The **ANCO FAX News** focuses on ANCO’s core activities—advocacy, clinical and professional education, and Association and membership news. While membership mailings and e-mail/FAX broadcasts continue, the **ANCO FAX News** summarizes this information in a regular forum of important news to members. Contact the ANCO office for additional information regarding any item published in the **ANCO FAX News**. Find the **ANCO FAX News** online at [www.anco-online.org/pubs.html](http://www.anco-online.org/pubs.html).

In this issue:
- SGR Repeal & Medicare Payment Reform
- ASCO’s Oncology Care Model webcast
- UHC’s prior authorization program
- Patient Survey Solution Webcast
- ANCO’s Professional Education Program

The **ANCO FAX News** is FAXed to Individual Member practices, and e-mailed to Group, Institutional, and Corporate (contacts) Members. The next regular **ANCO FAX News** will be published on May 8th. Send your comments or contributions to ANCO, P.O. Box 151109, San Rafael, CA 94915-1109; Voice: (415) 472-3960; FAX: (415) 472-3961; execdir@anco-online.org.

The **ANCO FAX News** has information for every member of your practice or organization. Pass it along!

- [ ] Physician Members
- [ ] Nurses & Office Managers
- [ ] Office Staff
- [ ] Colleagues & Representatives

The **Association of Northern California Oncologists** (ANCO) is an association of hematologists/oncologists dedicated to promoting high professional standards of cancer care by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas, data, and knowledge.

The material contained in the **ANCO FAX News** is intended as general information for ANCO members. Because diagnostic, treatment, contracting, coding, and billing decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis, any such information contained in the **ANCO FAX News** may not apply in any given situation. Members are encouraged to contact their own consultants or advisors to obtain specific advice on matters relating to contracting, coding, and billing. The information contained in the **ANCO FAX News** should not be used as a substitute for such advice.
ACCC, ASCO, ASH, COA, and National Legislative & Regulatory Issues

Congress has passed and the President has signed HR2 that eliminates the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) and provides for automatic .5% updates each year for four years for Medicare Physician Fee Schedule services. In 2019, physicians can choose to participate in one of two payment track options:

- A fee-for-service track that simplifies and consolidates the existing quality reporting programs, reinstates bonuses up to 9%, and reduces current penalties.
- An alternative payment model track that provides 5% bonus payments and allows physicians to develop the new models, such as primary care/specialty medical homes.

In addition, the legislation:

- Streamlines the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS), Meaningful Use (MU), and Value Based Modifier (VBM) quality programs to create the Merit-Based Incentive Program (MIPS). The maximum MIPS bonuses and penalties will be 4% in 2019, 5% in 2020, 7% in 2021, and 9% in 2022 and beyond. Physicians are eligible for additional bonuses of up to 10% for exceptional performance. MIPS scores will include quality, resource use, meaningful use, and clinical practice improvement activities.
- Physicians are also required to be involved in defining quality and in developing new payment models that are not specified in the legislation.
- Reinstates bundled payments for the 10-day and 90-day global surgical services.
- Provides total cost of care data to help physicians better manage their practices.
- Mandates interoperability of electronic health record systems. By December 31, 2018, vendors will no longer be able to block interoperability.
- Ensures that any practice guideline or payment policy in the ACA cannot be construed to be the standard of care for professional liability purposes.


The passage of HR2 eliminates the 21% physician fee cut that was scheduled to take effect for claims dated on or after April 1st. Noridian/JEMAC has informed CMA that the number of physicians that will see a reduced rate was minimal (170 claims submitted on April 1st in 13 states). Claims submitted on April 2nd will be processed correctly at the levels in place since January 1st. Noridian/JEMAC is working on automatically reprocessing claims received on April 1st that were processed at the lower rate with no action needed from physicians. Physicians can expect to see a .5% increase in reimbursement on July 1st and another .5% update on January 1st, 2016.

