



2006 Medicare Oncology Demonstration Project

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The Center of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced in January 2006 a new, one-year voluntary demonstration project for office-based oncologists and hematologists. This demonstration project will pay office-based oncologists and hematologists an additional payment of \$23 in conjunction with Level 2, 3, 4, or 5 Established Patient office visit for patients who have 1 of 13 specified cancer diagnoses. The oncologists or hematologists will need to report on: a) the primary focus of the visit, b) the extent to which the

management of the patient adheres to relevant clinical guidelines established by ASCO and/or the NCCN and, c) the current disease state.

The 2006 demonstration project focuses on the physician's evaluation and management service. The patient will no longer require a chemotherapy infusion to qualify for the demonstration project. The 13 cancer diagnoses which are eligible for the demonstration project include: breast cancer, chronic myelogenous leukemia, colon cancer, esophageal cancer, gastric cancer,

head and neck cancer, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, non-small cell/small cell lung cancer, ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, and rectal cancer. These cancers comprise approximately 85% of all malignancies seen in the Medicare population. CMS estimates this new demonstration will result in \$150 million in allowed charges for oncology services. This project is completely voluntary. Oncology Associates encourages its members to participate in this demonstration project. **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

A non-profit organization dedicated to improving access to needed health services for insured patients who cannot afford the out-of-pocket costs associated with their treatment.

pinkribbon.com

A comprehensive breast cancer resource center.

procritline.com

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.