



# NNECOS News

*an email publication of Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society*

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## **REMINDER: LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR NNECOS' 2007 ANNUAL MEETING**

### **OCTOBER 12-13, 2007 ~ BURLINGTON SHERATON, VT**

- Registration deadline is Monday October 1<sup>st</sup>
- Program begins Friday at 1pm and concludes Saturday at 3:30pm
- Registration is \$50 for associate members, \$100 for active physician members.
- For complete details, schedule, and registration forms, visit [http://www.nnecos.org/NNECOS\\_Website/Events/](http://www.nnecos.org/NNECOS_Website/Events/).

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## **IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM ASCO'S GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COUNCIL**

### **CMS updates list of peer-reviewed journals for off-label uses**

*A message from Joseph S. Bailes, MD, Chair of ASCO's Government Relations Council*

In response to requests from ASCO, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has updated the list of peer-reviewed journals that Medicare contractor medical directors may use as references of off-label uses of anti-cancer drugs. As a reminder, an off-label use of a drug in an anticancer chemotherapeutic regimen must be covered by Medicare Part B if the use is supported by peer-reviewed articles published in certain journals. Individual Medicare carriers have the authority to evaluate the literature and determine whether it supports the off-label use. Physicians may point contractor medical directors to peer-reviewed articles in discussing coverage.

ASCO submitted two requests, one in 2003 and another in 2006, urging CMS to update the original list of journals established for this purpose in 1993. To respond, CMS opened a public comment period last year and conducted a review of the recommended journals.

On Friday, CMS issued a transmittal announcing that the following journals will be accepted as of October 22, 2007:

- Annals of Oncology
- Biology of Blood and Marrow Transplantation
- Bone Marrow Transplantation

- Gynecologic Oncology
- Clinical Cancer Research
- International Journal of Radiation, Oncology, Biology, and Physics
- Journal of NCCN
- Radiation Oncology
- Annals of Surgical Oncology
- Journal of Urology
- Lancet Oncology

These journals are added to the original list which includes:

- American Journal of Medicine
- Annals of Internal Medicine
- The Journal of the American Medical Association
- Journal of Clinical Oncology
- Blood
- Journal of the National Cancer Institute
- The New England Journal of Medicine
- British Journal of Cancer
- British Journal of Hematology
- British Medical Journal
- Cancer Drugs
- European Journal of Cancer
- Lancet Leukemia

To read the full transmittal, go to: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R78BP.pdf>

Please be sure to disseminate this information to your colleagues and members of your state societies and thank you for your help in advocating for these important changes!

Joseph S. Bailes, MD

Chair, Government Relations Council

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## ***FREE CLINICAL PRACTICE TOOLS FOR STATE AFFILIATES***

You may already be familiar with ASCO's Clinical Practice Guidelines, but did you know they are accompanied by easy-to-use clinical tools? These tools include slide sets, and summaries of the guideline, and may also include patient chart tools, such as flow sheets.

In the midst of a busy practice, these tools enable oncologists to use the latest guidelines on emerging issues in clinical oncology.

All of the following tools are free of charge and available online through [www.asco.org/guidelines](http://www.asco.org/guidelines):

- Breast Cancer Surveillance
- HER-2 Testing
- Sentinel Node Biopsy
- Colon and Rectal Cancer Surveillance
- GI Tumor Markers
- Androgen Sensitive Prostate Cancer Treatment
- Larynx Preservation

- Antiemetics
- White Blood Cell Growth Factors
- Fertility Preservation Options

Additional tools will be released throughout the upcoming year. Please check [ASCO.org](http://ASCO.org) for updates.

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## **BOSTON AREA ASH UPDATE**

### **The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Sponsors ASH Update January 11, 2008**

Save the date for the Boston area ASH update, January 11, 2008. Check with [www.leukemia-lymphoma.org](http://www.leukemia-lymphoma.org) for more details as they become available.

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## **YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT TO US**

We are interested in your feedback and suggestions. Please send your comments and suggestions for future issues to [nnecos@comcast.net](mailto:nnecos@comcast.net).

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**Feel free to forward this issue of NNECOS News to your colleagues who may not be current members of Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society.** *If you would prefer not to receive future email correspondence from NNECOS, please reply to this message and type "remove" in the subject line.*

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## **NEWS FROM OUR SUPPORTERS**

*"News from our Supporters" will be included in NNECOS News on a space available basis, with preference being given to supporters who have not shared news in the previous two issues. Send your submissions to [nnecos@comcast.net](mailto:nnecos@comcast.net).*

### **MGI PHARMA**

#### **Aloxi® FDA-approved label change EFFECTIVE 8/31/07**

- MGI announces that Aloxi® has had an FDA-approved label change in the package insert effective 8/31/07
- This change effectively removes the restriction around repeated dosing within a 7-day period.

### **PHARMION**

#### **Vidaza Survival Study Results**

- Pharmion announces Phase 3 Trial results for MDS
- Vidaza found to significantly extend overall survival by 74% in Phase 3 Trial in Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS)

### **Sanofi-Aventis**

#### **PACT+ Provider Portal**

- Sanofi announces a first of its kind oncology tool for healthcare providers and reimbursement personnel to assist needy patients.
  - PACT+ Provider Portal offers improved workflow processes related to reimbursement/patient assistance program information
  - Access to the PACT+ Provider Portal is restricted to physicians, staff and administrators who currently have permission to view patients' charts and their PHI
  - Register for the PACT+ Provider Portal at [www.pactplusonline.com](http://www.pactplusonline.com)
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***NNECOS wishes to thank all of our Supporters for their contributions in support of the mission of the society, to ensure the availability of and access to high quality oncology care in our region.***