The CMS Innovation Center plans to test a new Oncology Care Model (OCM) intended to address the spiraling costs of cancer care and improve quality for beneficiaries. As part of a broader Federal effort to push to reward hospitals and physicians for value rather than the volume of services they provide, CMS is inviting oncology practices to join a five-year test set to begin in the Spring of 2016. Learn more about CMS’s Oncology Care Model at innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/Oncology-Care/
or www.communityoncology.org/site/blog/detail/2015/02/12/cms-cmni-releases-oncology-payment-reform-model.html. Read ASCO’s early response to CMS’ Oncology Care Model at www.asco.org/advocacy/new-cms-oncology-care-model-relies-broken-fee-service-system. ACCC believes this new initiative is a promising step in the right direction; however, as with the launch of any new model, the details are critical—and many questions remain. Read ACCC’s statement at www.acc-cancer.org/mediaroom/press_releases/2015/ACCC-Commends-New-Oncology-Care-Model-2.18.15.asp. In addition, ACCC has launched the OCM Resource Center to help answer your questions on eligibility, reimbursement, key considerations for participation, and more at www.acc-cancer.org/advocacy/OCM-ResourceCenter.asp. ASH’s analysis is available at www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Policy-News/2015/3715.aspx. ASCO will host a webinar on the Oncology Care Model on Tuesday, April 28 at 1PM PDT. Attendees will learn about OCM’s purpose and key features, payment methodology, six practice requirements, quality and performance measures, practice implications, and navigating the application process. Learn more and register for the webinar at www.asco.org/advocacy/attend-freeasco-webinar-medicare-oncology-payment-model.

ASCO has submitted comments to the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on their draft guidance on Individual Patient Expanded Access applications (available at www.asco.org/sites/www.asco.org/files/comments_on_exp_access_form_3926_4.13.15.pdf). ASCO commended the FDA’s effort to streamline the physician application for expanded access to drugs under development for individual patients and expressed the Society’s general support for the proposed revisions to the Expanded Access request process and application form. Suggestions for further improving the Expanded Access application were also included in ASCO’s comments.

CMS has confirmed that ICD-10-CM will be implemented on October 1st. The California Medical Association (CMA), in partnership with your local county medical society and the California Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) will offer statewide, two-day ICD-10 code set seminars this Summer. The training is designed specifically for coding staff and intended to give attendees a comprehensive understanding of guidelines and conventions of ICD-10, as well as fundamental knowledge of how to decipher, understand, and accurately apply codes in ICD-10. CMA has announced the dates and locations of these seminars at www.cmanet.org/aapc-icd10. Bobbi Buell’s 2014 ICD-10 webinars are available online, as follows:

- Introduction
  http://cc.readytalk.com/play?id=dpiw6b
- Preparing for ICD-10-CM
  http://cc.readytalk.com/play?id=p09pa
- Coding Guidelines
  http://cc.readytalk.com/play?id=58ye4l
- Oncology Guidelines
  http://cc.readytalk.com/play?id=51swth
- Solid Tumors
  http://cc.readytalk.com/play?id=dnagdk
- Blood Tumors
  http://cc.readytalk.com/play?id=3ieq6f
- Side Effects and AE
  http://cc.readytalk.com/play?id=gavlx6
- ICD-10 for Physicians
  http://cc.readytalk.com/play?id=728hon

(Alternatively, go to www.anco-online.org to access these recordings.) Buell has also announced eight 30-45 minute webinars starting in late April; go to www.anco-online.org/2015-ICD10Webinars.pdf for more information and to register.


CMA, MOASC, and State Legislative & Regulatory Issues

Sacramento can be a dangerous place for doctors. Many bills impacting medicine wind their way through the Capitol on their journey to the Governor’s desk. And, many of these bills threaten the medical profession with the backing of powerful lobbyists and PACs. It’s critical that
physicians have an advocate at work for them every day and who knows how to speak on their behalf. That advocate is the California Medical Association (CMA). While physicians keep a close eye on their patients, CMA is keeping a close eye on those bills...and more. Got payment delays? Feeling victimized by payers and overwhelmed by the process? Don’t let the health plans mistreat you. The CMA’s Center for Economic Services (CES) has a team of reimbursement specialists available to assist ANCO’s CMA members experiencing payment problems with third-party payers. For membership, please call (916) 551-2042; for reimbursement assistance, please call CMA’s Reimbursement Helpline at (888) 401-5911.

