I applaud the authors for this vital study, and look to the ASCO Membership and Leaders to disseminate this data among the public policy planners, legislators and private insurance stakeholders who can impact the clear threat to patient access and care.

Joseph O'Connell, MD

Connecticut Oncology Association, Milford, Connecticut

DOI: 10.1200/JOP.0759006

Reference

1. Akscin J, Barr TR, Towle EL: Key practice indicators in office-based oncology practices: 2007 report on 2006 data. *J Oncol Pract* 3:200-203, 2007

In Reply:

We thank Dr O'Connell for his comments on our article. Our main objective in publishing the results of our second annual Office-Based Oncology Business Benchmarking Survey was to share a few of the findings and propose some possible explanations for our observed results. While we agree that a 13% participation rate has its disadvantages, we felt that sharing the findings from over 150 practices was important, as to our knowledge, this remains the largest post-MMA (Medicare Modernization Act) survey available that focused on key practice indicators in community oncology practice.

We are pleased to see that your interpretation of our findings may lead to a different understanding of the effects of MMA

on the community-based oncology practice than was originally intended by the statute. This is precisely what we had hoped for. When looking at the 10 calendar quarter history of the average sales price, we note that the changes (with the exception of some multisource drugs) on a quarterly basis seem to affect fewer drugs, and the percentage of change is lower, especially over the most recent four calendar quarters.

John F. Akscin, on behalf of the authors

Oncology Therapeutics Network, South San Francisco, California

DOI: 10.1200/JOP.0759007

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