

New Educational Initiatives

ACCC and Medscape Oncology have launched an online educational initiative that offers a community provider perspective about emerging data and treatment strategies for CML and Breast Cancer. Learn more at <http://www.accc-cancer.org/education/education-medscape.asp>.

Focus on Molecular Monitoring in CML: What You Need to Know for Clinical Practice

Understand the rationale, methodology, and recommended timing of hematologic, cytogenetic, and molecular monitoring in patients with CML receiving TKI therapy.

- ✓ Physicians—maximum of 1.00 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]
- ✓ Nurses—1.00 ANCC Contact Hour(s) (0.25 contact hours are in the area of pharmacology)
- ✓ All other healthcare professionals completing continuing education credit for this activity will be issued a certificate of participation.



Supported by an independent educational grant from Novartis Oncology.

Optimizing the Use of Aromatase Inhibitors in Breast Cancer—Issue 2

Learn the most up-to-date data on endocrine therapy and the key issues involved in its optimal use for patients with breast cancer.

- ✓ Physicians—maximum of 1.00 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]
- ✓ Nurses—1.00 ANCC Contact Hour(s) (1 contact hour is in the area of pharmacology)
- ✓ Pharmacists—1.00 knowledge-based ACPE (0.100 CEUs)
- ✓ All other healthcare professionals completing continuing education credit for this activity will be issued a certificate of participation.



Supported by an independent educational grant from Pfizer.

| FROM THE EDITOR |

Education and Advocacy

by Christian Downs, JD, MHA

ACCC's core purpose is to be the leading education and advocacy organization for the entire cancer team. In my column over most of the last year, I've focused on the member benefits you derive from ACCC's educational offerings.



For example, in 2010 alone, ACCC has produced hundreds of hours of educational programming, across a range of platforms, including national meetings, regional symposia, members-only conference calls, in print, via webinars, and on ACCC's website, covering topics from patient navigation and prostate cancer services to surveys on use of clinical practice guidelines, and trends in community-based cancer care.

While this educational programming was taking place, ACCC's membership has also had some important success working with policymakers around the country. Your support over the past year allowed ACCC to educate the Centers for Medicare & Medicare Services (CMS) about the need to appropriately reimburse for drugs given in the hospital outpatient setting. After many meetings and testimonials, CMS agreed with our efforts, and in the 2011 hospital outpatient prospective payment system (HOPPS) final rule increased drug reimbursement to ASP+5 percent (up from ASP+4 percent in 2010). It is worth noting that without CMS's recognition of the issues raised by ACCC, the agency may have decided to reimburse drugs at ASP -2 or -3 percent.

Another important advocacy effort developed in response to practical problems faced by ACCC members resulted from rule changes implemented in 2009. We all worked together to address issues related to physician supervision in the hospital outpatient department. ACCC,

along with the Oncology Nursing Society, met with CMS, explained the practical issues facing cancer care providers, suggested alterations that would allay many of the concerns of membership, and affected change. In both 2010 and 2011 HOPPS rulemaking, CMS has made changes to

its supervision rules that reflect the advocacy efforts of ACCC and its partner organizations.

As we begin a new year, ACCC will continue to focus its advocacy efforts on those provisions of the healthcare reform law that most affect community-based cancer care. The coming months will also be an important time for us to advocate for continued federal support for the NCI Community Cancer Centers Program (NCCCCP).

The NCCCCP program was started in 2007 with the purpose of providing community cancer centers and their patients with better access to the latest in cancer research. In this *Oncology Issues* and over the next several issues, NCCCCP pilot sites share their experience, insight, and practical steps to advancing clinical research in the community setting.

And there's no better example of ACCC's education and advocacy efforts than the upcoming Annual National Meeting, March 24-26, in Washington, D.C. Join us on Thursday, March 24 for a one-day pre-conference session dedicated to advocacy that includes visits with your U.S. Senators and Representatives. We'll share basic talking points and advocacy techniques before heading up to Capitol Hill. On Friday and Saturday, take advantage of ACCC's Annual Meeting educational sessions designed to present strategies and solutions to the economic and policy pressures facing community-based cancer care providers today. 