*CMA Practice Resources* (CPR) is a monthly e-mail bulletin from CMA’s Center for Economic Services that is full of tips and tools to help physicians and their office staff improve practice efficiency and viability. Subscribing to CPR is free and open to anyone, but CMA membership is necessary to access the resources, toolkits, forms, and tools that are located on the members-only CMA website. Please visit www.cmanet.org/cpr to subscribe. The April edition includes:

- **United Healthcare** automatically opts physicians into Core product
- **Practice check-up:** How scheduling strategies can reduce disruptions and long patient wait times

**Noridian/JEMAC, DHCS/MediCal, & Private Payers**

**Noridian Administrative Services** is the Jurisdiction E (JE) Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC). Jurisdiction E includes California. Regularly review postings at the Noridian/JEMAC website at med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb. Recent updates include:

- MLN Connects Provider eNews: *Announcements*—Newly Approved Drugs and Biologicals: Quarterly Provider Update for April 2015; CMS Accepting Suggestions for Potential PQRS Measures; Proposed Rule Outlines EHR Requirements for Providers for 2015-

**Claims, Pricers, and Codes**—Modifications to HCPCS Code Set

**Publications**—Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule Fact Sheet-Revised; Medicare Appeals Process Fact Sheet-Reminder

- ICD-10 Conversion/Coding Information Revisions/ICD-9 Updates to NCDs-2nd Maintenance CR-Revised CR9087
- CCI Edits, Version 21.2, Effective July 1, 2015 CR9108
- Ask the Contractor Teleconference-ICD-10-April 30, 2015
- FDA Approval of First Biosimilar Product-SE1509
- Noridian News Bulletins Issued Quarterly
- Transition to ICD-10
- Self-Administered Drug Exclusion List-R8

**Noridian/JEMAC’s Electronic Data Interchange Support Services (EDISS)** invites you to subscribe to its e-mail distribution list to receive current information at www.edissweb.com/cgp/news/index.html.

**Forthcoming Noridian/JEMAC workshops** include:

- Live Online Q&A Session (May 11)
- New Provider Education Workshop (May 14)

Visit med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb/education/training-events for more information and to register.

CMS has issued two documents on Medicare Part B and Part D payment for biosimilars that are relevant to hematology/oncology. The Part B document removes a provision that would result in lower reimbursement for physicians prescribing less expensive biosimilars rather than reference biologics; visit www.hematology.org/Advocacy/Policy-News/2015/3948.aspx for more information.

**Subscribe today to receive the DHCS/Medi-Cal Subscription Service** (MCSS) via e-mail. The MCSS is a free service that can help keep you up-to-date on the latest DHCS/MediCal news. Go
to the MCSS Subscriber Form (files.medical.ca.gov/pubsdoco/mcss/mcss.asp), enter an e-mail address and a ZIP code, and customize your subscription by selecting the specific subject areas you are interested in. For more information about MCSS, visit the MCSS Help page at files.medical.ca.gov/pubsdoco/mcss/mcss_help.asp.

A list of DHCS/MediCal webinars is at files.medical.ca.gov/pubsdoco/newroom/newroom_23149.asp?utm_source=iContact&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Medi-Cal%20NewsFlash&utm_content=23149.

Effective retroactively for dates of service on or after July 1st, 2014, the maximum daily dose restriction of 5mcg for J1446 (tbo-filgrastim) has been removed by DHCS/Medical.

The following updated information regarding online prior authorizations for injectable outpatient chemotherapy services is provided by UnitedHealthcare:

Effective June 1, 2015, UnitedHealthcare will launch a new national online prior authorization program for injectable chemotherapy drugs administered in an outpatient setting for a cancer diagnosis to help reduce post service denials for UnitedHealthcare members undergoing treatment in the following plans:

- Neighborhood Health Partnership
- UnitedHealthcare—excluding indemnity/Options PPO and select administrative services only (ASO) customers
- UnitedHealthcare Life Insurance Company and Golden Rule Insurance Company for select group numbers

The program is designed to expedite the review of treatment compliance with the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Compendium which UnitedHealthcare uses as the clinical source for our chemotherapy coverage decisions because of its reputation as an expert resource for oncologists and its recommendations are transparent to physicians, patients and payers. The new process provides timely approvals for NCCN compliant regimens.

