



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST –June 11, 2009

FLASCO WEBSITE: www.flasco.org

FLASCO CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK WEBSITE: www.fctn.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

FLASCO would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Christina Sievert	Florida Cancer Specialists, Fort Myers, FL	Affiliate Member
Gretchen Williams	Florida Cancer Specialists, Fort Myers, FL	Affiliate Member

CLINICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE UPDATES: Thomas Gaddis, MD, Chairman

Rituxan

A number of practices have informed us they are receiving ADR letters from FCSO regarding claims for Rituxan. FCSO has indicated that providers who receive ADR requests **need to follow the instructions** on the ADR letter and **submit the documentation requested so the services can be reviewed and paid if medical necessity is met.**

If your practice continues to have questions about the Rituxan ADRs please write in to the customer service mailbox AskFloridaA@fcsoc.com or AskFloridaB@fcsoc.com as those reps are more senior than the phone reps and can research claims issues. Also, it will be greatly appreciated if you will also advise the FLASCO office regarding the ADRs and let us know what action you have taken.

Ad Hoc Committee on Payer Relations

The Subcommittee held a telephone conference call on June 10. There has been **No follow up from BCBS** since April meeting. FLASCO remains committed to “quality” cost control. It was agreed that concepts will be developed to do this and Subcommittee members will begin to proactively meet with payers.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Erin Dunbar, MD, Chairman

SB1122

Yesterday, Governor Crist signed Senate Bill 1122 into law, signaling to citizens across Florida his continued commitment to honoring patient choice and improving efficiency and access to care. Congratulations to the FMA for all of their efforts in supporting SB 1122

On behalf of the physicians who provide care to the patients of Florida, FLASCO thanks Governor Crist for his demonstrated commitment to putting patients first and signing SB 1122 into law.”

FCSO UPDATES:

Clarification for billing Part B versus Part D for the anti-emetic aprepitant

Effective date: N/A - Implementation date: N/A

Summary

This special edition MLN Matters article describes the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) policy distinguishing Part B versus Part D billing for the anti-emetic medication aprepitant (Emend®) for chemotherapy induced nausea-vomiting (CINV).

Coverage of Emend® under the Part B program

CMS provides Part B reimbursement for oral anti-emetic drugs when used as a full therapeutic replacement for intravenous dosage forms as part of a cancer chemotherapeutic regimen, when the drugs are administered or prescribed by a physician for use immediately before, at, or within 48 hours after the time of administration of the chemotherapeutic agent. Aprepitant (Emend®) is indicated for use as an anti-emetic for CINV when part of a three drug combination regimen.

The three-drug combination is:

- Aprepitant
- A 5-HT3 antagonist (e.g. granisetron, ondansetron, or dolasetron), and
- Dexamethasone (a corticosteroid).

The physician must indicate on the prescription that the beneficiary is receiving the oral anti-emetic drug as full therapeutic replacement for an intravenous anti-emetic drug as part of a cancer chemotherapeutic regimen in order for the beneficiary to receive coverage under Part B.

All three drugs in the combination oral anti-emetic regimen must be **on the same claim** to be eligible for Part B reimbursement.

Coverage of Emend® under the Part D program

The Part D program will generally cover Emend® when it is not prescribed in accordance with the Medicare Part B coverage guidelines.

Here is the link to the special edition MLN Matters article [SE0910](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/se0910.pdf)
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/se0910.pdf>

CMS UPDATES:

PET NCD Reconsideration

CMS has posted a new tracking sheet for the positron emission tomography (Naf-18) to identify bone metastasis of cancer. CMS opens this reconsideration of Section 220.6 of the NCD on Positron Emission Tomography (PET) to review evidence on the use of NaF-18 to identify bone metastasis of cancer. The initial 30-day public comment period begins June 4, 2009, and ends after 30 calendar days. CMS considers all public comments, and is particularly interested in clinical studies and other scientific information relevant to the technology under review.

Instructions on submitting comments can be found at:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/InfoExchange/02_publiccomments.asp#TopOfPage

NP/PA INFORMATION AND UPDATES:

The APAO Annual meeting in Boston September 10-13

Association of Physician Assistants in Oncology Meeting is for both NPs and PAs. Some of our affiliate members are speaking as are several from ASCO (Joseph Bailes, Francis Giles) Dr. Bailes is speaking on the Economics of Cancer Care. They are also offering an "Oncology 101" course for PAs, NPs interested in oncology as a new field. Maura Polansky, PA-C from MD Anderson is going to speak on Utilization of Midlevel Providers in Cancer Care. Info on the Annual Meeting can be found at: <http://www.focus-ed.net/apao/>

Dayne Alonso, an Affiliate Member of FLASCO, is president of APAO and Michele Taffaro-Neskey, PA-C, also a FLASCO Affiliate Member is serving as Secretary this year.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Genomic Health Post ASCO Update

Call to pre-register 1 770 984 5109

Wednesday, June 10, 2009 8PM EST

Number 1 866 288 9872 Passcode 518849

<http://web.envisioncomm.net/OncotypDX/June10-2009.htm>

Tuesday, June 16, 2009 11AM EST

Number 1 866 288 9872 Passcode 134105

<http://web.envisioncomm.net/OncotypeDX/June16-2009.htm>

Tuesday, June 23, 2009 1PM EST
Number 1 866 288 9872 Passcode 780604
<http://web.envisioncomm.net/OncotypeDX/June23-2009.htm>

Bristol Myers Squibb – Development in Chronic Leukemia – on demand conference

This 24 hour a day on-demand conference features Michael J. Mauro, MD. To participate, please type in the following URL address: <http://developmentsincml.com> – please complete the registration page and when prompted, please enter the following password: **ondemand**.

Roche would like to extend the offer for FLASCO members to participate in an educational webcast series, updating you on current issues affecting the management of Colorectal Cancer (CRC). There is free CME course for physicians. Information on the Webcasts as follows:

Educational Intervention 1

Webcast 1: Individualized Therapy for Colorectal Cancer: Ready for Prime Time?
Available NOW!!

Educational Interventions 2 and 3

Webcast 3: A post-ASCO Webcast continuation - *Available July 2009*

Educational Intervention 4

Webcast 4: Performance Measures: Trying It All Together - *Available October 2009*

To register for these webcasts or to view the presentation, please go to www.meddigest.com/CRC

US Oncology Live Webcast: “Cancer in the Elderly”

US Oncology is hosting a live, CME accredited, webcast session on June 18, 2009, from 12:15pm to 1:00pm EST, on the following topic: “From life expectancy to chance of surviving in elderly patients: the concept of frailty.” This session will be hosted by expert Jean-Pierre Droz of Centre Leon-Berard, Lyon France.

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

Q. A Tampa area FLASCO member called us and asked...is there a way that I can get my securities positions evaluated/analyzed without having to pay a large fee?

A. As previously announced, The Phipps Wealth Management Group will do this Pro bono for active FLASCO members. The exercise is objective and generated from very sophisticated computer analysis.

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
Sanofi-Aventis
Celgene
Eisai, Inc.
Ortho Biotech
Genentech

GOLD

Abraxis Oncology
Bristol Myers Squibb
Genomic Health
Wyeth
Roche
Millennium

SILVER

OSI Pharmaceuticals
US Oncology

BRONZE

Genzyme

GlaxoSmithKline
The Phipps Wealth
Management Group
Novartis
Astra Zeneca
Pfizer

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 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
700 Aliceanna Street, Baltimore, MD 21202 - 410.385.3000