ASCO Applauds California as First State to Consider Oncology Clinical Pathways Legislation

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“ASCO applauds the California legislature for being the first state body of lawmakers in the nation to consider legislation that is designed to specifically improve clinical pathways in oncology. Clinical pathways, when appropriately designed and implemented, are evidence-based treatment management tools used to support delivery of high-quality cancer care for specific patient presentations. Insurance companies, healthcare institutions, and clinicians are increasingly using clinical pathways to reduce unwarranted treatment variabilities and improve the quality of cancer care.

We support the Oncology Clinical Pathway Act (AB 1107), and believe it is an important first step toward ensuring that, in California, oncology pathways will safeguard patient access to high-quality, high-value cancer care, including the opportunity to participate in clinical trials.

The bill's requirements that oncology pathways be developed in a transparent manner, based on scientific evidence, and conducive to patient participation in clinical trials are consistent with ASCO's Criteria for High-Quality Clinical Pathways in Oncology, which were developed to guide the development, implementation, and assessment of clinical pathways in oncology. ASCO's criteria also addresses additional factors that should be considered fundamental in
the development and use of high-quality clinical pathways, such as including mechanisms for appropriately choosing off-pathway treatments; addressing the full spectrum of cancer care; and the ability to prescribe treatments based on specific patient characteristics and preferences.

ASCO congratulates California legislators for their leadership in laying an important foundation that will help ensure that oncology clinical pathways are designed and implemented in a manner that provides high-quality, high-value care to every patient with cancer. The state is at the forefront of what we hope will become a movement across the United States.”

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Read ASCO’s support letter of the Oncology Clinical Pathway Act (AB 1107) here.

**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.