



FLORIDA SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY
FLASCO BLAST –December 29, 2009
FLASCO WEBSITE: www.flasco.org
FLASCO CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK WEBSITE: www.fctn.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: Gerald Robbins, MD

To our Membership- I want to extend a big thanks to all of you for your assistance and support in 2009, and hope that you will continue to be a FLASCO member in 2010.

To our Corporate Supporters, on behalf of the entire membership, I want to extend a special thanks to you for your support of FLASCO in 2009. Without your support, FLASCO would not be able to reach its Mission and would not be able to expand our programs and initiatives. We are all looking forward to your continued support for 2010 and looking forward to working with you.

Happy New Year

CMS UPDATES:

Updated Information Regarding the Holding of Claims for Services Paid Under the 2010 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule

This is a clarification to the listserv message that was issued on December 21, 2009. The President has signed the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2010 which provides for a zero percent (0%) update to the 2010 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule for a two month period, January 1, 2010 through February 28, 2010.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is working with Congress, health care providers, and the beneficiary community to avoid disruption in the delivery of health care services and payment of claims for physicians, non-physician practitioners, and other providers of services paid under the Medicare physician fee schedule, beginning January 1, 2010. In this regard, CMS has instructed its contractors to hold claims for services paid under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) for up to the first 10 business days of January (January 1 through January 15) for 2010 dates of service. This should have minimum impact on provider cash flow because, by law, clean electronic claims are not paid any sooner than 14 calendar days (29 days for paper claims) after the date of receipt. Meanwhile, all claims for services delivered on or before December 31, 2009, will be processed and paid under normal procedures.

The holding of claims allows Medicare contractors time to receive the new, updated payment files and perform necessary testing before paying claims at the new rates. CMS has instructed contractors to begin processing claims at the new rates **no later than** January 19, 2010. Please note that most contractors are closed on the January 18 Martin Luther King Day holiday. Therefore, even absent a new update, most claims likely would not have been paid any sooner than January 19, 2010, given the aforementioned statutory 14-day payment floor.

CMS has extended the 2010 Annual Participation Enrollment Program end date from January 31, 2010, to **March 17, 2010**– therefore, the enrollment period now runs from November 13, 2009, through March 17, 2010.

The effective date for any Participation status change during the extension, however, remains January 1, 2010, and will be in force for the entire year.

Contractors will accept and process any Participation elections or withdrawals, made during the extended enrollment period that are received or post-marked on or before March 17, 2010.

In addition, be on the alert for more information about other legislative provisions which may affect you.

January 2010 Average Sales Price (ASP) File Is Now Available

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has posted the revised January 2010 ASP pricing file and crosswalk. All are available for download at:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/01a19_2010aspfiles.asp

Medically Unlikely Edit List

A new item has been added for RAC review to the Connolly Healthcare website

A Medically Unlikely Edit (MUE) applies to all HCPCS/CPT codes that are above the maximum units of service that a provider would report for the same beneficiary, on same date of service, and same provider. An error was made in billing these services because more units were billed for a beneficiary than what is medically likely.

Provider Type Affected: Outpatient Hospital

Date of Service: 10/01/2007 – Open

States Affected: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, **Florida**, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virgin Islands, Virginia, West Virginia

Additional information can be found in the following manuals/publications:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/08_MUE.asp#TopOfPage

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/Downloads/MUE_Prov_Sup_PUB_LTR_9_2008.pdf

https://www.cahabagba.com/part_b/education_and_outreach/newsletters/2007/july/July2007NL.

New--Special Edition MLN Matters Article #SE0931 - Expiration of Various Payment Provisions Under the Medicare Program

This special edition article is being issued by CMS to notify affected providers that a number of Medicare payment provisions, such as the Therapy Cap Exceptions Process and Allowing Independent Laboratories to Bill for the Technical Component of Physician Pathology Services Furnished to Hospital Patients, will no longer be in effect when the provisions sunset as of December 31, 2009. For more information, please view the article located at:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0931.pdf> on the CMS website.

