



**FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY FAX BLAST –August 27, 2009**

**FLASCO WEBSITE: [www.flasco.org](http://www.flasco.org)**

**FLASCO CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK WEBSITE: [www.fctn.org](http://www.fctn.org)**

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: Gerald Robbins, MD**

At the recent Executive Committee Retreat a decision was made to create a Diamond Corporate Membership/Sponsorship Category for 2010. Dues for the Diamond Category will be \$20,000 per year. Several enhanced benefits of membership for this category were identified. In order to develop this new Diamond Category it was necessary for the members of the FLASCO Executive Committee to make several new commitments for this program. I am happy to report that at this point the majority of the Executive Committee Members have agreed to make this commitment.

A notice was sent out to all of the current FLASCO Platinum Corporate Members offering an opportunity for four of them to become Diamond Members in 2010. The first four to respond and ask for Diamond Membership in 2010 were: **Celgene, Genentech, Cephalon and Sanofi-Aventis. Currently, Novartis, Eli Lilly and Eisai are alternates.** The Executive Committee is currently reviewing the feasibility of allowing six companies to be in the exclusive Diamond Category. A final decision in this regard will be announced in the fax blast next week.

On behalf of the entire FLASCO Membership I want to extend a huge thanks to the companies listed above who asked to be in this Diamond Category for 2010.

**DRUG UPDATES:**

**Abraxane Update:**

BlueCross BlueShield of Florida has updated its Medical Policy on Paclitaxel and Paclitaxel (protein-bound) IV to include additional ICD-9-CM codes for Abraxane.”

**Oxaliplatin**

Hospira, Inc. announced FDA approval and launch of the company's oxaliplatin injection. Hospira's oxaliplatin injection is one of the first generic versions of this drug to come in solution form. Hospira will initially offer oxaliplatin in 50 mg and 100 mg single-use vials.

**FIRST COAST SERVICE OPTIONS UPDATES:**

**77371: Stereotactic radiosurgery and stereotactic body radiation therapy -- new LCD**

**LCD ID number: L30366 (Florida/Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands)**

Stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) and stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) are noninvasive means of administering high-dose radiotherapy to discreet tumor foci in cranial or extracranial locations respectively. The two forms of treatment share certain overarching principles, namely, the use of image guidance and related treatment delivery technology for escalating the radiation dose to the tumor with as little radiation dose to the surrounding tissue as possible. Both methods are achieved with a “sterotactic” technique, implying that fiducial reference markers serve to align the treatment machine so that an internal lesion is targeted accurately; however, notable differences in clinical applications emerge given the vastly different anatomic and clinical consideration between cranial and extracranial target lesions. This local coverage determination (LCD) has been developed to provide indications and limitations of coverage and/or medical necessity, documentation requirements and utilization guidelines for stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) and stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT).

**Effective date**

This new LCD is effective for services rendered **on or after October 5, 2009**. First Coast Service Options Inc. LCDs are available through the CMS Medicare Coverage Database. Coding Guidelines for an LCD (when present) may be found by

selecting “LCD Attachments” in the “Jump to Section...” drop-down menu at the top of the LCD page. For LCDs with a future effective date, select the “Display Future Effective Documents” link at the top of the list of LCDs page.

### **77301: Intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) -- revision to the LCD**

**LCD ID number: L29200 (Florida) ---LCD ID number: L29352 (Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands)**

The local coverage determination (LCD) for intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) was effective for services rendered on or after February 2, 2009, for Florida and on or after March 2, 2009, for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Since that time, the LCD has been revised in the following sections of the LCD:

