



# NNECOS News

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

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## **REMINDER: ANNUAL MEETING ABSTRACT DEADLINE APPROACHING**

### **Deadline is Wednesday August 1st**

Time is running out to submit your abstract for NNECOS's annual meeting. Abstracts must be received no later than 5pm Wednesday August 1, 2007 to be considered for presentation at the October 12-13 annual meeting. Here's a quick refresher on what we're looking for:

The Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society (NNECOS) seeks abstracts on hematology/oncology topics to share knowledge during the Annual Meeting. Fellows, physicians, nurses, mid-level providers, administrators and pharmacists are invited to submit. Abstracts previously submitted to ASCO, ASH, etc. are acceptable. NNECOS reserves the right to review and accept submissions.

- **Authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to attend the poster session on the evening of Friday October 12, 2007, and offered a discounted meeting registration of \$25.00.**
- **The four best abstracts will be presented orally on Saturday October 13, 2007. The responsible first author will have travel, registration, and lodging covered by NNECOS. The submission deadline is 5pm August 1, 2007.**

Selected Areas/Topics may include:

- Novel Clinical Trials/Interventions
- Nursing Care
- Palliative Care
- Business/Administrative issues
- Pilot Studies
- Best Clinical Practices
- Patient and Survivor Issues

Abstracts should be:

- 250 words or less
- 10-12 point font
- Affiliations clearly listed
- Submitted electronically via email to [nnecos@comcast.net](mailto:nnecos@comcast.net), following the enclosed template.
- **Submitted no later than the deadline of 5pm on August 1, 2007**

Visit our [website](#) for complete details including a submission template.

## **SAVE THE DATE FOR NNECOS' ANNUAL MEETING**

***October 12-13, 2007, Burlington Sheraton, Burlington, VT***

***Tentative program runs 1pm Friday through 3:30pm Saturday***

While thoughts are focused on sunshine and summertime, in just three short months the leaves will be changing and NNECOS' annual meeting will be upon us. The annual meeting planning committee has created an excellent agenda for this two-day event, with many important and timely topics scheduled including:

- Team Building
- Measurement of Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy; Ellen Lavoie Smith
- State Cancer Planning Collaborative Panel
- Evolution of Oncology
- Washington Update
- Working with Cancer Survivors
- Targeted therapies in the treatment of lung cancer
- "Pain and Symptom Management in the Era of Assistive Suicide"
- Radiofrequency Ablation
- Safe Handling
- Breast Cancer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Abstract Poster & Podium Presentation Session

Registration information and additional details will be mailed later this summer.

## **AN ENORMOUS THANK YOU!**

**NNECOS Board of Directors Extends Heartfelt Thanks to Elaine Towle**



NNECOS leadership would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous contribution to the society by now ex-officio board member Elaine Towle. Elaine has given countless hours to the volunteer position of executive

director of the society and has brought invaluable guidance and knowledge to lead the society into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We're delighted to have Elaine continue on with the society and wish her continued success in her professional endeavors as Director of Consulting Services for Oncology Metrics, LLC. Thank you Elaine!

## **4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SPRING PRACTICE MANAGEMENT MEETING A SUCCESS!**

Nearly 100 participants were a part of NNECOS' 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Practice Management Meeting in Concord, NH on May 22, 2007.

The program began with a satellite clinic presentation and panel session presented by Pam Repetz of Oncology Management Consulting, and featuring local NNECOS members Tom Polko and Michelle Paschall as panelists, followed by a pay for performance payer's panel focusing on oncology pay for performance initiatives moderated by Tom Congoran. In addition to our three panelists: Dr. Charlotte Yeh, CMS Regional Administrator, NHIC/Medicare, Elizabeth Malko, MD, Medical Director, Anthem BC/BS, and Provider Contracting Vice President, Cigna, Richard (Skip) White, we were also delighted to have newly appointed CMS Chief Medical Office, Dr. Bill Kassler join us for the morning's sessions. Following lunch and exhibit time with our generous supporters and exhibitors, the group split into the ever popular oncology billing breakout sessions. The medical oncology session was led by the dynamic team of returning experts Teri Guidi of Oncology Management Consulting and Elaine Towle of Oncology Metrics, while the radiation oncology billing session was led by Ron DiGiaino of Revenue Cycle.

As evidenced by the glowing attendee evaluations, the program was a well-received, valuable educational and networking experience. A special thanks to our planning committee members: Linda J. Patchett, RN, MBA; Anne Ireland, RN, MSN, AOCN; J. Chris Nunnink, MD; Fred Briccetti, MD; Elaine L. Towle, CMPE; Nancy Kane, RN, AOCN; Troy Roy, MBA, and to our generous supporters and exhibitors without whom this meeting would not be possible.

## **PQRI UPDATE**

### **2007 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) Fast Facts**

#### **A Coding for Quality Handbook is now available from CMS**

- **Effective dates:** July 1, 2007 - December 31, 2007
- **Enrollment:** There is no enrollment for the PQRI program. Practices that wish to participate may do so by simply submitting quality indicators to CMS on claims.
- **Eligible Professionals:** Medicare physicians, including oncologists and urologists; practitioners, including physician assistants and clinical nurse specialists; and therapists.
  - All Medicare-enrolled professionals are eligible to participate, regardless of whether they have signed a Medicare participation agreement to accept assignment on all claims.
- **Quality Indicators:** There are 74 quality indicators for the PQRI. CMS encourages practices to familiarize themselves with these quality measures prior to July 1, 2007.
- The 74 quality indicators can be accessed at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/Downloads/PQRIMeasuresList.pdf>
- 2 for MDS (#s 67, 68), 1 for MM & bisphosphonate use (# 69), 1 for CML (# 70), 1 for Breast CA (#71), 1 for colon CA (#72), 1 for chemo plan (#73) and 1 for radiation TX breast CA (#74)
- **Reporting Requirements:** This program financially rewards providers for reporting on the 74 measures as long as a given threshold is reached. The reporting thresholds to achieve the payment increase are:

- If 4 or more measures apply to a particular patient condition, and the measure could be reported, the provider must report at least 3 of the measures for at least 80% of the cases seen during the program's effective dates (see above).
- If no more than 3 measures apply, each measure must be reported for at least 80% of the cases seen during the program's effective dates (see above).
- It is recommended that every applicable quality measure is reported.
- Important reporting requirements:
  - Claims must reflect the appropriate data on quality measures using either CPT Category II codes or G-codes (where CPT-II codes are not yet available), which must be reported along with the applicable diagnosis and/or service.
  - Individual NPIs must be reported and used consistently to identify services, procedures and quality-data codes for a satisfactory reporting.
  - All 2007 PQRI claims must be submitted by February 29, 2008
- **Payment:** Eligible professionals who report quality measures may earn a bonus payment of 1.5% of their total allowed charges for covered professional services provided during the reporting period. Once the eligibility is confirmed, a lump sum payment will be made to the holder of the Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) in mid-2008.
  - A payment cap will apply to make sure that an eligible professional who only reports a few cases does not get the same amount as a provider who reports on patients frequently.

**Additional information on PQRI and a complete list of quality measures can be accessed via the CMS website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri/> as well as at the ASCO website at [www.asco.org/pqri](http://www.asco.org/pqri).**

## ***NEWS FROM THE LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY***

### ***New Co-Pay Assistance Program***

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society now offers a Co-Pay Assistance Program providing assistance towards private and public insurance premium co-pay obligations. For more information and a downloadable application, please visit [www.lls.org/copay](http://www.lls.org/copay), email [copay@lls.org](mailto:copay@lls.org), or call (877) 557-2672.

Help For Your Patients

To order free program brochures, click [here](#) to place an online order.

Co-pay assistance funds are available for the following diagnoses:

- Myeloma
- Hodgkin lymphoma
- Non-Hodgkin lymphoma
- Acute myelogenous leukemia
- Myelodysplastic syndromes

For further information, visit [www.lls.org](http://www.lls.org).

# **THIRD ANNUAL FALL NEURO-ONCOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY SUPPORTIVE CARE CONFERENCE**

## **An Invitation to a Two-Day Conference in Rhode Island**

Course Co-Directors Mike Glantz, M.D., Camilo Fadul, M.D., and Patrick Wen, M.D. invite NNECOS members to participate in the third annual Fall Neuro-Oncology and Oncology Supportive Care Conference. The event promises an enthusiastic and internationally recognized faculty including Richard Gralla, Craig Earle, Abhijit Guha, and Dennis Shrieve; the agenda is focused on practical strategies and cutting-edge information.

The course content will be divided equally between neuro-oncology and symptom-management topics. There will be abundant opportunity for lively, unscripted exchanges between faculty and colleagues both during the meetings themselves and at meals and planned social activities, including a spectacular private evening buffet at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) Museum.

Participants are also encouraged to submit cases from their own practices for discussion during the conference. NNECOS members are invited to participate in two very enjoyable and productive days of learning and relaxation, October 5th and 6th, 2007, at the Biltmore Hotel in Providence, Rhode Island.

For further information, please contact Dr. Michael Glantz at [mjg@massmed.org](mailto:mjg@massmed.org) or visit the conference website at [http://ccehs.dartmouth-hitchcock.org/eventinfo\\_58.html](http://ccehs.dartmouth-hitchcock.org/eventinfo_58.html).

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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 [nnecosc@comcast.net](mailto:nnecosc@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 [nnecosc@comcast.net](mailto:nnecosc@comcast.net).*

### **BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB ONCOLOGY**

#### **ERBITUX Vial Size and FDA Priority Review**

- BMS announces that ERBITUX is now available in a 200mg Single-Dose Vial NDC 66733-958-23
- FDA Accepts and Grants Priority Review of ERBITUX(R) (Cetuximab) sBLA for Overall Survival in Patients with Advanced Colorectal Cancer.

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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.***