MLN MATTERS UPDATES:

New:

MM6579 – Payment for Implantable Tissue Markers: Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Code A4648

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6579.pdf>

MM6721 – Implementation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Version 5010 276/277 Claim Status Second Phase

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6721.pdf>

MM6375 – Place of Service (POS) and Date of Service (DOS) Instructions for Interpretation of Diagnostic Tests

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6375.pdf>

SE0931 – Expiration of Various Payment Provisions Under the Medicare Program

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0931.pdf>

MM6796 – Emergency Update to the 2010 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database (MPFSDB)

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6796.pdf>

MM6756 – Summary of Policies in the 2010 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) and the Telehealth Originating Site Facility Fee Payment Amount

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6756.pdf>

MM6759 – **Limitation on Home Health Prospective Payment System (HH PPS) Outlier Payments**
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM6759.pdf>

Revised:

SE0929 – **2010 Annual Participation Enrollment Program Extension**
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/SE0929.pdf>

MM6753 – **Positron Emission Tomography (PET) (FDG) for Cervical Cancer**
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM6753.pdf>

MM6638 – **Instructions Regarding Processing Claims Rejecting for Gender/Procedure Conflict**
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM6638.pdf>

MM6751 – **January 2010 Update of the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System OPPTS**
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM6751.pdf>

MM6540 – **Tracking the Hospice Attending Physician's National Provider Identifier (NPI) for Validating Hospice Part B Payments** <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM6540.pdf>

FDA UPDATES:

Thermoflect Blankets and product line - Recall

Audience: **Radiological healthcare professionals, hospital risk managers**

Encompass Group and FDA notified healthcare professionals of the voluntary recall of the ThermoFlect product line for relabeling regarding its use in the MR (Magnetic Resonance) environment. FDA has recommended that the ThermoFlect blankets and other products not be used in MR conditional or MR compatible environments. Encompass is in the process of sending labels to customers to be attached per instructions to remind hospitals that the product line should not be used in the MR environment. A complete list of ThermoFlect products and additional information can be found at www.thermoflect.com.

Read the complete MedWatch 2009 Safety summary, including a link to the firm press release, at:
<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm195703.htm>

PROGRAM COMMITTEE UPDATES: Jose Lutzy, MD, Chairman

Clinical Breakthroughs & Challenges in Hematologic Malignancies

We are pleased to announce that FLASCO is co-sponsoring with Moffitt Cancer Center a conference on Clinical Breakthroughs & Challenges in Hematologic Malignancies, which will be held on **January 16, 2010** at the Grand Floridian Resort, Lake Buena Vista - For more information, call (813) 745-1247 or e-mail: Melissa.Pearson@MOFFITT.org

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, RN for agreeing to serve as Co-Chairmen of the Workgroup to plan this Conference.

DRUG & INDUSTRY UPDATES:

Oforta (Sanofi-Aventis)

Sanofi-aventis is pleased to announce that on January 11, 2010, Oforta will be commercially available. Preliminary billing-related product information is provided below:

- *National Drug Codes (NDCs):*

- 00024-5820-20 - 10mg film-coated tablets- 20 count package
- **HCPCS Code:**
- J8999: prescription drug, oral, chemotherapeutic, not otherwise classified.

The wholesale acquisition cost (WAC) for Oforta NDC 00024-5820-20 is \$1,542.86

For more information on Oforta, go to: <http://image.exct.net/lib/fefb1c7176640c/d/1/Oforta%20Package%20Insert.pdf>

Please note that Oforta is eligible for coverage under the Medicare Part B program.

Should you have any questions or require additional information about Oforta, please contact John Schaeffer, Senior Director, Reimbursement and Account Manager at 908-981-4374.

NEW Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code for Taxotere (docetaxel) Injection Concentrate (J9171) – Sanofi-Aventis

In its annual update to the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) for 2010, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has assigned a new HCPCS billing code and unit to Taxotere® for **dates of service on or after January 1, 2010.**

This change applies to all payers. Medicare contractors will be required to accept this new code on January 1, 2010; other payers, including private payers and Medicaid programs, may update their systems on an alternate schedule.

J9171 (docetaxel, injection, per 1 mg) should replace J9170 (docetaxel, injection, per 20 mg). The retired J9170 code and the retired 20-mg billing unit should NOT be used on or after January 1, 2010.

In addition to using the new J-Code (J9171), your members should note that the billing units have changed from 20 mg (old, J9170) to 1 mg (new, J9171). Providers should alert billing staff to this change to ensure that claims reflect the correct number of HCPCS units to accurately report the quantity of Taxotere® administered as described by the new code.

