ASCO and ECO Foundation Launch International Quality Improvement Initiative

Effort will Give Oncology Practices in Spain Opportunity to Achieve QOPI Certification

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Leadership from the ASCO and ECO teams.

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ALEXANDRIA, Va. -- QOPI Certification Program LLC (QCP), an affiliate of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc. (ASCO) that runs the QOPI Certification Program™, and the Foundation for Excellence and Quality in Oncology (ECO), a nonprofit foundation in Spain, have launched an effort to expand the QOPI Certification Program to Spain. Through the collaboration between ECO and QCP, Spanish oncology practices will be able to apply for QOPI Certification.

"This collaboration will give oncology practices in Spain the opportunity to take their quality improvement efforts to the next level," said Mohammad Jahanzeb, MD, Chair of ASCO’s International Quality Taskforce and the QOPI Task Force. "ECO is one of the leading Spanish
organizations dedicated to improving quality care of people living with cancer and we are excited to work with them in making QOPI Certification possible in Spain."

The QOPI Certification Program™, which began in 2010, offers specialty certification to outpatient oncology practices demonstrating commitment to quality. Each practice completes a comprehensive, voluntary assessment of its site against specified standards that are consistent with national guidelines. Those practices that earn the QOPI Certification™ designation have scored well on key Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI®) quality measures and have met chemotherapy safety standards established by ASCO and the Oncology Nursing Society in areas of treatment. Currently, more than 300 practices in the United States, Greece and Brazil have achieved QOPI Certification™.

Through this collaboration with ECO, oncology practices in Spain will be able to apply for accreditation through QCP. ECO will advise on the application of QOPI quality measures in Spain, conduct onsite reviews for practices seeking QOPI Certification, and process the necessary documentation for QOPI Certification. The application will then undergo ASCO’s traditional peer review by a select team of oncology professionals, such as physicians and nurses. Certification is given when a practice meets QCP’s standards.

"QOPI and ASCO are considered a worldwide resource for Spanish professionals," says Dr. Vicente Guillem, president of the ECO Foundation. "This quality program is based in a practical, efficient and standardized methodology that promotes a continuous self-evaluation culture for oncology practices, identifying strengths and potential areas of improvement."

The ECO Foundation has helped Spanish hospitals to improve their quality in cancer care, which helps allow the physicians to know their level of compliance with good practices in quality and security. Spain is the third most active country in QOPI participation following the US and Canada. Fifteen Spanish practices are participating in QOPI and three hospitals are applying for QOPI Certification.

QOPI and the QOPI Certification Program are projects dedicated to innovative quality improvement programs. For more information, please visit: http://www.instituteforquality.org/qopi-qcp.

**About ASCO:**

Founded in 1964, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc. (ASCO®) is committed to making a world of difference in cancer care. As the world’s leading organization of its kind, ASCO represents more than 40,000 oncology professionals who care for people living with cancer.
Through research, education, and promotion of the highest-quality patient care, ASCO works to conquer cancer and create a world where cancer is prevented or cured, and every survivor is healthy. ASCO is supported by its affiliate organization, the Conquer Cancer Foundation. Learn more at www.ASCO.org, explore patient education resources at www.Cancer.Net, and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

About QOPI Certification Program LLC

QOPI Certification Program LLC is an ASCO affiliate dedicated to innovative quality improvement programs for ASCO members and their patients and is committed to providing oncologists with the necessary resources to provide every patient with high-level cancer care. QOPI Certification Program LLC operates the QOPI Certification Program.

About ECO Foundation

The ECO Foundation is a network of oncology experts, founded in 2009. Created by heads of Medical Oncology Departments from the major Spanish hospitals, it is oriented to achieve excellence and quality in oncology. It seeks and develops solutions and tools that allow advancing in the fight against cancer. Professionals from the ECO Foundation promote quality in three major areas: quality in patient care, specialized medical education and research support. Learn more at www.fundacioneco.es and follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn.

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