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Apply for a 2020 ACCE Innovator Award

This year, ACCC celebrates the 10th anniversary of recognizing innovation in cancer care with the ACCC Innovator Awards. Applications for 2020 opened on Dec. 2, 2019. Submissions should advance the goals of improving access, quality, and value in cancer care delivery. Apply online at acc-cancer.org/Innovator.



Series Explores Implications of Step Therapy in Oncology

Recent policy changes by CMS have signaled increased governmental interest in wider application of step therapy as a cost containment tool. Gain perspectives on the nuances, considerations, and implications of the use of step therapy in oncology at acc-cancer.org/step-therapy.



RESOURCE

irAE Guidelines

The ACCC IO Institute developed an online directory of current immune-related adverse events (irAEs) work-up guidelines. Organized by organ system, each section includes the common irAEs for which guidelines are available and details on where to find the condition-specific information in each set of guidelines. acc-cancer.org/immunotherapy.



WEBINAR

ICYMI 2020 Medicare Rule Summaries

ACCC members can listen to an archived recording of the December 2019 ACCC Policy Webinar, “CMS Final 2020 Outpatient Prospective Payment System & Physician Fee Schedule Rules: What You Need to Know” at acc-cancer.org/advocacy.



PODCAST

Immunotherapy and Emergency Medicine

Sarah Dubbs, MD, Assistant Professor in Emergency Medicine; Assistant Director of the Emergency Medicine Residency Program, University of Maryland School of Medicine, shares why a trip to the ED is different for patients who receive immunotherapy for cancer, what information helps ED clinicians, and what busy ED providers need to know about immune-related adverse events in patients treated with checkpoint inhibitors. acc-cancer.org/podcast.

fast



How Prepared Are PCPs?

Research has shown that patients are discussing initial cancer treatment options with their primary care doctors; now a study finds that a significant number of these physicians report notable gaps in their knowledge of cancer treatment options. Select survey results:

- Physicians who reported more comfort with cancer treatment discussions were more likely to have these discussions
- **34%** had discussed surgery options with patients
- **23%** had discussed radiation
- **22%** had discussed chemotherapy
- But, among those physicians who reported involvement in surgery decisions, **22%** said they were not comfortable having that discussion and only **17%** said they did have the necessary knowledge. Similar findings played out for radiation and chemotherapy.

Source: Wallner LP, et al. Primary care provider-reported involvement in breast cancer treatment decisions. *Cancer*. February 2019. doi.org/10.1002/cncr.31998.



Reasons Physicians Would NOT Recommend Their Current EHR

- 69%** Lack of concern for physician's time in resolving problems
- 46%** Not meeting current practice needs
- 46%** Little to no ability to customize
- 40%** Inadequate vendor support (training, customer service, etc.)
- 39%** System does not live up to vendor promises
- 29%** Too expensive

Source: Medical Economics. 2019 EHR Scorecard: Physicians Rate their EHR Systems. medicaleconomics.com

facts

Prior Authorizations Delay Treatment

- 7 in 10 radiation oncologists (**73%**) said their patients regularly express concern to them about the delay caused by prior authorization.
- One-third (**32%**) of radiation oncologists have been forced to use a different therapy for a substantial number of their patients (**>10%**) due to prior authorization delays.
- Nearly **2/3** of radiation oncologists (**62%**) said most denials they receive from prior authorization review are overturned on appeal.
- **44%** of radiation oncologists said their peer-reviews typically are not conducted by a licensed radiation oncologist.
- The majority of radiation oncologists (**63%**) had to hire additional staff in the last year to manage the prior authorization process.



Source: ASTRO. Prior Authorization and Cancer Patient Care: Executive Summary of a Nationwide Physician Survey. astro.org/ASTRO/media/ASTRO/News%20and%20Publications/PDFs/ASTROPriorAuthorizationPhysician-SurveyBrief.pdf.

Highlights from a National Physician Compensation Study

- While the gender pay gap has narrowed, male physicians still earn an average of **\$1.25** for every **\$1** female physicians earn.
- Radiation Oncology is one of the top 5 highest-paying medical specialties at **\$486,000**.
- Pediatric Hematology and Oncology is one of the 5 lowest-paying medical specialties at **\$223,000**.
- In comparison, the average annual compensation rate for oncology is **\$383,000**.

Source: Doximity. 2019 Physician Compensation Report. s3.amazonaws.com/s3.amazonaws.com/press/doximity_third_annual_physician_compensation_report_round4.pdf.

“Always On” Work Culture Taking Its Toll, Survey Reveals

- **64%** of people around the world work in an “always on” culture which causes stress, and adversely affects both physical and mental well-being.
- Respondents cited a **decline in their physical health** as a result of not having enough sleep and exercise.
- Most respondents feel that employers are not addressing wellness concerns sufficiently and often have a **one-size-fits-all mindset** when it comes to stress management and workplace wellness programs.
- The “sandwich generation,” those between the age of **35** and **49**, hold an increasingly negative outlook on their well-being, as they are often caring for both aging parents and young families.
- Males and millennials (**18-34 years**) in general are more upbeat about their health and wellness compared to women and older demographic groups.
- Many over the age of **60** see working as a way of staying mentally sharp, physically active, and sharing their knowledge through mentorship; in contrast younger people believe they will be working only for financial reasons as they age.

Source: 2019 Cigna 360 Well-Being Survey: “Well and Beyond.” wellbeing.cigna.com.