If you have any questions regarding this new J-Code for Taxotere® or other questions regarding reimbursement for Taxotere® or other sanofi-aventis products, please feel free to contact your sanofi-aventis Reimbursement Manager (RM) or the PACT+® Program at 1-800-996-6626 or www.pactplusonline.com.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Genomic Health --Oncotype Dx Post SABCS Data Review

Please call 1 866 984 5109 to Pre Register Or email kpecquet@envisioncomm.net

January 5th, 2010 8PM EST

Conference number 1 888 373 5705 Code 367860

Meeting URL <http://campaign.envisioncomm.net/genomichealth/webcast/01052010>

January 7th, 2010 12PM EST

Conference number 1 888 732 6202 Code 181313

Meeting URL <http://campaign.envisioncomm.net/genomichealth/webcast/01072010>

January 14th, 2010 9AM EST

Conference number 1 888 373 5705 Code 283977

Meeting URL <http://campaign.envisioncomm.net/genomichealth/webcast/01142010>

Teleconference: Medicare Physician Payment Update

Centocor Ortho Biotech Inc. is pleased to invite you and your colleagues to participate in an informational teleconference entitled “Medicare Physician Payment Update.” The goal of this session will be to provide physicians and their staff with a concise overview of key issues contained within the 2010 final rule on Medicare physician office payment. These issues include:

- Overview of the 2010 final physician payment rule;
- Update on the sustainable growth rate formula and changes; and
- Update on regulatory changes to reimbursement for physician services.

This session, approximately 30 minutes in length, will be hosted by Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, and The Resource Group, and will be offered at a variety of times for your scheduling convenience.

Teleconference Schedule

Date	Time (Eastern time)
December 7	5:00 pm
December 8	8:00 am
December 9	11:00 am
December 10	12:00 pm
December 11	3:00 pm
December 14	8:00 pm
December 15	10:00 am
December 16	9:00 am
December 17	10:00 am

Date	Time (Eastern time)
December 21	5:00 pm
December 22	8:00 am
December 23	3:00 pm
December 28	3:00 pm
December 29	2:00 pm
January 5	8:00 pm
January 6	12:00 pm
January 7	3:00 pm
January 8	4:00 pm

To sign up to participate in a teleconference, please call Colleen Flanders at Akin Gump at 202-416-5064. Colleen will provide you with a toll-free call-in number and pass code, and will send you by email or fax the slide deck that will be presented during the teleconference.

This document is presented for informational purposes only and is not intended to provide reimbursement or legal advice. Laws, regulations, and policies concerning reimbursement are complex and are updated frequently. While we have made an effort to be current as of the issue date of this document, the information may not be as current or comprehensive when you view it. In addition, this information does not represent any statement, promise or guarantee by Centocor Ortho Biotech Inc. about coverage, levels of reimbursement, payment or charge. Please consult with your payer organization(s) for local or actual coverage and reimbursement policies and determination processes. Please consult with your counsel or reimbursement specialist for any reimbursement or billing questions specific to your institution.

US Oncology Educational Opportunity

Health Care Reform Update:

Presented by Matt Brow, Vice President, Government Relations & Public Policy, US Oncology
Webinar to be held Thursday, January 7, 2010 at 1:00 PM Eastern Time.

Matt Brow will provide an overview of the latest updates from Washington, DC on Congressional efforts to enact health care reform and coverage expansion legislation and what it means for community oncology practices. Register at www.opspharmacist.com/opes

AMGEN Educational Opportunity:

A webcast specifically designed for Oncology Office Practice Managers and reimbursement personnel.

DISCUSSION TOPICS WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Update on Administration and Diagnosis Coding (including information on select Amgen products)
- Recovery Audit Contractors (RACs)
- Changes to the Final Rules for the Physician Fee Schedule and Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System
- Best Practices for clean claims submission
- Patient Assistance Programs, including the Neulasta First Step™ Copay Card Program

FEATURED SPEAKER: Thomas Gallo, Executive Director, Virginia Cancer Institute, Inc. Richmond, Virginia

Tuesday, January 12: 3:00pm; 7:00pm

Wednesday, January 13: 12:00pm; 4:00pm

To register, click the link below: OPMinfo@CommunicationPartners.com or call: 800-922-0949 ext. 3190

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

Q. A FLASCO member – Do you guys understand the Roth conversion I keep seeing so much about? I have several questions...

A. We do. Contact us with your questions.

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
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 MEETINGS:

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

March 26, 2010 – PA/NP Conference – Miami

November 5-6, 2010 – FLASCO Fall Meeting – Miami

FLASCO CO-SPONSORED MEETINGS:

January 16, 2010 - Clinical Breakthroughs & Challenges in Hematologic Malignancies – Grand Floridian Resort – Lake Buena Vista - For more information, call (813) 745-1247 or e-mail: Melissa.Pearson@MOFFITT.org

OTHER MEETINGS/WEBCASTS

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:

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