

STATE AFFILIATE GRANT RECIPIENTS

2009-2010

Alabama Cancer Congress

Census of Cancer Providers in Alabama

The physician affiliate of Alabama (known as Alabama Society of Clinical Oncology) and the practice managers group (Oncology Providers Network) have joined forces in Alabama and will merge under the new name of Alabama Cancer Congress as of January 1, 2010. The ACC board of directors now has representation from oncology nurses; radiation therapists; practice managers and business staff; radiation, gyn, neuro and medical oncologists, academic and community physicians, a 2nd year hem/onc fellow from University of Alabama – Birmingham, as well as representatives from rural and urban parts of the state.

At our first board meeting we discovered no one on the board has a good idea about where all the oncologists and other providers are in the state, nor does anyone have a good list of members and up-to-date contact information. There is comprehensive information available about the types of cancer, death and survival rates, socioeconomic status, and other disparities across the state from the American Cancer Society, Alabama Department of Public Health, and the Alabama Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan, but not a comprehensive list of cancer providers.

Our goal is to do comprehensive research to identify cancer providers in Alabama, resources such as support groups and patient assistance programs to be added to the oncology providers posted for the interactive county map which will be built as part of the grant. During the research process a master calendar of cancer-related activities across the state will be identified and posted, and we'll also be spreading the word about posting open positions on our job openings section of the website www.ALcancercongress.org. The information compiled will be shared on our website, at our annual meeting, and will also be available to our members, the media, and the Alabama Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition.

Kansas Society of Clinical Oncology

Rebirth of a State Affiliate

The Kansas Society of Clinical Oncology has been dormant for some time and will use State Affiliate Grant Program funds to revitalize the state affiliate by going back to square one and starting once again.

While a president and executive director have been named and recognized, there is little infrastructure. The society has active CAC representation with WPS; however, we have no record of state affiliate membership, no website, and have not had either an administrative or clinical meeting in the recent past.

The expected outcome is to have a state affiliate with sound administration, clear financial reports and financial controls, and once again holding clinical and administrative programs for a broad and diverse membership.

Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society

Collaborative Sharing of QOPI Data to Develop Best Practices

The mission of the Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society (NNECOS) is “To assure the availability of and access to high quality oncology care in our region”. Our vision includes the desire “That all individuals involved in the care of the cancer patient will dedicate themselves to continuously improving the quality of care they deliver...”.

The process for quality improvement involves four steps: 1) Measurement, 2) Feedback, 3) Development of an improvement plan, and 4) Re-measurement. QOPI, the Quality Oncology Practice Initiative is a process initiated by the American Society of Clinical Oncology. It is an oncologist led, practice based quality improvement program. QOPI is a tool which facilitates completion of steps 1, 2, and 4. Development of an improvement plan, however, has been left to the individual practices. Unfortunately, participation in QOPI by practices represented by NNECOS has been low – only one practice in the Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 data collection rounds. A survey of members conducted to identify barriers to QOPI participation found that much of the reluctance to participate has centered on concerns regarding a lack of resources (knowledge, personnel, and time required to perform the data extraction) to initiate performance improvement programs. In this project, practices experienced in the data extraction process will provide training to practices newly participating in QOPI. In addition to our normal individual practice reports, QOPI will provide us with a report comparing practices to each other in a manner in which we are blinded to results other than our own. A meeting of participants will be held to discuss results and develop a set of “Best Practices” for each measure by examining the processes used by those who score well on that measure. These processes will be implemented by the individual practices and results compared again after the next QOPI round with the expectation of improvement. In effect, we will use QOPI for quality improvement in addition to quality measurement. If successful, we intend to approach third party payers for support of this process in subsequent years.

Washington State Medical Oncology Society

Evaluation and Management (E/M) Billing and Documentation Workshop

With the increasing focus on retrospective audits by public and private payers and the upcoming Recover Audit Contractor (RAC) audits there is a growing need for a clear understanding of the documentation rules for Evaluation and Management (E/M) services.

Although this is an issue nationwide for oncologists, Washington is somewhat uniquely "at risk" and uniquely suited to developing a protocol for oncologists for RAC reviews given its high percentage of hospital-based physicians.

WSMOS proposes to sponsor an E/M billing and documentation workshop during which providers would submit sample documentation and the E/M code billed for a “mock audit.”

West Virginia Oncology Society

The West Virginia Oncology Society Statewide Clinical Trial Network

The West Virginia Oncology Society is in the very early stages of forming a statewide clinical trial network. The grant money will be used to bring interested parties (physicians, nurses, administrators, social workers and any others) throughout the state together for several meetings during the year to exchange ideas and begin building the clinical trial network.