To support the prior authorization process, we have contracted with CareCore National Oncology Division to review specific regimens and lines of therapy.

The expected advantages to oncologists rendering outpatient chemotherapy include:

- Ability to see all eligible NCCN-recommended chemotherapy regimens during the authorization process
- Submission of clinical information during the authorization process for patients who require exceptions due to medical contra-indications
- Elimination of most claim denials after the treatment has been given

Requests for pediatric chemotherapy regimens, rare cancers, or chemotherapy regimens that are not NCCN recommended will receive a timely response if supporting documentation is provided at the time of the prior authorization request.

The UnitedHealthcare Injectable Chemotherapy Prior Authorization Program includes all injectable chemotherapy drugs used to treat cancer.

- Chemotherapy injectable drugs (J9000-J9999), Leucovorin (J0640), Levoleukovorin (J0641)
- Chemotherapy injectable drugs that have a Q code are included in the UnitedHealthcare Injectable Chemotherapy Prior Authorization Program
- Chemotherapy injectable drugs that have not yet received an assigned code and will be billed under a miscellaneous Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code require a prior authorization

Prior authorization requests for the following products are NOT part of the UnitedHealthcare Injectable Chemotherapy Prior Authorization Program.
- Radiotherapeutic agents (i.e., Zevalin and Xofigo)
- Oral chemotherapy drugs, which are covered under a member’s pharmacy benefit plan
- Supportive care injectable drugs
- Use of the chemotherapy drugs for non-cancer diagnosis

If the member has received injectable chemotherapy drugs in an outpatient setting between March 1, 2015 through May 31, 2015, you do NOT need to request prior authorization until a new chemotherapy drug is administered to the member. We will authorize the chemotherapy regimen the member was receiving prior to May 31, 2015 and the authorization will be effective until May 31, 2016.

If you do not complete the prior authorization process before administering chemotherapy, claims will be denied based on lack of prior authorization. Providers cannot bill members for services that are denied due to lack of prior authorization.

Receipt of prior authorization does not guarantee or authorize payment. Payment for covered services is contingent upon many factors, including the member’s eligibility on the date of service, benefit plan, any claim processing requirements, and the terms of the provider’s participation agreement with UnitedHealthcare.

Information about this program will be available on our physician website (UnitedHealthcareOnline.com) in April and include:

- Training videos
- Live Training Seminar and Live Question and Answer sessions schedule
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Link to Oncology Medication Clinical Coverage Policy
- Case status definitions
- Cancer Diagnosis Quick Reference Guide
- Free access to the NCCN compendium

EDUCATION
[Editor’s Note: ANCO organizes clinical and professional education meetings throughout the year and throughout Northern California.]

ANCO/MOASC
Patient Survey Solution Webcast
ANCO/MOASC will host a webcast entitled Patient Survey Solution, presented by Thomas P. Jeffrey, President, SullivanLuallinGroup on April 29th at 12PM. For more information, go to www.anco-online.org/PtSurveyWebcast.pdf; to register for this webcast, e-mail execdir@anco-online.org (Subject: Webcast). Login/callin instructions will be e-mailed to registrants in advance of the webcast.

2Q2013 Professional Education Meeting
ANCO will host a professional education meeting on May 20th at The Claremont Resort. The agenda will cover Getting Ready for ICD-10, Plugging Pesky Revenue Leaks, Current Oncology Practice Trends, and Oncology Payment Reform; the faculty are Roberta Buell, M.B.A., Rishi Cleland, Thomas R. Barr, M.B.A., and Elaine L. Towle, C.M.P.E. Download the meeting registration form at www.anco-online.org/2Q2015ProfEducMeeting.pdf.

ASCO Annual Meeting
Registration and housing for the 2015 ASCO Annual Meeting, May 29th - June 2nd, at McCormick Place in Chicago is now open. Reserve your room and register at am.asco.org/.

