



With Members in Mind

NAVIGATION (nav-i-ga'-shun) *n.* 1: to steer a course through a medium 2: to make one's way over or through

"Are we there yet? Are we there yet?" Any parent can identify with this dreaded question, normally asked by a small child in the first fifteen minutes of a three-hour or more ride. Hopefully, as the scenery changes the question is forgotten, the trip is pleasant and you arrive at your destination safely. While not every trip goes according to plan, when traveling, it is nice to have help. Someone to read the map, gather correct change for the tollbooths or talk during the wee hours of nighttime driving.

Think of your GPO, Oncology Associates in this same vein as your navigator. And as your guide, we say, **"Yes, we are there now!"** in terms of the implemented CMS legislative changes. The year 2005 is in full swing and the controversial rearranging of reimbursement to the private practice has taken hold. OA held a January 2005 conference to acquaint members to the new rules of billing/coding engagement for greater practice efficiency (see page 26).

So, now that all is unveiled and you are living with the new billing and coding guidelines daily, everything must be crystal clear, right? Well, **"not exactly,"** you say? At OA we understand. As a matter of fact, we discuss challenging reimbursement issues with you every day on the phone. We welcome this type of interaction with our members.

OA is here to help you navigate the stormy seas of continuous change. ASP +6, as you know, is not a static, but dynamic number for all drugs. Updates will occur each business quarter. Your practice needs to consider its ability to provide the highest quality care as the terrain changes and its impact on your preferred therapy regimes. So if your staff asks, **ARE WE THERE YET?** Tell them emphatically, **"Yes we are and we made good time too!"**

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THINK OF OA AS AN EXTENSION OF YOUR PRACTICE.

OA Phone 888-732-7352

Talk live with our staff concerning your questions regarding G-codes and billing tips.

OA Faxes

Watch for the most immediate alerts to reimbursement changes and tips, new product agreements and product agreement amendments, new treatment indications and new product launches.

OA Conferences / Tradeshows

Be part of the fun while forming the direction of your GPO and learning about changes across the nation. Visit OA's booth at ONS (#939) and ASCO (#266) in 2005 to communicate your needs in person.

OA Member Practice Holds Annual Cancer Survivor Picnic



Each summer, The Blood & Cancer Center in Canfield, Ohio holds a cancer

survivor's picnic for patients and their families. The picnic is sponsored by the SMILE and Hope Network. SMILE (Smile, Mingle, Involve, Educate) is a patient support group run by The Blood & Cancer Center and the Hope Network is the support group run by the local hospital in Canfield, Humility of Mary Health Partners.

Rita Lopez, RN at The Blood & Cancer Center has been active in coordinating this program since its inception in 1990. According to Rita, "This picnic really gives our patients something to look forward to every year. Our first event had 20 people and last year, we had 500 people attend!"

The event is held at various recreational parks in the Canfield area. Last year, the picnic took place at the Lake Mountain State Park. Patients and their families enjoyed swimming and sunning at the beach, a catered lunch and planned activities for the children. There was even a DJ, there to kick the celebration off right.

Oncology Associates applauds The Blood & Cancer Center for their commitment to patient well-being and cancer care.

Does your office support unique events involving the cancer community? Please share your stories and pictures with us. We would like to feature you in upcoming issues of OA Member News. Email stories and pictures to kdesatnik@rcmed.com or fax to 440-995-1540.