



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST – September 25th, 2008
FLASCO WEBSITE: www.flasco.org

MESSAGE FROM FLASCO PRESIDENT: Robert Cassell, MD

Today, I will be representing FLASCO at a Department of Health Workshop in Tallahassee relating to the Pedigree Bill which passed this Legislative Session. Information from this workshop will be contained in the fax blast next week.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Rogerio Lilenbaum, MD, Chairman

FLASCO Fall Meeting – November 7 & 8, 2008

You are encouraged to attend the FLASCO Fall Meeting which is being held at the Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel on November 7 & 8, 2008. Complete information has been sent to you previously and the information and registration form are available on the FLASCO website: www.flasco.org - **Deadline for hotel reservations is October 1, 2008.**

ACCC Regional Symposia Coming to Tampa – November 6, 2008 – Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel –

The Program Committee is pleased to announce that FLASCO is co-sponsoring the ACCC Regional Oncology Economic and Management Symposia. This free meeting is designed to help the oncology team meet the challenges of delivering quality cancer care in the hospital and office settings.

Attendees will find:

- The latest regulatory and legislative updates that will affect the way practices and cancer programs deliver care and are reimbursed for services
- How to work cooperatively in a time of declining reimbursement. Hospitals and practices share strategies and common issues.
- Assistance with billing and coding questions.
- Ideas to help strategically develop oncology practices.
- Guidance on how to handle the complexities of oncology management.

Courses are designed for all those in the business of delivering quality cancer care in hospital or office settings. In hospitals: chief financial officers, vice presidents, administrators, directors of the oncology service line, oncology nurses, pharmacists, finance staff, and social workers. In oncology practices: physicians, oncology nurses, office/practice administrators, and billers/coders. To register go to: http://www.accc-cancer.org/meetings/meetings_freesymposia.asp

CLINICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE: Tom Gaddis, MD, Chairman

Leucovorin Question

Last week the CPC was asked to research information on billing Leucovorin. The issue was sent to FCSO and below is their response to this issue:

QUESTION: Can chemotherapy administration codes be billed when administering Leucovorin.

RESPONSE FROM FCSO: After researching this matter and discussing with our Medical Director, it was found that chemotherapy administration codes **cannot** be billed with the administration of Leucovorin. The latest article that addressed this issue was published in the October 2006 Medicare B update, pp 40-41 on "Administration of Certain Biological Response Modifiers." This article clearly lists Leucovorin as one of the drugs **not allowed** to be billed with a chemotherapy administration code.

NPLATE BILLING:

FCSO has advised us that since there is not a J- code established for Nplate, claims should be billed to Medicare with an unlisted J-code and suspend for individual review and pricing. The FCSO pricing consultant is currently working to establish the pricing which will be based on 106% of WAC for Part B providers and 105% of WAC for Part A providers. Once CMS releases a price for the drug FCSO will price as ASP. Nplate is distributed in single dose vials, therefore Medicare will pay for wastage of the drug. The medical record should indicate what dosage was given to the patient and what amount was wasted.

Nplate is available only through a restricted distribution program called Nplate Nexus Program. Under the Nplate Nexus Program, only prescribers and patients roistered with the program are able to prescribe, administer, and receive Nplate. FCSO will request this documentation for review to assure patients as well as prescribers meet this requirement

CAC MEETING:

The ASCO, ASH, and SGO CAC meeting was held this past week. Drs. Tom Marsland and Gerald Robbins represented FLASCO at this meeting. Main topics: MACs and Compendia. We are asking that the issue of compendia be an agenda topic at our next meeting with FCSO on October 28, 2008.

FCSO UPDATES:

Note on Payment for Imaging Services

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 capped the Medicare physician fee schedule (MPFS) payment for the technical component (TC) of most imaging services at the outpatient prospective payment system (OPPS) payment rate. The cap applies to both TC-only and the TC of global services. Where the payment is capped, the MPFS files may disclose only the capped payment amount. Several providers have requested disclosure of both the capped and uncapped amounts. Such information can be found at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PFSlookup/02_PFSsearch.asp#TopOfPage.

FDA UPDATES:

Celgene's Revlimid may be linked to serious skin reactions

Celgene's Revlimid (lenalidomide) may be associated with serious skin reactions, according to a postmarketing review published as part of a drug safety newsletter posted to the FDA's website. Brian Gill, a spokesperson for the company, indicated that the product's label would likely be updated to include reports of the skin reactions.

FDA approves Gardasil as vulvar and vaginal cancer vaccine

Merck's Gardasil (quadrivalent human papillomavirus [HPV] vaccine) has been approved for the prevention of vaginal and vulvar cancer caused by HPV types 16 and 18 in females ages 9-26. For more information call (866) 822-0068 or visit www.gardasil.com.