ASCO’s Best of ASCO
ASCO’s Best of ASCO takes place in San Francisco on August 7-8th. Visit boa.asco.org for more information. An ANCO event at ASCO’s Best of ASCO is being organized on August 6th in lieu of ANCO’s ASCO Highlights.

Additional Education Meetings
Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:
April 28th
Medical Update on Ovarian Cancer
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

April 29th
Updates in the Treatment of HER2 Positive Breast Cancer (Part I of Living with Breast Cancer)
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

May 1st
New Perspectives in the Treatment of Advanced Skin Cancer: Basal Cell & Squamous Cell Cancers (Part I of Living with Advanced Skin Cancer)
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

May 5th
New Perspectives in Immuno-Oncology in the Treatment of Lung Cancer (Part I of Lung Cancer and Immuno-Oncology)
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

May 6th
Understanding Diagnostic Technologies and Biomarkers
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

May 11th
Progress in the Treatment of Polycythemia Vera
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

May 12th
Advances in the Treatment of Metastatic Prostate Cancer
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

May 15th
Emerging Treatments for Metastatic Melanoma (Part II of Living with Advanced Skin Cancer)
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

May 26th
For Caregivers: Coping with a Loved One’s Metastatic Prostate Cancer
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

May 27th
Treatment of Estrogen Receptor (ER) Positive &

Progesterone Receptor (PR) Positive Breast Cancer & Triple Negative Breast Cancer (Part II of Living with Breast Cancer)
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

June 9th
Managing the Side Effects of Immuno-Oncology in the Treatment of Lung Cancer (Part II of Lung Cancer and Immuno-Oncology)
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

June 10th
Update on the Treatment of Pancreatic Cancer
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

June 11th
Highlights from the 2015 ASCO Annual Meeting—Your Guide to the Latest Cancer Research and Treatment
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

June 15th
Treatment Update on Liver Cancer and Managing the Costs of Care
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

June 18th
New Perspectives in the Treatment of Renal Cell Cancer
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

June 22nd
Gastric Cancer: Current Perspectives and Treatment Options
CancerCare
Connect Education Workshop

June 23rd
Bridging the Gap between Patient Needs and Financial Resources: Financial Advocacy Network Regional Meeting
Association of Community Cancer Centers
Burlingame
(www.accc-cancer.org/financialadvocacy)

Please contact the ANCO office for more information about these meetings.
ASSOCIATION & MEMBERSHIP NEWS, RESOURCES, & BENEFITS

Benefits

The ANCO Officers have decided to bring the following opportunity from SayAh to the attention of ANCO members:

Did you know? The average physician receives about 500 online searches of their ratings and reviews every year. Research shows that 37% of these prospective patients choose another physician based on low-quality, inaccurate ratings they discover.

According to MGMA statistics, this means the average practice is losing over $6,000 per year. How many prospective patients are you losing each day to low-quality online ratings?

To take control of your online reviews, ANCO has identified SayAh, a new low-cost tool that will:

• Improve your online ratings and patient reviews
• Attract new patients
• Increase Revenue

Through June 30th, SayAh is offering a 90-day money back guarantee on their service. To learn more, go to sayah.com/anco-members-take-control-of-your-online-reviews/.

SayAh is patient satisfaction and doctor reputation software that gives you back control over your online ratings and reviews.

Board of Directors

The ANCO Board of Directors teleconferenced on April 15th to discuss and/or act upon the following issues:

• California legislative positions
• Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers educational program

Contact the ANCO office for additional information on any of these items.

The ANCO Board of Directors meets by teleconference and occasionally in person to discuss issues affecting the Association, clinical and professional education, and ways to better serve the membership. Board teleconferences/meetings are open to individual physician members. The next regularly scheduled ANCO Board of Directors teleconference will take place on June 18th. Please call José Luis González, ANCO Executive Director, at (415) 472-3960 if you wish to participate in a future teleconference/meeting.

Individual Member News

A current Directory of Members is available online at www.anco-online.org/pubs.html as a .pdf document. We urge all ANCO members to download their own edition of The ANCO Directory of Members. Please verify your Directory entry and contact the ANCO office at execdir@anco-online.org with any corrections, additions, and/or deletions.

