



**FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST – August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008**  
**FLASCO WEBSITE: [www.flasco.org](http://www.flasco.org)**

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

**Hurricane Season:**

With hurricane season upon us, the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) have developed a tool that we hope will be helpful to oncologists and people with cancer in the event of a national or natural disaster, when patients may not be able to access their medical team for care. Information on this card may be found at : <http://www.cancer.net/patient/ASCO+Resources/ASCO+and+NCI+Patient+Information+Wallet+Card>

In addition, thanks to Dr. Richard Levine, FLASCO has approved a Florida Disaster Plan that may assist you in preparing for this type of emergency. A copy is included with this fax blast. Also, it will be posted on the FLASCO Website at: [www.flasco.org](http://www.flasco.org)

**CLINICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE: Tom Gaddis, MD, Chairman**

**Ortho Biotech Announces Nationwide Voluntary Recall Of Procrit® (Epoetin Alfa) Lot Number P114942a**

Last week Ortho Biotech announced that it is voluntarily recalling one manufacturing lot (P114942A) of PROCIT<sup>®</sup> (Epoetin alfa) after having identified cracks in the necks of a small number of vials upon post-manufacturing inspection. No other lot of this product is affected by this recall. Approximately 44,292 vials of lot P114942A in the following packaging configurations were distributed between April 15, 2008 and July 17, 2008.

NDC	Description	Lot Number	Expiration Date
59676-312-00	Individual multi-dose vials of PROCIT <sup>®</sup> (Epoetin alfa) 10,000 U/2mL	P114942A	12/10
59676-312-04	Cartons containing 4 multi-dose vials of PROCIT <sup>®</sup> (Epoetin alfa) 10,000 U/2mL	P114942A	12/10

**Vials exhibiting even slight cracks may not maintain their sterile condition and should not be used for subcutaneous or intravenous injection.**

To ensure patient safety, Ortho Biotech is voluntarily recalling PROCIT vials from this manufacturing lot only. Ortho Biotech is notifying the authorized distributors, prescribing physicians and patients of this recall. The recall is being conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

PROCIT from manufacturing lots other than the above, shipped from an authorized distributor is not being recalled. PROCIT vials from the above recalled lot should be promptly returned by contacting the returned goods service provider, at (800) 668-4391.

**ASH UPDATE:**

**Register Now for the 50th ASH Annual Meeting – December 6-9, 2008, Moscone Center, San Francisco, California**

The annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology (ASH) is one of the largest medical meetings in the United States and the largest hematology meeting in the world. More than 21,000 clinicians, scientists, and other professionals attend the four-day meeting from more than 100 countries and from all areas of the specialty. There are many reasons not to miss this invaluable event; here are just a few of the things you can do at the meeting:

- **Grow professionally:** Hematology is a constantly changing field and ASH's [Education Sessions](#) and [Scientific Program](#) can help you stay up-to-date with the latest research, therapies, and tools you need to succeed, whether

you work in the laboratory, a clinical setting, or at an academic institution. The meeting is also a valuable source of continuing medical education (CME) for physicians.

- **Learn from the best:** Where else but ASH can you meet the first person to discover a chromosomal translocation in any human cancer, shake hands with the inventor of one of the most widely-used hematologic tests, and greet the man known as "Mr. Hodgkin's Disease"? At the Pioneers in Hematology Sessions you will have the unique opportunity to hear several distinguished scientists speak about their life's work and the groundbreaking discoveries they made that changed medicine. After the presentations, attendees will be able to ask questions of the speakers and mingle with these celebrated individuals.
- **Further your career:** Nearly 2,000 trainees attend the ASH meeting each year to learn from and network with established hematologists from around the world and to gain valuable experience in presenting their research findings.
- **Make connections:** The ASH meeting is also intended to be an interactive experience and the program will include many social events to provide opportunities to connect with colleagues, make new acquaintances, and share your ideas.

PROGRAM AGENDA: <http://www.hematology.org/meetings/2008/program/index.cfm>

REGISTER NOW: <https://reg.jspargo.com/ash08/>

### **ASCO UPDATES:**

#### **New Advances on E-Prescribing Adoption**

Medicare is starting a new incentive payment program to encourage physicians to adopt e-prescribing systems. The initiative is part of the Administration's broader efforts to accelerate adoption of health IT and establishment of a health care system based on value.

