

Response from Blue Cross Blue Shield Association Regarding ASCO Concerns with Medicare NCD

E-mail communication to ASCO: 9/11/2007

I am responding on behalf of Dr. Allan Korn to let you know that Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association will be informing BCBS Plans of the ASCO position through a link in our weekly Technology Evaluation Center (TEC) e-mail newsletter to Plans. We will provide brief background information of the development of the ASCO position and recent relevant FDA deliberations. Although in general we think the ASCO position is reasonable, we will be including a brief statement to indicate that BCBSA does not concur with ASCO's position that clinicians should not be required to provide justification/documentation when starting ESA in patients who have hb above 10.

Naomi Aronson, Ph. D.
Executive Director
Technology Evaluation Center
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association