Group Member News

ANCO initiated a Group Membership in 2008 based on a mutual set of perceived values and benefits and a mutual set of interests. The ANCO Board believes that the Association and The Permanente Medical Group (TPMG) will each receive value from Group Membership.

ANCO initiated a Multi Site Group Membership in 2010 to encourage all physicians (medical and radiation oncologists) from multisite and multidisciplinary practices to join. ANCO thanks Annadel Medical Group/St Joseph’s Heritage Healthcare, Diablo Valley Oncology & Hematology Medical Group, EPIC Care, Pacific Cancer Care, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, and Valley Medical Oncology Consultants for their multi site group memberships.

Institutional Member News

ANCO initiated an Institutional Membership in 2002. Department(s) of Hematology and/or Oncology of accredited, degree granting teaching universities or research institutions are eligible for institutional membership. ANCO thanks the following Institutional Members for their support:
• Stanford Cancer Center  
• University of California, Davis, Cancer Center  
• University of California, San Francisco

The **Stanford Cancer Center** is one of twelve practices across the **United States** to be selected by ASCO to participate in its **Quality Training Program** (QTP). The QTP is a six-month comprehensive course that guides a practice through quality improvement activities using proven innovative learning techniques. To learn more about the QTP, visit www.asco.org/qualitytraining.

The **University of California, Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center** has entered into a collaboration with **Foundation Medicine** to bring comprehensive genomic profiling into **standard of care** at **UC Davis** allowing physicians to prescribe the most effective, targeted cancer treatments to patients based on the genomic information specific to each individual’s cancer.

### Corporate Member News

ANCO thanks the following **Corporate Members** for their generous support that enables ANCO to provide services to the hematology/oncology community in Northern California, and to provide its members and their patients with substantial benefits in the areas of advocacy, education, and information dissemination:

*Agenda • Alexion Pharmaceuticals • AMGEN AMAG Pharmaceuticals • Astellas Oncology Axess Oncology Bayer Healthcare/Onyx Pharmaceuticals Biodex • Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology Cardinal Health Specialty Solutions Celgene • Daiichi Sankyo • Dendreon • Eisai Foundation Medicine Genoptix Medical Laboratory Genentech BioOncology • Genomic Health Genzyme • Gilead Sciences • Helsinn Oncology Incyte • Innovaxix • Ipen Biopharmaceuticals Janssen Biotech • Lilly Oncology McKesson Specialty Health MedImmune, Specialty Care Division of AstraZeneca Medivation • Merck • NanoString Novartis Oncology • Oncology Supply/ION

**Onyx Pharmaceuticals • Pfizer Oncology Pharmacycy**  
**Prometheus Therapeutics & Diagnostics Sanofi Oncology**  
**Sargas Pharmaceutical Adherence & Compliance (SPAC) International Seattle Genetics • Spectrum Pharmaceuticals Takeda Oncology • TEVA Oncology**

We especially wish to thank and welcome **Biodex, Ipen Pharmaceuticals and Prometheus Therapeutics & Diagnostics** as new Corporate Members for 2015. Please visit www.anco-online.org/assistance.html for **Corporate Member drug reimbursement and patient assistance program information**. ANCO encourages all member practices to use this resource and enroll all patients at the start of treatment in all available and appropriate patient assistance programs.

**Genentech BioOncology** has produced a new video to help practices avoid common mistakes found on denied claims for infused drugs. Avoiding these top documentation mistakes will help you prepare complete documentation and submit clean and accurate claims. For more information on how to avoid documentation errors for infused drugs, visit www.genentech-forum.com/trends-in-reimbursements; to view the short video, visit www.Top5ClaimsMistakesVideo.com.

### Clinical Trial News

The Spring 2015 edition (as well as past editions) of **Stanford’s Clinical Research Newsletter** is now available at cancer.stanford.edu/trials/mdcommunity_newsletter. This edition highlights the breast, gynecological, and urologic oncology programs; clinical cancer genetics program; and developmental therapeutics.