- The revisions in the “Indications and Limitations of Coverage and/or Medical Necessity” section of the LCD include the following:
  - Statement added to specify that indications will include some left breast tumors due to risk to immediately adjacent cardiac and pericardial structures, and selected right breast cases in larger volume breast and larger chest wall separation distances.
  - The following new sections have been added under the ‘Indications and Limitations of Coverage and/or Medical Necessity’ section of the LCD:
    - Patient-Specific IMRT Treatment Verification
    - Use of Clinical Treatment Planning in IMRT (*CPT* codes 77261-77263) Prior to the Specific IMRT Treatment Plan (*CPT* code 77301)
    - Use of Simulation-Aided Field Setting in IMRT (*CPT* codes 77280-77295)
    - Use of Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy Plan (*CPT* code 77301), Including Dose Volume Histograms for Target and Critical Structure Partial Tolerance Specification
    - Use of Basic Radiation Dosimetry Calculation, Central Axis Depth Dose Calculation, TDF, NSD, Gap Calculation, Off-Axis Factor, Tissue Inhomogeneity Factors, Calculation of Non-Ionizing Radiation Surface and Depth Dose, as Required During Course of Treatment, Only When Prescribed by the Treating Physician (*CPT* code 77300) in IMRT
    - Use of Teletherapy Isodose Plan in IMRT (*CPT* codes 77305-77321)
    - Use of Brachytherapy Isodose Plan in IMRT (*CPT* codes 77326-77328)
    - Use of Special Dosimetry in IMRT (*CPT* code 77331)
    - Use of Treatment Devices (e.g., “Blocks”) in IMRT (*CPT* codes 77332-77334)
    - Use of Continuing Medical Physics Consultation in IMRT (Weekly Physics QA: *CPT* code 77336)
    - Use of Special Medical Radiation Physics Consultation in IMRT (*CPT* code 77370)
    - Use of Other Radiation Treatment Delivery on the Same Day as IMRT Treatment Delivery (*CPT* codes 77418, 0073T)
    - Radiation Treatment Management (*CPT* code 77427)
    - Use of “Special Treatment Procedure” in IMRT (*CPT* code 77470)
    - Image Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT) Codes (*CPT* codes 76950, 77014, 77421)
    - Steroscopic X-ray Guidance (*CPT* code 77421)
  - The “ICD-9 Codes that Support Medical Necessity” section of the LCD has been revised to provide limited coverage for *CPT* codes 0073T, 77301 and 77418.
  - The “Documentation Requirements” section of the LCD has been revised to include requirements in regard to clinical treatment planning (*CPT* codes 77261-77263), special treatment procedure (*CPT* code 77470) and physician supervision (*CPT* code 77421).
  - The “Utilization Guidelines” section of the LCD has been revised to include a statement that special treatment procedure (*CPT* code 77470) should not be reported more than once during the course of therapy.
  - The “Sources of Information and Basis for Decision” section of the LCD has been updated.

#### **Effective date**

This LCD revision is effective for services rendered **on or after October 5, 2009**.

### **CMS UPDATES:**

#### **CMS Calls Meetings to Review Evidence and Use of ESAs in Kidney Disease**

CMS announced that a meeting will be held in March, 2010 to review the available evidence on the use of erythropoietin stimulating agents (ESAs) to manage anemia in patients who have chronic kidney disease (CKD). Medicare currently does not have a national coverage determination (NCD) for the use of ESAs for anemia in patients who have CKD. CMS seeks advice from its Medicare Evidence Development and Coverage Advisory Committee to help set future coverage policies. The committee will review use of ESAs in chronic kidney disease at a March 24, 2010 meeting

## **ICD-10-CM/PCS: An Introduction Fact Sheet**

The revised publication titled **ICD-10-CM/PCS: An Introduction Fact Sheet** (August 2009), which was previously titled **ICD-10-Clinical Modification/Procedure Coding System Fact Sheet**, is now available in downloadable format from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Medicare Learning Network at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/ICD-10factsheet2009.pdf> . This fact sheet provides general information about the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition, Clinical Modification/Procedure Coding System (ICD-10-CM/PCS) including benefits of adopting the new coding system, structural differences between ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM/PCS, and implementation planning recommendations.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: Erin Dunbar, MD, Chairman, Scott Tetreatult, MD, V. Chairan Florida SB 720:**

If you haven't heard, FL Governor Charlie Crist signed SB 720 into law! Effective July 1, 2009, a physician in the state of Florida will no longer be mandated to co-sign chart notes that are created by Physician Assistants. Also effective August 2nd, 2009, the elimination of Antipsychotics and parenteral route medications from the negative PA Formulary took effect!

## **PROGRAM COMMITTEE UPDATES: Jose Lutzy, MD, Chairman**

### **Business of Oncology Summit:**

FLASCO will be holding its 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.flasco.org). The meeting announcement and registration form are available there.

