

40 Years Strong!

BY BECKY L. DEKAY, MBA



As you all know, this year ACCC is celebrating 40 years as the leading education and advocacy organization for the multidisciplinary cancer care team. A

key component of the Association's advocacy efforts continues to be ACCC's Capitol Hill Day. This year, on March 31, ACCC members visited more than 100 congressional offices and shared the following ACCC messages:


- Permanently replace the SGR (sustainable growth rate) formula with responsible policy that emphasizes value over volume
- Eliminate the 2 percent Medicare sequester or, at a minimum, exempt cancer drugs from this sequester
- Pass oral parity reform
- Eliminate the Prompt Pay Discount from Medicare's drug reimbursement calculations.

The advocacy efforts of today's 20,000+ ACCC members represent nearly 2,000 hospitals and physician practices. Together, we lead efforts to coordinate care, reduce costs, and improve quality through innovative initiatives aimed at enhancing the patient experience and outcomes. If you missed ACCC's 2014 Capitol Hill Day, I strongly urge each of you to participate in future Capitol Hill Days.

In addition to our legislative efforts, ACCC staff has shared these messages with key regulatory agencies, including the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. As we heard from the keynote speaker at ACCC's 40th Annual National Meeting this spring, "more clinical voices are needed in the policy setting." Congress and our regulatory bodies want and need to know what works and does not work in oncology and how they can improve policy to help us provide value and quality to our cancer patients. We hope our messages will be reflected in the 2015 proposed rules for the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment

System (HOPPS) and the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS), which will likely have been released by the time you read this edition of *Oncology Issues*.

Looking to the future, we will extend our discussions about value and patient-centered cancer care during sessions at the ACCC 31st National Oncology Conference, October 8–10, in San Diego. These conversations about "value" truly exemplify how ACCC's unique networking opportunities help foster dialogue on pivotal issues shaping future care delivery. Where else can you reach out to your oncology peers from around the country and share perspectives on quality and value in cancer care? And those conversations don't have to stop when the meetings end. After you go back to your program and have taken some time to reflect on everything you've learned at the meeting, post your comments and questions on ACCC's online discussion forum, ACCCExchange. Become a part of the solution by sharing your strategies for adding value while staying focused on your patients.

If there is one lesson I have learned as a cancer program administrator and active ACCC member it is this: oncology providers must be proactive—not reactive! We must be at the forefront, developing ways to demonstrate value; exploring new payment models; and partnering more collaboratively with payers, other providers, and resources within our communities. Let's not allow these discussions to happen without us! Remember, it is you—the members—who truly make ACCC 40 years strong! 

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