**Stanford** brings the following oncology clinical trials (not previously listed or changed) to the attention of the ANCO membership:

* A Phase 1b, Open-Label, Multicenter Study of Urelumab (BMS-663513) in Combination with Cetuximab in Subjects with Advanced/Metastatic Colorectal or Advanced/Metastatic Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck [VAR0106], Principal Investigators: Alexander Colevas, MD,
and George Fisher, MD, PhD; Contact: Rise Jiron, (650) 736-1598, rjiron@stanford.edu
• An Open-Label Pilot Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of a Combination Treatment of LDE225 and BKM120 for the Treatment of Advanced Basal Cell Carcinomas [SKIN0020; clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02303041]. Principal Investigator: Anne Chang, MD; Contact: Anne Chang, (650) 721-7151, alschang@stanford.edu
• An Expanded Treatment Protocol of Panobinostat (LBH589) in Combination with Bortezomib and Dexamethasone in Patients with Multiple Myeloma Who Have Had at Least One Prior Line of Therapy [HEMMY0022; clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02204553]. Principal Investigator: Michaela Liedtke, MD; Contact: Ying Hao, (650) 723-0646, yhao@stanford.edu
• Phase I and Randomized Phase II Double Blind Clinical Trial of Cisplatin and Etoposide in Combination with Veliparib (ABT-888) or Placebo as Frontline Therapy for Extensive Stage Small Cell Lung Cancer [ECOGE2511; clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01642251]. Principal Investigator: Heather Wakelee, MD; Contact: Maria Pitsiouni, (650) 721-6977, marakip@stanford.edu
• A Phase 3, Randomized, Open-Label Study of Nivolumab Combined with Ipilimumab Versus Sunitinib Monotherapy in Subjects with Previously Untreated, Advanced or Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma [RENA1303; clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02231749]. Principal Investigator: Sandy Srinivas, MD; Contact: Denise Haas, (650) 736-1252, dhaas@stanford.edu
• A Phase 1-2 Dose Finding, Safety and Efficacy Study of Cabazitaxel in Pediatric Patients with Refractory Solid Tumors Including Tumors of the Central Nervous System (Ages: 2 years to 18 years) [PedsBRNCN50003; clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01751308]. Principal Investigator: Sonia Partap, MD; Contact: Prianka Kumar, (650) 724-3866, priankak@stanford.edu
• Detection of Circulating Free DNA in Patients with Solid Tumors [VAR0096]. Principal Investigator: Irene Wapnin, MD; Contact: Shannon Meyer, (650) 724-1953, smeyer27@stanford.edu
• Tumor Genetics Profiling: A Personalized Medicine Approach [VAR0114; clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02215928]. Principal Investigator: James Ford, MD; Contact: Anish Konde, (650) 736-9464, akonde@stanford.edu
• A Phase III Double-blinded, Placebo Controlled Study of Xilonex for Improving Survival in Metastatic Colorectal Cancer [COR0011]. Principal Investigator: George Fisher, MD, PhD; Contact: Flor Mendoza, (650) 724-2056, flormend@stanford.edu
• My Pathway: An Open-Label Phase IIA Study Evaluating Trastuzumab/Pertuzumab, Erlotinib, Vemurafenib, and Vismodegib in Patients who have Advanced Solid Tumors with Mutations or Gene Expression Abnormalities Predictive of Response to One of these Agents [ML28987/PRO02]. Principal Investigator: James Ford, MD; Contact: Anish Konde, (650) 736-9464, akonde@stanford.edu
• JACOB Trial: A Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Randomized, Multicenter Phase III Study Evaluating the Efficacy and Safety of Pertuzumab in Combination with Trastuzumab and Chemotherapy in Patients with HER2-Positive Metastatic Gastric and Gastric Cancer [NCT01461057]. Principal Investigator: James Ford, MD; Contact: Anish Konde, (650) 736-9464, akonde@stanford.edu

Publications, Resources, Services, & Surveys

ANCO’s 2015 staff salary survey was mailed to all ANCO community-based practices during the week of April 20th. Completed surveys (one per practice) should be returned to the ANCO office no later than August 31st. Visit www.asc-online.org/salrvy.html to download, complete, and return the survey instrument today!

