



ACCC Guidelines Nationally Recognized

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ACCC Guidelines Nationally Recognized

The National Guidelines Clearinghouse, sponsored by the American Association of Health Plans, the American Medical Association, and the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, has selected ACCC's Patient Management Guidelines for inclusion in their database and web site. Additionally, the national office of the American Cancer Society is translating them for patient use. Nine state medical oncology societies have also adapted them for local use, and more are in the process of doing so.

The ACCC Patient Management Guidelines were developed in collaboration with national and state oncology societies, and are distributed to approximately 20,000 oncology professionals and insurers across the nation.

The guidelines reflect the community standard of care for the majority of cancer patients who benefit from conventional therapy. They are intended as a mechanism for health care providers to inform insurers and managed care plans of the standard of care in their communities—a process that helps ensure that treatment protocols and the drugs used in cancer care are covered by insurers.

Guidelines are currently available for the management of:

- Early stage breast cancer
- Advanced breast cancer
- Small cell and non-small cell lung cancers
- Colorectal cancer

- Administration of erythropoietin and colony-stimulating factors.

Among the guidelines under development are:

- Pancreatic cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Head and neck cancer
- Metastatic breast cancer.

The guidelines have received wide public support and are available on ACCC's web site, located at www.accc-cancer.org.

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

In a recent mailing, ACCC has requested that members of the oncology community call or write their representatives in Congress to support HR 1090, *the Medicare Full Access to Cancer Act of 1999*. Introduced by Congressman Gene Green (D-Tex.), this bill would direct the Health Care Financing Administration to exempt cancer care from the proposed Ambulatory Payment System.

This bill has the support of more than thirty co-sponsors in Congress as well as the support of the National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations, Cancer Care, Inc., the Center for Patient Advocacy, Cancer Research Foundation of America, and ACCC. For more information regarding the APC proposal or HR 1090, please contact the ACCC executive office at 301-984-9496.

ACCC PRESIDENTS' INSTITUTE

This fall will mark the first meeting of the Presidents' Institute, a new gathering of state oncology society

and national oncology leaders. As legislative and regulatory activities continue to heat up, the Presidents' Institute will offer another forum for addressing providers' concerns. APCs, proposed reductions in AWP, the Federal Supply Schedule process, and other issues of national concern will be given considerable attention. At the state level, attendees will explore ways to strengthen oncology societies and increase their influence in affecting policy. Speakers will address ways in which societies can become more politically active, how to work with regulators, and means of resolving significant disputes with payers. ❏

NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

The 1998-99 edition of *Community Cancer Programs in the United States* is now available. This membership directory provides detailed information on all member institutions and is an invaluable resource for referrals. Nearly 700 pages long, *Community Cancer Programs in the United States* provides information on available cancer therapies, staff contacts by specialty, special services provided, program components and affiliations, and other pertinent facts about ACCC's 560+ member institutions. Call 301-984-9496 for an order form. Profiles of ACCC institutions also appear on ACCC's website: www.accc-cancer.org.

ACCC ASSISTS NATIONAL AD CAMPAIGN

Voices from the War on Cancer, a coalition consisting of the Association of Community Cancer Centers, the Cancer Research Foundation of America, the Center for Patient Advocacy, the Oncology Nursing Society, and US Oncology, will sponsor placement of several full-page advertisements in national news-

papers that focus attention on the importance of maintaining adequate Medicare reimbursement for quality cancer care. Each ad focuses on the community's access to critical components of cancer care (for example, oncology nursing, research, supportive therapies) that would be jeopardized if any of the proposed reductions to

Medicare reimbursement were implemented. The advertisements are targeted to reach influential members of Congress and officials at the Health Care Financing Administration, as well as the general public. For more information about this ad campaign, please contact the ACCC office at 301-984-9496.

Without Access, Patients with Cancer Are Without Hope.

Cancer is the leading cause of death in the United States and the leading cause of death for women aged 15 to 59. For many patients, cancer is not just a diagnosis—it's a life-or-death struggle. For many patients, cancer is not just a diagnosis—it's a life-or-death struggle. For many patients, cancer is not just a diagnosis—it's a life-or-death struggle.

COALITION for ACCESS to QUALITY CANCER CARE

For Patients With Cancer Everywhere, More Effective Care Is Not Just a Dream—it's a Reality.

In 1971, the War on Cancer was declared. The nation's focus on cancer research, prevention, and treatment has led to remarkable advances in our understanding of cancer and in the care of our patients. Today, cancer is no longer a death sentence. It's a disease that can be treated, prevented, and even cured.

COALITION for ACCESS to QUALITY CANCER CARE

Don't Hold Cancer Research Hostage to Budgetary Politics.

The War on Cancer is a long-term effort to reduce the burden of cancer. It's a fight that requires sustained funding and support from the federal government. Without adequate funding, our progress will be slowed, and our patients will suffer.

COALITION for ACCESS to QUALITY CANCER CARE

Patients with Cancer Depend on Specially-Educated Cancer Care Nurses. So Does America.

Any life-threatening illness can be treated with cancer. High-quality cancer care comes from specially-trained nurses who provide the care and support that patients need to survive and thrive.

COALITION for ACCESS to QUALITY CANCER CARE