



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST – October 16, 2008
FLASCO WEBSITE: www.flasco.org

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

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.

To register go to: http://www.accc-ancer.org/meetings/meetings_freesymposia.asp

Save the date for Highlights of ASH®

This year one of the Highlights of ASH is taking place in Miami, FL, on February 6-7, 2009. You may register at www.hematology.org/meetings/highlights. Let's have a good showing of attendees from FLASCO!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Julio Hajdenberg, MD, Chairman

FLASCO extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Madelyn Herzfeld, RN – IMER – Affiliate

Michelle Krawczyk, ARNP – Integrated Community Oncology Network – Affiliate

CLINICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE: Thomas Gaddis, MD, Chairman

Info for PAs (Source: FAPA)

There have been an increasing number of questions to the Board of Medicine and FAPA regarding what may constitute the annually required Medical Errors CME Course in Florida. These questions have come about as a result of audits revealing that some PAs (and other professionals) have not completed their course requirements properly. As a result, the Florida Department of Health has issued an information sheet explaining this in more detail, which is now loaded on our CURRENT NEWS section of the FAPA Website at www.fapaonline.org. You can go to this information sheet directly at: http://www.fapaonline.org/files/CME_MEInfo.doc

CAC UPDATE: Thomas Marsland, MD

On behalf of FLASCO I attended the recent CAC Meeting – following are the highlights of the meeting

- First Coast Service Options received the J 9 award which will include Florida and PR and VI's.... transition period now in play... time to consolidate the LCD's from PR and FL.... No new LCD's during transition period... Will include Part A and B.... notice of consolidated LCD's will go out in Dec and will be effective by Mar 09 at which point transition will end .. no comment period for the consolidated LCD's (they will be reported to and cleared by CMS prior to the notification in Dec....) they will use the " most clinically useful" LCD's for the new combined J-9 area.... There are 119 LCD's that both FL and PR have; 94 that only FL has and only 4 that PR has and FL does not... so only 4 new LCD's for Florida (Breast Imaging mammography and sonography, cardiovasc stress testing, radiography exam of sinus, and syphilis test) there are also several for part A - will have a total of 217 LCD for part B.

- Some discussion on RAC's our area has been awarded.... To start in Oct can only go back three years and not before 10/07 (so only one year now, two next yr, and three the following...) Connelly Consulting Assoc Inc.... so may want to monitor their web site to see what diagnosis and codes they will be reviewing.... what they are going to review must be approved by a "validation provider" (Provider Resources Inc) and they can only look at issues that have been cleared by them... (probably not a bad idea to monitor PRI web also...) will actually probably not start seeing RAC audits till Dec..... another new wrinkle if a hospitalization is denied ALL services including physician E&M for that hospitalization will ALSO be denied
- Next CAC probably in March.... At least for now will maintain.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield Update: (Source: Michelle Smith Flowers, OMF)

Effective November 1, 2008, BCBS health insurance coverage for International Blue Members from Jamaica will be terminated, ID cards with the alpha prefix of JAM. For questions contact the Provider Contact Center @ 1-800-727-2227. You have until March 1, 2009 to submit claims for services PRIOR to November 1, 2008.

BCBS has been experiencing issues with ESA modifiers and laboratory results not being included on claims for Medicare Advantage Plans and causing payment delays.

ESA modifiers and either Hgb. or Hct. results must be reported on all BCBS MA Plans. Although the claims are sent to Florida Blues, the claims are processed in a claims system with the same requirements as those of Medicare (CMS guidelines). If you are providing this information on your BCBS MA plans already AND you are receiving inquiries from Blue Cross, I might suggest checking with your Clearinghouse to make certain this information is being included.

Are You Going to All Digital Mammography? Learn the Challenges.