ASCO and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) have launched a project to apply team-based oncology clinical care delivery and are calling for writing teams to submit the best clinical oncology patient-centered practices. The two organizations will work with interested authors to create writing teams of clinicians and researchers who apply the best concepts of team-based care to patient-centered care scenarios in clinical settings. To learn more about this project or to submit your application, please visit www.asco.org/teams.

ANCO urges all members to take part in the 2015 National Oncology Census conducted by ASCO and ACCC. This annual survey of the entire oncology community aims to capture and describe changes in cancer care over time. This year’s census has only five basic questions—visit www.asco.org/census to be counted in 2015!
ASCO would like to hear if your practice is facing any Medicare coverage challenges. Please visit ASCO’s Medicare Coverage Issues webpage at www.asco.org/medicare-coverage-issues?et_cid=33468558&et_rid=713519079&linkid=ASCO’S+Medicare+Coverage+Issues to complete a form describing the coverage issue you are experiencing. The information will be sent to an ASCO staff member. For coding and billing assistance, send your e-mail to billingandcoding@asco.org.

CMS has approved ASCO’s Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI) as a pathway for oncologists to meet the agency’s quality reporting requirements. Oncology practices registered with QOPI will have the opportunity to fulfill CMS’s PQRS or QCDR reporting requirements through QOPI. Go to www.asco.org/advocacy/cms-approval-new-platform-making-qopi®-participation-easier-for more information. QOPI is designed to promote excellence in cancer care by helping oncologists create a culture of self-examination and improvement. ASCO offers the QOPI Certification Program to recognize QOPI participants who achieve rigorous standards for cancer care. The QOPI Certification designation can be used by certified practices to demonstrate an advanced commitment to quality. QOPI’s spring data collection began on March 19th and runs through May 14th. For more information or to register, go to qopi.asco.org.

The March issue of the Journal of Oncology Practice is available online and features articles entitled The State of Cancer Care in America 2015, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: Using an Episode-Based Payment Model to Improve Oncology Care, and Population-Based Assessment of Cancer Survivor’ Financial Burden and Quality of Life: A Prospective Cohort Study. Visit jop.ascopubs.org for more information.

ACCC has launched a new online Oncology Drug Database providing quick access to information on oncology drug coding, billing, and reimbursement at www.accc-cancer.org/drugdatabase/.

ACCC has unveiled a newly revised and enhanced set of Financial Advocacy Network resources at www.accc-cancer.org/resources/FinancialAdvocacy-Overview.asp. This “one-stop” destination for comprehensive financial advocacy information includes online training materials, practical financial advocacy tools, peer-to-peer networking, and more.

ACCC’s 2015 Patient Assistance and Reimbursement Guide is an essential tool for cancer program staff to use in helping patients with issues related to the cost of treatment and in meeting reimbursement challenges. The 2015 Guide features a list of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical patient assistance programs (PAPs), including directions on how to apply and links to enrollment forms. In the 2015 Guide, you will also find a patient assistance flow chart, a PAP Quick Reference Guide, sample forms and tools, and more. Visit www.accc-cancer.org/ publications/PatientAssistanceGuide.asp to access this resource. ASH also has a webpage (at www.hematology.org/Clinicians/Drugs/Programs/) that provides a consolidated list of resources for hematologists and patients trying to access high cost hematologic drugs. And, at NCCN’s Reimbursement Resource Room (www.nccn.org/reimbursement_resource_room/default.asp) you can select a cancer diagnosis or supportive care indication and learn about reimbursement help and services available to you.

NCCN has updated their Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology and/or Drugs & Biologies Compendium for genetic/familial high-risk assessment: breast and ovarian; and, breast cancer risk reduction.

Individual Membership Dues for 2015

Third notices of membership renewal for 2015 were mailed in early. If you have not yet done so, then please return your 2015 membership dues to ANCO now to ensure your inclusion in The ANCO Directory of Members. Be sure to provide ANCO with your e-mail address and the name(s) and e-mail address(es) of office and/or nurse manager contact(s). Those not renewing their membership by June 30th will be deleted from the Directory of Members, and will no longer be eligible for any ANCO benefits. Contact the ANCO office if you do not receive or misplaced your membership dues renewal notice.