that could severely limit access to health care within the next decade, warns Dr. Karl M. Altenburger, president of the Florida Medical Association. Read more:

<http://www.realcities.com/mld/bradenton/2008/02/24/news/local/18385202.htm>

Florida Emergency Rooms Can't Find Enough Doctors

There is a critical shortage of specialists in Florida willing to take call in emergency rooms. Emergency doctors say the problem will only get worse. Read more: http://www.sptimes.com/2008/02/29/State/Florida_emergency_roo.shtml

The FMA's Managed Care Bill (SB 1012) is Up in the Senate Commerce Committee on Tuesday, March 11th.

SB 1012 addresses several of the unfair business practices and tactics used by managed care organizations to reduce and delay physician reimbursement. The bill requires managed care companies to accept a valid assignment of benefits and pay physicians directly; reduce the "look back" period where managed care companies can demand repayment from 30 months to 12 months; and prohibit the use of "silent PPOs." Collectively, these measures will allow physicians and their staff to spend less time on paper work and more time on patient care by reducing the administrative hassles that physicians face every day from the managed care industry. SB 1012 will help correct the imbalance of power that exists between physicians and the insurance industry. This bill does NOT have a negative fiscal impact on the State of Florida. To learn more about SB 1012: <http://www.fmaonline.org/sb1012informationsheet.pdf>

Brevard County in Danger of Doctor Shortage

Slightly more than 10 percent of Brevard County physicians plan to leave medicine or significantly reduce their practices by 2012, according to a study by researchers at the Florida State University College of Medicine. Read more:

<http://www.floridatoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080226/NEWS01/802260335/1006/news01&template=printart>

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

US Oncology CME/CE Accredited Webcast - Infection in Cancer Patients: Prevention and Management in the Community Care Setting Webcast Series

Join Oncology Today and the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston for a CME/CE webcast series offering expert presentations, case reviews and interactive question and answer sessions highlighting what you need to know to prevent and manage infections in cancer patients

To register please visit: <http://www.oncologytoday.com/programs/upcomingeventsreg.aspx>

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

Onyx Pharmaceuticals To Present At Cowen And Company Health Care Conference

Onyx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq: ONXX) announced that it will present at the Cowen and Company 28th Annual Health Care Conference on Tuesday, March 18, at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time. Interested parties may access a live webcast of the presentation at: http://www.corporate-ir.net/ireye/conflobby.zhtml?ticker=ONXX&item_id=1779883

It is recommended that listeners log on 15 minutes early in order to register and download any necessary software. For those unable to participate during the live webcast, a recorded replay of the presentation will be available within 24 hours of the completion of the presentation through April 18, 2008.

DISCLAIMER: FLASCO has not reviewed these programs 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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SILVER

MGI Pharma
US Oncology Physician Services
ImClone
OSI Pharmaceuticals
Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

BRONZE

Boehringer Ingelheim
Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Alexion

FLASCO EVENTS:

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

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