



ACCC Action

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Join us for ACCC's 20th Annual National Meeting in Washington, D.C., on March 23-26, 1994. Timely sessions will explore the issues and challenges that managed care and health care reform present for oncology programs and practices. (See page 29 for program highlights and a registration form.)

The ACCC's Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings provide attendees with an opportunity to discuss common concerns and new developments in oncology. Throughout the 20th Annual National Meeting, the following SIG sessions will

be held: Radiation Oncology, Community Clinical Oncology Programs (CCOPs), Nursing, Medical Directors, and Administrators.

Special events include a Congressional Breakfast and Forum on Capitol Hill and ACCC's Annual Award honoring Senator John D. Rockefeller and Representative Sander M. Levin for their work on the off-label provisions in the recently passed Budget Reconciliation package. And, of course, there are the exhibit hall, interactions with Congressional leaders, and receptions.

See you in March!

KUDOS TO KERMAN

Herbert D. Kerman, M.D., ACCC President from 1981-82, was honored in Daytona Beach, Fla., this past October with the first Humanitarian Award presented by the Halifax Medical Center Foundation. The Center, which was founded in 1984, will be renamed the Herbert D. Kerman Regional Oncology Center. Kerman, 76, served as director of the hospital's Radiology Department from 1956 to 1980. He was founder and director of the hospital's Regional Oncology Center, which opened in January 1984. ☐

YOUR KEY TO CANCER DRGs

Each year the Association of Community Cancer Centers embarks on a data collection effort targeting Medicare cancer patients who have been discharged from ACCC member institutions. The objective: a timely and detailed analysis of cancer-related DRGs.

ACCC's seventh edition of *A Comparative Report On Key Cancer DRGs* is now available. As with each of the previous volumes, the publication presents information on the 66 DRGs that compose 50 to 70 percent of all Medicare cancer patient discharges. More than 90 pages of data detail the total costs for DRG, average profit/loss per DRG, regional variations, and much more. Data were collected in the spring and summer of 1993 from ACCC member institutions.

The analysis of this year's survey results indicates that of the top 10 DRGs with the largest percentage of reported discharges, nine DRGs are the same as those reported for the previous survey. The top five most frequent cancer DRGs, starting from number one, include DRG 410, 82, 239, 395, and 188.

The survey data show only four profitable DRGs. The most profitable was DRG 407, which showed a profit of \$232 per discharge. The other three profitable DRGs were DRG 165 (\$184 per discharge), DRG 347 (\$160 per discharge) and

DRG 369 (\$67 per discharge).

Mean losses per discharge by DRG range from -\$98 (DRG 303) to -\$2,486 (DRG 357). Among the DRGs with the highest mean loss per discharge are DRG 411 (-\$2,174), DRG 403 (-\$2,097), DRG 164 (-\$2,017), and DRG 401 (-\$1,940).

Total charges. The 114 hospitals providing charge data in this survey reported an overall total of more than \$470 million in charges for a total of 53,001 discharges, representing a mean charge of \$8,868 per DRG (up slightly from the 1992 mean charge of \$8,622 per DRG).

Total reimbursements. The 112 hospitals providing reimbursement data in this survey reported an overall total of almost \$225 million in reimbursements for a total of 52,127 discharges. This represents a mean reimbursement per DRG of \$4,316.

Total costs. The 95 hospitals providing costs in this survey reported an overall total of more than \$239 million in costs for a total of 45,730 discharges, representing a mean cost of \$5,226 per DRG. The only change in the top 15 DRGs for total costs was that DRG 401 rose from 16th in last year's survey to 15th, and DRG 409 dropped from 15th last year to 18th in this year's survey.

Comparative analysis. Each year, *Cancer DRGs* provides a

comparative analysis between data reported for this year's edition and data reported in the prior edition for those hospitals that responded to both surveys. Hospitals in the current survey report a total of 21,302 discharges. The mean number of discharges has dropped from 458 in 1992 to 426 in 1993. In the current survey, the mean loss also decreased, from -\$480,627 in 1992 to -\$415,989 in 1993.

Of the 50 hospitals in the comparative group, five (10 percent) showed institutional profits in this survey. Institutional losses occurred at 45 (90 percent) of the hospitals in the current survey. In the previous survey, four hospitals (8 percent) showed an institutional profit, while 46 (92 percent) showed a loss. Two of the four hospitals that had shown a profit in 1992 continued to show profits in 1993.

How To Order

ACCC's seventh edition of *A Comparative Report on Key Cancer DRGs* is available at \$250 per copy for nonmembers and \$225 per copy for general members. Delegate members will receive a complimentary copy to be mailed by February.

To order, send your check or money order to: ACCC DRG Book, 11600 Nebel Street, Suite 201, Rockville, MD 20852. ☐