



Competitive Acquisition Program Update

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The Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) passed by Congress in 2003 called for CMS to establish a competitive acquisition program (CAP) as an alternate system for doctors to obtain physician administered Medicare Part B drugs. This is a voluntary program, which will allow doctors to obtain the chemotherapy from competitively selected vendors. This system initially was to go into effect January 1, 2006. It has now been delayed.

Effective August 2005 CMS suspended the

current CAP vendor bidding process. CMS felt that it needed more time to publicly review comments about CAP as well as implement further clarifications to the bidding process which was previously published in the interim final rule. CAP is now tentatively scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2006. Those physicians who elect to participate in the CAP ordinarily will remain in the program for at least one year. They must share information with the CAP vendor to facilitate collection of the patient's share of

the cost. They must file claims promptly. They must appeal denials related to medical necessity and notify the vendor when the drug is not administered. The physicians must also maintain an inventory for each CAP drug received. There is no physician payment for any of these services provided.

Oncology Associates expects that physician participation in the CAP program will be very small among oncologists and we will continue to keep you informed. **OA**



Credible Patient Resources (C.P.R.)

Jump Start Your Patients' Search for Reliable Web Information

Cut and copy the following web links for a handy reference guide for your patients.

4anemia.com

An unbranded educational site regarding the effect of anemia and fatigue induced by chemotherapy.

allaboutmds.com

Support for patients with MDS and their caretakers.

cancer.com

A comprehensive portal of credible information on cancer.

LAF.org

The Lance Armstrong Foundation provides practice information and tools for people living with cancer.

patientaccessnetwork.org

Provides financial co-pay assistance for qualified individuals for medications to treat anemia.

pinkribbon.com

A comprehensive breast cancer resource center.

procritline.org

Provides financial assistance for qualified individuals receiving Procrit therapy.

strength4yourjourney.com

An information-packed resource for newly-diagnosed cancer patients — from diagnosis to treatment.

strengthforcaring.com

A national program for caregivers of loved ones and family members with cancer.

toomuchiron.com

A resource for patients at risk for iron overload.