



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST – November 29, 2007

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Venofer and Ferrlecit are approved for the treatment of anemia due to iron deficiency in patients with chronic renal insufficiency. If you are administering either medication in patients WITHOUT chronic renal insufficiency are you getting paid by Medicare and insurance companies? Also are you concerned regarding a possible retro-audit and then repayment to Medicare?

Please send info to FLASCO Executive Director: Dorothy.green@cancer.org or fax: 813.254.5857

DRUG AND INDUSTRY UPDATES

Oncotype DX is Covered For Almost All Breast Cancer Patients in Florida.

BCBS FL has published a favorable medical policy for Oncotype DX for Node-Negative and Estrogen Receptor-Positive Breast Cancer. The Policy is effective Nov 15, 2007 based on the extensive published data. There are no tumor size or age restrictions on usage of the test. In HER2 Patients the test can be utilized in 1cm and less tumors that are candidates for chemotherapy.

Coverage Criteria:

HER 2 patients less than 1cm (that would be candidates for chemotherapy)

No Tumor Size restrictions

No Age restrictions

Policy can be viewed at <http://mcgs.bcbsfl.com/>

As always the test should be used in the context of making a treatment decision (within 6 months or less of diagnosis) in regards to treatment with chemotherapy and including the discussion in the chart to help ensure reimbursement for the test.

It is recommended that you utilize the Genomic Access Program, GAP, to help answer any questions for patients about coverage and/or copays (if needed). GAP [866-662-6897](tel:866-662-6897) (866-ONCOTYPE).

FDA Approves Nexavar (Sorafenib) for Patients with Inoperable Liver Cancer (Bayer/Onyx)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved Nexavar (sorafenib) for use in patients with a form of liver cancer known as hepatocellular carcinoma, when the cancer is inoperable. Nexavar was originally approved in 2005 for the treatment of patients with advanced renal cell carcinoma, a form of kidney cancer.

<http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01748.html>

Celgene announced that it will acquire Pharmion.

The acquisition is expected to close by the end of the second quarter of 2008. As part of the acquisition, Celgene will gain Pharmion's Vidaza, approved in the US for the treatment of myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS). The drug is expected to be filed for EU approval in "higher risk MDS" by the end of the year, the companies noted. Additionally, Pharmion holds the marketing rights for Celgene's thalidomide in Europe and some other international markets, while its pipeline includes

amrubicin, currently in Phase III testing for small-cell lung cancer; and MGCD0103, in mid-stage studies for haematological malignancies as well as solid tumors.

US Warns GlaxoSmithKline Over Promotional Materials For Tykerb

In a letter to GlaxoSmithKline, the FDA stated that the drug maker exaggerated the benefits and downplayed the risks of breast cancer drug Tykerb in promotional materials sent to doctors. The FDA requested that GlaxoSmithKline halt distribution of the letters and come up with a plan to address the misleading promotional materials by December 6. In response, a company spokesperson commented that GlaxoSmithKline will "work with the agency to address its concerns."

FIRST COAST SERVICE OPTIONS

Advance Beneficiary Notice – Part A & B

- **Modifier GZ** must be used when physicians, practitioners, or suppliers want to indicate that they expect that Medicare will deny an item or service as not reasonable and necessary and they **have not had** an advance beneficiary notification (ABN) signed by the beneficiary.
- **Modifier GA** must be used when physicians, practitioners, or suppliers want to indicate that they expect that Medicare will deny a service as not reasonable and necessary and they **do have on** file an ABN signed by the beneficiary.
- All claims not meeting medical necessity of a local coverage determination must append the billed service with **modifier GA or GZ**.

For more information concerning advance beneficiary notices, refer to http://www.cms.hhs.gov/BNI/01_overview.asp

FLORIDA MEDICAID

Coverage for Q4095, Zoledronic Acid (Reclast) – Updated Price

Medicaid has issued the following correction to prior information

Provider Types: 25, 26

Coverage for Q4095, Zoledronic Acid (Reclast) – Updated Price

Effective on and after July 1, 2007, Florida Medicaid will reimburse for Q4095, Injection, zoledronic acid (Reclast), 1 mg for Medicaid recipients 18 years of age and older. Reimbursement is \$220.29 with maximum units = 5.

MEDLEARN MATTERS

New: MM5810 – 2008 Annual Update to the Therapy Code List (Effective Date: 1/1/08)

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5810.pdf>

One new code will be added to the therapy code list for CY 2008. Code 96125 will be used for standard cognitive performance testing per hour of a qualified health care professional's time, both face to face with the patient and time interpreting test results and preparing the report. Code 96125 is considered "always therapy" regardless of who performs the service and will always require a therapy modifier (GN, GO, GP)

OTHER INFORMATION

The ASH Annual Meeting starts in Atlanta next Friday. The FLASCO Executive Director and Dr. Gerald Robbins, FLASCO Vice President and Dr. Larry Solberg, FLASCO Liaison to ASH will be attending this meeting. It would be nice to know if other FLASCO members are attending this meeting – e-mail the FLASCO Executive Director at: Dorothy.Green@cancer.org

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP/SPONSORSHIP: (January 1 – December 31, 2007)

FLASCO Members extends a big thanks to all of our 2007 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

FLASCO Contact Information:

Dorothy Green Phillips, Executive Director - 3709 W. Jetton Ave., Tampa, Florida 33629
Tel: 800.444.1410, Ext. 4410 - Cell Phone: 813.294.2620 - Fax: 813.254.5857 or 813.349.4472
Email: Dorothy.Green@cancer.org