The four-year bonus program, which will begin in 2009, is designed to streamline the prescription process and cut down on errors. The bonus breakdown for services using e-prescribing will be a 2% increase in Medicare payment in 2009 and 2010, a 1% increase in 2011 and 2012, and a 0.5% increase in 2013. After 2013, bonuses for e-prescribing will be phased out, and doctors who have not adopted e-prescribing systems will receive a reimbursement penalty. Hardship exceptions exist for doctors who have legitimate reasons for not complying.

CMS has not addressed all the technical components of how incentives will be earned, ways to report the data, and how the agency will enforce the program. Additional updates will be provided in *Cancer Policy Today* as CMS releases more information.

The new e-prescribing bonuses are in addition to those paid as part of the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) and other Medicare reimbursements.

Recent legislation extends PQRI and provides incentive payments of 2% for reporting data on quality measures in 2009 and 2010, up from 1.5% in 2008. E-prescribing coupled with PQRI could provide a 4% bonus in 2009 and 2010. Medicare expects to save up to \$156 million in avoided adverse drug events over the life of the e-prescribing program.

Despite the advantages of e-prescribing, barriers such as cost of implementation remain. CMS estimates that it will cost about \$3,000 per doctor to adopt an e-prescribing system, plus the expense of training and on-going maintenance. Free e-prescribing programs are available through the National ePrescribing Patient Safety Initiative (NEPSI).

For additional information, visit HHS's Value Driven Health Care Web site and CMS's Physician Quality Reporting Initiative Web site.

### **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:**

#### **THE EFFICIENT ONCOLOGY PRACTICE WEBCAST**

US Oncology has invited FLASCO members to participate in their Oncology Practice Education Series Webcast on Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008 at 3:00pm (Eastern Standard Time), called "The Efficient Oncology Practice." For more information or to register for this event, please go to <http://www.opspharmacist.com/opes>.

## **GERIATRIC ONCOLOGY CONSORTIUM**

FLASCO Member, Dr. Lodovico Balducci, invites you to participate in the “Advancing Cancer Care in the Elderly” (ACCE) Conference that will be held at One Ocean Resort Hotel in Atlantic Beach, FL on September 11-13, 2008. Dr. Balducci states that considering the importance of the issue in our State this conference could not be more “a propos.” In addition, this could be a unique opportunity to network with other individuals involved in the Geriatric Oncology Consortium and in clinical trials in older cancer patients. Please note that there will also be a program for nurses that may be of value to members of your staff. For additional info please visit: [www.thegoc.org](http://www.thegoc.org)

## **FOURTH ANNUAL ONCOLOGY CONGRESS:**

FLASCO is one of the co-sponsors of the Fourth Annual Oncology Congress which will be held September 25-28, 2008, at the Hilton San Francisco. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the Final Program Information please contact the FLASCO Executive Director and she will be glad to send you a copy.

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

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

### **PLATINUM**

Astra Zeneca  
Bayer/Onyx  
Cephalon Oncology  
Eli Lilly  
Oncology Supply/ION  
Sanofi-Aventis  
OPR  
Pharmion  
AMGEN  
Genentech  
Abraxis Oncology.  
Ortho Biotech  
GlaxoSmithKline

### **GOLD**

Celgene  
Genomic Health  
Novartis  
Pfizer  
Roche  
Bristol Myers Squibb  
Wyeth

### **SILVER**

MGI Pharma  
US Oncology  
ImClone Systems  
OSI Pharmaceuticals  
Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

### **BRONZE**

Boehringer Ingelheim  
Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
Alexion  
Genzyme

## **FLASCO EVENTS:**

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

**January 17-18, 2009** – Clinical Breakthroughs & Challenges in Hematologic Malignancies – Grand Floridian Resort – Lake Buena Vista

**February 6 & 7, 2009** – Highlights of ASH - Miami

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

**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)

## **OTHER EVENTS:**

September 11-13,2008 – One Ocean Resort, Atlantic Beach, FL – ACCE Advancing Cancer Care in the Elderly Conf

September 12-13, 2008 - The Palmer House Hilton – Chicago - 2008 ASH State-of-the-Art Symposium (SAS)

September 17-20, 2008 – ACCC 25<sup>th</sup> National Oncology Economic Conference – San Francisco, California

September 19-20, 2008 - Annual ASCO/ASH/SGO Meeting of the Hematology/Oncology CAC Network

September 25-28, 2008 - Oncology Congress - the Hilton San Francisco

October 19-22, 2008 – MGMA 2008 Annual Conference – San Diego

October 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – ASCO State Leadership Conference – Alexandria, VA

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 AOA Assembly Conference – Los Angeles, California