## **2010 PA/NP Conference:**

We are pleased to announce that FLASCO will sponsor its Second Annual Conference for PAs/NPs on March 26, 2010, in Miami. Special thanks are extended to Dayne Alonso, PA-C and Michele Taffaro Neskey, PA-C for agreeing to serve as Co-Chairmen of the Workgroup to plan this Conference.

## **INDUSTRY UPDATES:**

### **Lilly Widens Income Eligibility for Patient Assistance**

On Aug. 1, 2009, Lilly USA adjusted the income eligibility for its most widely used patient assistance programs to allow enrollment of eligible patients with incomes at or less than 300 percent of the U.S. Federal Poverty Level. As an example, the new yearly eligible income limit for a family of two corresponds to approximately \$44,000. Previously, the income eligibility limit was set at 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. The company is broadening the income eligibility in response to concerns expressed by patients who have experienced straitened financial circumstances—such as job loss and loss of insurance coverage—due to the recent economic downturn. Visit [www.lilly.com/responsibility/programs](http://www.lilly.com/responsibility/programs) for more information

## **FLORIDA INSTITUTION UPDATES:**

Shands at the University of Florida has been recognized as a center of excellence for cancers known as myelodysplastic syndromes that strike the bone marrow. The designation by the Myelodysplastic Syndrome Foundation recognizes outstanding research efforts as well as superior clinical care for patients.

Dr. Christopher R. Cogle, an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, at Shands, and Research Director of the Shands at UF medical center clinical stem cell lab, cited several developments in recent years that supported the foundation's designation:

- Inauguration in 2007 of a specimen bank for blood and bone marrow samples that now houses more than 400 rare samples;

- Ongoing research into various strategies for bone-marrow related disorders, including clinical trials for relatively less toxic chemotherapies that can be administered by mouth;
- A broader array of therapeutic options for patients diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndromes; and
- Doubling of the number of patients seen in the past five years.

Official estimates put the number of new MDS cases each year in the United States at 10,000. On the basis of an examination of Florida cancer registry data, Cogle and colleagues from the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa suggest that the actual number is much higher. With the designation, Shands at UF becomes one of 59 centers of excellence in the United States recognized by the foundation.

**ASH UPDATES:**

The ASH annual State-of-the-Art Symposium is taking place on September 11-12 in Chicago, IL. This year's meeting is focused on advances in hematologic malignancies and platelet disorders. The direct link to the meeting site is <http://hematology.org/meetings/sas/index.cfm>.

**PA/NP UPDATES:**

**12<sup>th</sup> 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. I just read where BofA/ML has just published a white paper on pending health care legislation. Is this available to non clients?

A. Yes. FLASCO members can contact us and we will forward a copy .

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](mailto: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  
 GlaxoSmithKline  
 The Phipps Wealth  
 Management Group  
 Novartis  
 Astra Zeneca  
 Pfizer

**GOLD**

Abraxis Oncology  
 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

**March 26, 2010** – PA/NP Conference - Miami

### **OTHER MEETINGS/WEBCASTS**

**September 10-13, 2009** - APAO Annual meeting in Boston

**September 11-12, 2009** - ASH State of the Art Symposium – Chicago, IL – For more information:

**<http://hematology.org/meetings/sas/index.cfm>**.

**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

**October 6-7, 2009** - ASCO Electronic Health Records Symposium - Harnessing the EHR: *From Incentives to Sustainability*- San Francisco Marriott Hotel - to register:

**[www.asco.org/ehrsymposium](http://www.asco.org/ehrsymposium)**

**Nov 1-5, 2009** - ASTRO's Annual Meeting – Chicago

**November 13 - 15, 2009** - Oncology Nursing Society Fall (ONS) – Tampa

**December 5-8, 2009** - ASH Annual Meeting – Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, LA – For more information: **<http://hematology.org/meetings/2009/index.cfm>**

**December 10 - 13, 2009** - San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (SABCS) San Antonio, TX

**Feb 25-27, 2010** - American College of Radiation Oncology Annual Meeting – Lake Buena Vista, FL

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

### **FLASCO Contact Info:**

Dorothy Green Phillips, Executive Director - Phone: 1.813.349.4410 – **[Dorothy.Green@cancer.org](mailto:Dorothy.Green@cancer.org)**

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