Sancuso patch approved for nausea and vomiting

The FDA has approved Sancuso (granisetron transdermal patch, from ProStrakan) for the prevention of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV). For more information call (908) 234-1096 or visit www.prostrakan-usa.com

Tarceva (erlotinib) Tablets

Audience: Oncological healthcare professionals

OSI and Genentech notified healthcare professionals that cases of hepatic failure and hepatorenal syndrome, including fatalities, have been reported during use of Tarceva, particularly in patients with baseline hepatic impairment. Patients with hepatic impairment receiving Tarceva should be closely monitored during therapy and the product should be used with extra caution in patients with total bilirubin >3x ULN. Dosing should be interrupted or discontinued if changes in liver function are severe, such as doubling of total bilirubin and/or tripling of transaminases in the setting of pretreatment values outside the normal range. New information from a pharmacokinetic study in patients with moderate hepatic impairment associated with significant liver tumor burden has been provided in the revised prescribing information, and other recommendations are included in the WARNINGS and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION sections.

Read the entire 2008 MedWatch Safety Summary, including links to the manufacturer's Dear Healthcare Provider Letter and the revised prescribing information for Tarceva, at:

<http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety/2008/safety08.htm#Tarceva>.

ACCC UPDATE:

Discussions Underway About New Direction for ACCC's *Compendia-Based Drug Bulletin*

ACCC is conducting a series of focus groups with physicians, hospital pharmacy managers, practice managers, and billers/coders, and insurers to plot the future direction of ACCC's *Compendia-Based Drug Bulletin* in light of the recent decision by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to recognize new compendia. The focus groups will take place early in October.

At ACCC's recent Oncology Economics Conference, attendees participated in an interactive session in which they were asked a series of questions about the possible new direction for the popular publication. Almost all agreed that off-label oncology drug use is very important, and some reported more restrictive reimbursement for off-label use from Medicare and private insurers. Almost all would like to see a comprehensive listing that summarizes recognized indications from all CMS-recognized drug compendia, and a continuation of including a list of the ICD-9 codes.

No firm date has been established yet for a publication date. As details become available, ACCC membership will be advised.

CMS UPDATES:

Medicare Part B Drugs Average Sales Price Files -- October 2008

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has made available the Medicare Part B Drug and Biological Average Sales Price (ASP) Payment Amounts for October 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008 on the CMS website at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/01a_2008aspfiles.asp#TopOfPage. The files are located in the "Downloads" section of this web page.

Revised Guidelines for Teaching Physicians, Interns, and Residents

The revised *Guidelines for Teaching Physicians, Interns, and Residents* (July 2008), which provides information about payment for physician services in teaching settings, general documentation guidelines, and evaluation and management documentation guidelines, is now available in downloadable format from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services **Medicare Learning Network** at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/gdelinesteachgresfctshst.pdf>.

MLM MATTERS:

New:

SE0833 – Medicare Part B Drug Competitive Acquisition Program (CAP) Postponed for 2009
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0833.pdf>

MM6183 – Limitation on Recoupment (935) for Provider, Physicians and Suppliers Overpayments
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6183.pdf>

MM6163 – Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation Counseling Billing Update for Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (CORFs) and Outpatient Physical Therapy Providers (OPTs)
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6163.pdf>

MM6175 – October 2008 Quarterly Average Sales Price (ASP) Medicare Part B Drug Pricing Files and Revisions to Prior Quarterly Pricing Files
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6175.pdf>

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

AstraZeneca is presenting a “Welcome to the Hormonal Aspects of Breast Cancer Web-Based Lecture Series”

The Hormonal Aspects of Breast Cancer (HABC) Lecture Series is comprised of interactive Web-based meetings and conferences led by nationally recognized breast cancer experts who will share current information related to the management and hormonal treatment of breast cancer patients. The series are available on various dates between September 24, and October 30, 2008. To register please visit: <http://www.hormonalaspectsofbc.com/> or you may contact your local sales representative.

Oncotype DX -New HER2 Score Web Conference – Genomic Health

Gary Palmer, MD, JD, MBA, MPH • Friday, October 3 • 12 pm EDT

The following is Pathology focused:

Rick Baehner, MD • Tuesday, September 30 • 1 pm EDT

To register: **Physicians may register by contacting Nikki Detore at 1-866-984-5114 or ndetore@envisioncomm.net**

Webcast Series On Advanced Rcc And Imatinib-Resistant Gist

Pfizer is sponsoring both Oncologist and Nurse Webcast on Advanced RCC and Imatinib-Resistant GIST. There are multiple dates for Oncologist: Sept. 24, 25, 30, OCT. 22, 28, Nov.5, and 19. Nurse dates are: Sept. 17, 19, 22, Nov. 11 and 18. You may register at: www.PfizerOncology.com/webcast or call the registration line at 1-877-426-3662. Enter Promotion Code: DR276W

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:

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

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Email: Dorothy.Green@cancer.org

OTHER EVENTS:

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

October 23rd & 24th, 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 AOHA Assembly Conference – Los Angeles, California