

SAN DIEGO

OA Head Nurse/Practice Manager **KICK-OFF CONFERENCE**

March 18-20, 2005
San Diego, CA



Oncology Associates held its Bi-Annual Head Nurse/Practice Manager Conference recently in San Diego, CA. The conference consisted of late breaking clinical updates on a variety of topics from CINV to Mantel Cell lymphoma. There was also a significant discussion led by Pat DiBenedetto, RN about implementing new Medicare changes and planning sessions for thriving in 2005. Please read below for a summary of the clinical presentations from the conference. The next OA Head Nurse/Practice Manager Conference will be held October 7-9, 2005 in Nashville, TN. We hope to see you there!

Coding and Billing Update

PAT DIBENEDETTO, RN

Significant coding and reimbursement changes have become effective for 2005. These changes include temporary G-codes for services not previously reimbursed. These services include therapeutic drug pushes, additional therapeutic infusions, additional chemotherapy infusions, IM or SQ injections and port flushes. CMS adopted these temporary G-codes for billing of administration this year while permanent

CPT codes are developed and instituted in 2006. Templates of the G-codes were provided to use as a guide within individual practices.

Effective January 1, 2005, CMS also changed the method in which drugs are reimbursed. Today, drugs are currently being reimbursed at Average Selling Price (ASP) + 6%. The ASP is submitted by pharmaceutical companies and is reflective of the selling price minus any rebates or discounts given to the purchasers. These values are updated quarterly and keeping current with these

values is extremely important to an oncology practice.

CMS introduced a new project for 2005, which put an estimated 300 million dollars back into the Medicare System. This is known as the Demonstration Project. It is an assessment of three patient response parameters to pain, fatigue and nausea and vomiting. Each of these responses has a 1-4 level of patient response based on the Rotterdam Scale and a corresponding G-code. Billing one level for all three of these codes will net an allowable amount of \$130

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THIS CONFERENCE:

