Practical Tips

Practical Tips for the Oncology Practice

We are pleased to announce the publication of *Practical Tips for the Oncology Practice, Fourth Edition* in March 2007.¹ *Practical Tips* is one of ASCO's best resources for your practice, with useful content that answers the most commonly asked billing, coding, and reimbursement questions related to oncology services. The new edition also includes expanded discussions on billing requirements, nurse practitioners and physician assistants, Medicare Part D, and laws and regulations affecting oncology offices.

The publication includes detailed discussions and overviews covering the following topic areas:

- Medicare and Medicaid programs
- Private insurance and managed care arrangements
- Drug administration
- Chemotherapy coding and billing
- Coverage of drugs, drugs administered by pumps, and payment amounts for drugs
- Coverage of clinical trials and laboratory tests
- Nonphysician practitioner services
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
- Occupational Safety and Health Act and environmental requirements
- Fraud and abuse
- Practice management and health information technology
- Legislative advocacy

The majority of the content focuses on the Medicare program, and as in oncology, Medicare policy often serves as the basis for coverage determinations and payment rates adopted by private insurers. Much of the content in

Practical Tips is supported by Medicare manuals and regulations. Excerpts from these official manuals, along with excerpts from the Federal Register, the Occupational Safety and Health Act technical manual, and statutory language from the Social Security Act are available in the appendix for quick reference and for documentation purposes.

The book is directed to both physicians and their office staff. Its contents are intended to be for practical, day-to-day use. For example, if staff has a question on how to report a concurrent infusion, the publication offers clear and specific guidance. If the physician is looking for a distribution of evaluation and management services provided by the medical oncology and hematology/oncology specialties, a breakout of 2005 Medicare data is available in *Practical Tips*.

Examples of the tips mentioned here can be found in Figure 1 (online-only Appendix) and in the new edition of *Practical Tips for the Oncology Practice*. The publication is available by contacting ASCO publications at ascopubs@asco.org or calling 888-273-3508. The book also can be obtained from the ASCO publications store. Visit www.asco.org/practicaltips07 for more information.

Appendix

The Appendix is included in the full-text version of this article, available online at jop.ascopubs.org. It is not included in the PDF version (via Adobe® Reader®).

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Reference

1. American Society of Clinical Oncology: *Practical Tips for the Oncology Practice* (ed 4). Alexandria, VA, American Society of Clinical Oncology, pp 26, 27, 51

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