

# Greetings From CLEARWATER



Brian Abraham,  
MedImmune Oncology, Inc.

## Reimbursement Programs for the Oncology Office

Many office managers have expressed despair that they must face the complex world of reimbursement without assistance or empathy. In addition, if the managers received a denial of a claim, the obstacles they have to overcome become even greater. During the recent OA Head Nurse/Office Manager meeting in Clearwater Beach, Florida, Brian Abraham, Manager of Reimbursement Support for MedImmune Oncology, Inc., informed OA members that manufacturers of drugs, biologicals and equipment can provide assistance when it comes to navigating through the reimbursement maze.

Companies currently provide toll-free reimbursement hotlines, billing guides, sample claim forms, sample superbills, and reimbursement information on their Web sites. Manufacturers also provide patient assistance for individuals without insurance and/or with extremely low incomes. For insured patients, some companies will replace a drug that is not reimbursed, but should have been.

**The most important thing to remember when utilizing these programs is to maximize the services they offer. Here are a few tips:**

- Establish personal relationships with the representatives on the hotlines. As they get to know you, they will be able to anticipate your needs easier.
- Copy forms or ask for prefilled forms. Also, take advantage of fax-back or interactive services. These activities will help speed up the process for you and your patients.
- Verify, then trust. Make sure you get case numbers from a hotline program. The same rule applies when obtaining authorization numbers from insurers. Don't put yourself in a position where you have to start the whole process over.



Medimmune, Inc



## Hereditary Susceptibility to Breast and Ovarian Cancer

At the recent OA Head Nurse/Practice Manager Meeting in Clearwater Beach, Florida, Karen Roesser RN, MS, AOCN spoke about inherited genetic mutations in the tumor suppressor genes BRCA1 and BRCA2, which place an individual at increased risk for breast and ovarian cancer. The transmission of this mutation is by autosomal dominant pattern of inheritance from either parent. Hereditary breast and ovarian cancer accounts for approximately 7-10% of all breast and ovarian cancers. MGI Pharma sponsored Ms. Roesser's presentation.

Ms. Roesser discussed the key elements in a patient's history, which should alert the healthcare practitioner of the increased possibility of a hereditary nature to breast or ovarian cancer. These include: early onset of breast cancer (<50 years), ovarian cancer at any age, male breast cancer, breast/ovarian cancer in the same person, and individuals of Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry.

Possible test results were discussed including results, which were positive for a deleterious mutation, negative for any mutation detected, or those of uncertain significance. Possible medical management was examined which included the interventions of surveillance, chemoprevention and prophylactic surgery.



Karen Roesser