

Summer 2022

MSCO NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Improving Cancer Care & Treatment Together



AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Provider Handouts

- [Importance of Early Detection of Lung Cancer](#)
- [Unique Considerations for Talking to Patients With Triple-Negative Breast Cancer \(TNBC\)](#)

Drug Information Handouts

- [MONJUVI Brand HCP Abbreviated Brochure](#)
- [MONJUVI Brand HCP Management Guide](#)

WHAT'S NEW

- AVAILABLE RESOURCES
- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- YIA GRANT AWARDED
- LEGISLATIVE UPDATES
- FDA APPROVALS & DRUG UPDATE

ASCO Relaunches Survivorship Compendium with New Features and Resources

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) has made new resources available through its refreshed Survivorship Compendium - providing an online library of practice tools to help oncologists develop high-quality, equitable cancer survivorship care programs and improve existing programs for patients who have completed their initial cancer treatment or who have transitioned to maintenance or preventive therapies.

Additional survivorship resources from ASCO include:

- Survivorship [guidelines](#)
- A [statement](#) on providing high-quality survivorship care
- [ASCO Answers: Cancer Survivorship](#) – a collection of oncologist-approved patient education materials developed for people with cancer and their caregivers
- [Providing High Quality Survivorship Care in Practice: An ASCO Guide](#) – a downloadable booklet that aimed to assist providers in starting a survivorship care, regardless of practice setting
- Treatment and survivorship care plans on [Cancer.net](#)

Access the Survivorship Compendium, at asco.org/survivorship.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kaṭa Seetharaman, MD

Society President Dr. Seetharaman provides update on refreshing MSCO with strategic plan.

First and foremost, I want to say thank you to those who completed our strategic planning survey earlier this year. Your assistance and feedback were greatly appreciated. The knowledge that we gained was very insightful and informative, allowing us to obtain a better understanding of our member's needs and pursuits.

We have also discovered that this is our moment.

[Read Full Message](#)

Conquer Cancer – Massachusetts Society of Clinical Oncology Young Investigator Award

**CONQUER
CANCER®**
THE ASCO FOUNDATION
**YOUNG
INVESTIGATOR
AWARD RECIPIENT**



Evan Chen, MD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

The Massachusetts Society of Clinical Oncologists (MSCO) is proud to announce that they are collaborating and supporting the Conquer Cancer Foundation Young Investigator's Grant Program. The Young Investigator Award (YIA) provides funding to promising investigators to encourage and promote quality research in oncology.

Dr. Evan Chan's research study is titled *"Phase 1 study of adding navitoclax to the combination of venetoclax and decitabine for advanced myeloid malignancies"*.

We look forward to hearing about this research and his findings.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

[Legislative Report](#) Outline

provided by Edward J. Brennan, Jr., Esq.

1. **Legislative Update:** As the state legislature enters its final month of formal session which ends July 31, there are several major health care initiatives in play.
 - **Prescription Drug Costs:** Senate has passed and sent to the House a bill (S.2695) providing State oversight of prescription drug costs.
 - **Regulatory Barriers to Expansion of Large Health Care Systems:** The House has passed and sent to the Senate a bill designed to help struggling community hospitals.
 - **Behavioral Health:** Both the House and Senate have passed similar bills addressing behavioral health which are now before a conference committee to reconcile the differences.
 - **Gov. Baker filed health care reform bill.**
2. **Cancer related legislation MSCO is monitoring:**
 - Step Therapy: It goes to the Senate which is expected to pass it before the July 31 end of the formal legislative session.
 - Prescription Co-Pay Assistance
 - Co-Pay Accumulators
 - Fertility Preservation
3. **Telehealth:** MSCO continues to monitor the Massachusetts Division of Insurance (DOI) which released draft regulations to implement the telehealth provisions passed by the legislature in early 2021, including parity in reimbursement (equal to face to face services) for chronic disease management through the year 2022.

[Read Full Report & Details](#)

Supreme Court Strikes Down 340B Cuts

On June 15 the Supreme Court released a unanimous [decision](#) in American Hospital Association et al. v. Becerra, Secretary of Health and Human Services, et al. in favor of the American Hospital Association (AHA) and its objection to [reduced reimbursement](#) rates for Medicare Part B drugs purchased through the 340B drug pricing program.