Oncology Issues talked with Mary Hayes, MD, medical director of Memorial Healthcare System Women's Imaging Centers and Carina Marrero, RT(R)(M), clinical coordinator of Memorial Regional Hospital's Women's Imaging Center in south Florida, about the process of going to all digital mammography. Here's how one healthcare system transitioned to digital mammography, including a discussion of the decision-making and implementation process.
<http://oi.accc-cancer.org/articles/sep08/hayes.pdf>

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Erin Dunbar, MD,Chairman

Please E-mail Your Members of Congress to be Original Co-sponsors of the Preserving Patient Access to Primary Care Act (H.R. 7192)

The new Congress needs to hear your support of efforts to improve the critical deficit in primary care physicians and thereby indirectly improving the lives of cancer patients and minimizing the practice burdens of oncologists. As summarized by Jolynne M. Flores, American College of Physician's Supervisor for Grassroots Advocacy & PAC, "One of the most pressing challenges facing the American health care system is the growing shortage of primary care physicians. New, comprehensive legislation has been developed that proposes practical solutions to avert this growing shortage. H.R. 7192, the Preserving Patient Access to Primary Care Act, was recently introduced in the House and a similar companion bill is expected to be introduced in the Senate next year....On September 27, Rep. Allyson Schwartz (D-13th PA) introduced the Preserving Patient Access to Primary Care Act (H.R. 7192). The legislation addresses in a comprehensive fashion the reasons for the shortfall in access to primary care services and steps to reverse the trend. Similar legislation will be introduced by Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) next year when the new Congress convenes." More information is available at www.acponline.org <<http://www.acponline.org/>> .

FCSO UPDATES:

Enhancement to Interactive Voice Response (IVR) coming soon

First Coast Service Options Inc. (FCSO) is pleased to announce that a new self-service feature will soon be available via the Part B IVR. This self-service feature will allow providers to request telephone reopenings on certain claims. This enhancement will be available in late 2008. Please refer back to this Web site often for further communication on the availability of this new feature

CMS UPDATES:

The ICD-10-Clinical Modification/Procedure Coding System Bookmark

This is now available from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Medicare Learning Network. This bookmark explains the ICD-10-Clinical Modification/Procedure Coding System (CM/PCS) including the benefits of adopting the system, recommended steps to be taken in order to plan and prepare for implementation of the system, and where additional information about the system can be found. To place your order visit

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/01_Overview.asp , scroll down to “Related Links Inside CMS” and select “MLN Product Ordering Page.” If you have problems accessing this hyperlink, please copy and paste the URL into your Internet browser.

FDA UPDATES:

FDA Approves AdreView for the Detection of Primary or Metastatic Pheochromocytoma and Neuroblastoma as an Adjunct to Other Diagnostic Tests

Recently, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Iobenguane, I 123 injection (AdreView, GE Healthcare), a diagnostic radiopharmaceutical, for use in the detection of primary or metastatic Pheochromocytoma or Neuroblastoma as an adjunct to other diagnostic tests. Full prescribing information, including clinical trial information, safety, dosing, drug-drug interactions and contraindications is available online at:

<http://www.fda.gov/cder/foi/label/2008/22290lbl.pdf>

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:Sanofi-Aventis PACT+ Provider Portal Webcast

You are invited to join the PACT+ Provider Portal Webcast presented by Sanofi-Aventis -Date: October 22, 2008. The PACT+ Provider Portal is a secure web site accessible only to healthcare providers and reimbursement personnel who participate in the PACT+ program on behalf of their needy patients. This tool is the first of its kind in Oncology and offers improved workflow processes related to reimbursement/patient assistance program information

To register

12:00 noon EST Session: <https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/schedule/display.do?rfe=1n23mbqtv9l8n&udc=1plumxgs8gtm7>

4:00 pm EST Session: <https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/schedule/display.do?rfe=9x7mofqwhkwf&udc=1xazofenz66t>

Novartis – New Directions in Quality

Audio Conference – 45 minute session – October 22, 2008, 2:00 pm – To Register:

http://www.novartis-media.com/New_Directions_in_Quality/audiocon2/Registration.php

Nursing Liability Center Webcast

10 Documentation Tips That May Keep You Out of Trouble - In this webcast, learn key documentation tips that may help you defend yourself in a malpractice lawsuit and perhaps keep you out of court in the first place!

http://www.accelacommunications.com/microsite/liability_center/

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.

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 6, 2008 - ACCC Regional Oncology Economic and Management Symposia – Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel
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
November 6-7, 2009 – FLASCO Fall Meeting – Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel

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
June 13-17, 2009 – AMA Annual Meeting – Chicago, IL
July 23-26, 2009 – FMA Annual Meeting – Boca Raton, FL

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