



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST –July 16, 2009

FLASCO WEBSITE: www.flasco.org

FLASCO CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK WEBSITE: www.fctn.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: Gerald Robbins, MD

It is a pleasure to announce that **Imclone** has become a **Gold Corporate** FLASCO Member for 2009.

DRUG AND INDUSTRY UPDATES:

INFeD Update:

Watson has resumed shipments of INFeD (iron dextran injection), an intravenous iron replacement therapy for the treatment of patients with documented iron deficiency anemia in whom oral administration is unsatisfactory or impossible. The product had been out of stock due to changes in the final product manufacturing site and issues with raw material supply. Watson expects to be in a normal supply situation for INFeD shortly. For more information call (800) 272-5525 or visit www.watson.com.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Erin Dunbar, MD, Chairman, Scott Tetreault, MD, Vice Chairman
CMS 2010 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (COA)

With the release of the CMS 2010 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, community oncology practices face severe payment cuts 1/1/10, possibly on the magnitude of 15-20%. If Congress creates a public insurance plan based on Medicare reimbursement rates, this push private payers down to these rates in order to be competitive.

The CMS cuts are because the AMA has provided data to CMS that community oncology practice expenses have declined over 8%.

The Community Oncology Alliance (COA) is fighting these cuts by meeting with congressional leadership, objecting to the Administration, and generating media. COA is fighting harder than ever for community oncology.

What should you be doing to deal with this crisis?

First, complete the *Components of Care* Survey IMMEDIATELY. Details can be found on the COA website at <http://www.communityoncology.org>. If community oncology does not have data to refute flawed AMA data, these cuts and others will continue.

Second, reach out to your Representatives to ask them to co-sponsor H.R. 2872, which is the National Quality Cancer Care Demonstration Project. This is the only national demonstration project that is focused on quality cancer care and open to all community oncology practices nationwide. It provides \$300 million in additional funding for appropriate payment for services provided.

Third, reach out to your Representatives and Senators to ask them to co-sponsor H.R. 1392 and S. 1221, identical bills that correct the prompt pay problem that artificially reduces any drug reimbursement based on Average Sales Price (ASP).

There is information on all these bills to share with your Members of Congress on the COA website (<http://www.communityoncology.org>). **Please note:** ASCO also supports all of these Bills.

If a practice is interested in making a contribution to COA to help them continue to fight for community oncology, information is available on their website.

Invite your US House Member and US Senator to your practice:

It is extremely important for all FLASCO Members to be actively involved in Healthcare Reform. We need to let our voices be heard. Please invite your US Congressman and our two US Senators to visit your practice – let them see what you are facing each day in your practice (whether it be a private practice or academic practice). Let them know what you believe is needed to provide quality healthcare to our cancer patients in Florida. Congress will be in recess during the month of August – a great time to invite them to your practice. **Please start inviting them to visit your practice NOW.**

H.R. 1392: Prompt Pay Legislation

FLASCO would like to acknowledge and thank the following United States Congressman for co-sponsoring HR1392:

Rep. Corrine Brown [D-FL3]

Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart [R-FL21]

Rep. Alcee Hastings [D-FL23]

Rep. Kendrick Meek [D-FL17]

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz [D-FL20]

FLASCO actively supports this legislation and greatly appreciates the support of the above listed US Congressman representing the Florida constituency.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE UPDATES:

FLASCO will be holding its 1st Annual Business of Oncology Summit on October 3, 2009, in Tampa. FLASCO has partnered with Abraxis BioScience to hold this very exciting and timely conference. Topics that will be presented by expert speakers are as follows: Financial Planning, Managed Care Contract Negotiations, Succession Planning, Clinical Pathway Development and Implementation, Utilizations and Responsibilities of the PA/ARNP, and Strategic Planning: What, Why and How.

JOIN US for this professional forum that explores what cancer care leaders are doing to achieve a future vision of successful cancer care delivery, focusing on innovative business practices, clinical integration, and patient-centric approaches to providing care. For more information on the Business of Oncology Summit or to register, please go online to www.flasco.org. The meeting announcement and registration form are available there.

FCSO UPDATES:

ESRD-related diagnostic tests added to the Medicare Claims Processing Manual

Modified: 7/10/2009 Business: Part A, Part B Location: FL, PR, USVI

This informational article (http://medicare.fcso.com/Billing_and_coverage/153410.asp) conveys that Chapter 16 of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual is updated to include a listing of diagnostic tests considered end-stage renal disease (ESRD) related. [MM6515] <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/mm6515.pdf>

MLN MATTERS UPDATES:

New:

MM6514 – **Coding and Reporting Principles for the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) and the Electronic Prescribing (E-Prescribing) Incentive Programs**

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6514.pdf>

Revised:

MM6515 – **ESRD: Placement of a List of Diagnostic Tests that are Considered End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Related in Publication 100-04, Chapter 16**

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6515.pdf>

PA/NP UPDATES:

12th Annual APAO Conference

The APAO National Conference is scheduled for September 10-13, 2009, in Boston. The meeting is for MidLevels and Physicians. There will be an ASCO highlights on 9/10/09. You may register on-line at: <http://www.focus-ed.net/apao/>

BUSINESS Q & A: (Source: The Phipps Wealth Management Group)

- Q. (from an Orlando oncologist) I have been reading where JUMBO MORTGAGE rates and equity requirements have finally started to come down. Where can I get independent, non biased information on this, please?
- A. You are correct. The nation's largest surviving mortgage lenders are making the JUMBO MORTGAGE much more attractive....both new and refinancing.

For more information you may contact: 561-276-1635 Direct - 877-276-1635 Toll Free – fax: 561-922-3275 - E-mail: jeffrey_phippsr@ml.com - <http://fa.ml.com/PhippsGroup/>

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP/SPONSORSHIP: (January 1 – December 31, 2009)

FLASCO Members extend a big thanks to all of our 2009 Corporate Members/Sponsors (Companies listed below have either paid 2009 dues or have submitted letters of intent)

PLATINUM

AMGEN
Bayer/Onyx
Cephalon Oncology
Eli Lilly
Oncology Supply/ION
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Celgene

Eisai, Inc.
Ortho Biotech
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The Phipps Wealth
Management Group
Novartis
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Bristol Myers Squibb
Genomic Health
Wyeth
Roche
Millennium
Allos Therapeutics,
Inc.
Imclone

SILVER

OSI Pharmaceuticals
US Oncology

BRONZE

Genzyme

FLASCO 2009 MEETINGS:

October 3, 2009 – FLASCO Business of Oncology Summit - Tampa

November 6-7, 2009 – FLASCO Fall Meeting – Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel

March 5-6, 2010 – FLASCO Spring Meeting and Annual Session – Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel

OTHER MEETINGS/'WEBCASTS

September 10-13, 2009 APAO Annual meeting in Boston

September 22-25, 2009 - ACCC's 26th National Oncology Economics Conference - - Hyatt Regency Minneapolis on Nicollet Mall, 1300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55403 - 612.370.1234

March 17-20, 2010 - ACCC's 36th Annual National Meeting - -Baltimore Marriott Waterfront

December 5-8, 2009 – ASH Annual Meeting – Ernest N, Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, LA