Three things to know:

1. Most physicians will face Medicare pay cuts starting in 2025 due to the expiration of the \$500 million exceptional performance bonus in the Merit-based Incentive Payment System and 5 percent incentive payment for qualifying Alternative Payment Model participants. The result, the report said, is a payment reduction for most physicians
2. By 2048, the trustees estimate, physician payment rates under MACRA will be lower than they would have been under the sustainable growth formula — about 30 percent lower by end of the period projected.
3. Unless there is a change in the delivery system or level of update by subsequent legislation, the report says, the trustees expect compensation to Medicare-participating physicians to become a "significant issue in the long term."

[Read the entire article here on ASCO in Action.](#)

APPROVALS & UPDATES

FDA approves azacitidine for newly diagnosed juvenile myelomonocytic leukemia

23 May 2022

The Food and Drug Administration approved azacitidine (Vidaza, Celgene Corp.) for pediatric patients with newly diagnosed juvenile myelomonocytic leukemia (JMML). [More Information](#).

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FDA approves Opdivo+Chemo and Opdivo+Yervoy Regimens

27 May 2022

Bristol Myers Squibb announced that the FDA approved Opdivo+Chemo and Opdivo+Yervoy Regimens For First-Line Treatment of Patients with Unresectable, Advanced or Metastatic Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma (ESCC). For more information on this approval, [click here](#) for the press release.

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FDA approves Novartis' Kymriah® (tisagenlecleucel) CAR-T Cell Therapy for Adult Patients with Relapsed or Refractory Follicular Lymphoma

30 May 2022

Novartis announced the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted accelerated approval for Kymriah® (tisagenlecleucel) for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory (r/r) follicular lymphoma (FL) after two or more lines of systemic therapy. [More Information](#).

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FDA approves ivosidenib in combination with azacitidine for newly diagnosed acute myeloid leukemia

31 May 2022

The Food and Drug Administration approved ivosidenib (Tibsovo, Servier Pharmaceuticals LLC) in combination with azacitidine for newly diagnosed acute myeloid leukemia (AML) with a susceptible IDH1 mutation, as detected by an FDA-approved test in adults 75 years or older, or who have comorbidities that preclude use of intensive induction chemotherapy. [Press Release](#). Please see full [Prescription Information](#).

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FDA grants accelerated approval to dabrafenib in combination with trametinib for unresectable or metastatic solid tumors with BRAF V600E mutation

27 Jun 2022

The Food and Drug Administration granted accelerated approval to dabrafenib (Tafinlar, Novartis) in combination with trametinib (Mekinist, Novartis) for the treatment of adult and pediatric patients ≥ 6 years of age with unresectable or

metastatic solid tumors with BRAF V600E mutation who have progressed following prior treatment and have no satisfactory alternative treatment options. Dabrafenib in combination with trametinib is not indicated for patients with colorectal cancer because of known intrinsic resistance to BRAF inhibition. Dabrafenib is not indicated for patients with wild-type BRAF solid tumors. [More Information](#).

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FDA Approves Bristol Myers Squibb's CAR T Cell Therapy Breyanzi® for Relapsed or Refractory Large B-cell Lymphoma After One Prior Therapy
27 Jun 2022

Bristol Myers Squibb announced that the FDA has approved Breyanzi® (lisocabtagene maraleucel) for the treatment of adult patients with large B-cell lymphoma (LBCL), including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) not otherwise specified (including DLBCL arising from indolent lymphoma), high-grade B-cell lymphoma, primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma, and follicular lymphoma grade 3B, who have: • Refractory disease to first-line chemoimmunotherapy or relapse within 12 months of first-line chemoimmunotherapy; or • Refractory disease to first-line chemoimmunotherapy or relapse after first-line chemoimmunotherapy and are not eligible for hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) due to comorbidities or age. [More Information](#).

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Takeda and Seagen to Highlight ADCETRIS® Combination Data Showing Statistically Significant Improvement in Overall Survival for Patients with Advanced Hodgkin's Lymphoma

26 May 2022

– Randomized Phase 3 Clinical Trial of ADCETRIS Combination Met Key Secondary OS Endpoint, Demonstrating a 41% Reduction in Risk of Death vs. Standard of Care in Patients With Advanced Hodgkin Lymphoma – [Read More](#).



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Care & Treatment Together*