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## Oplinc Fast Facts

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**CORRECTION - CORRECTED EFFECTIVE DATE FOR CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY COMPENDIA** *this week's Oplinc Fast Facts should have identified the effective date of July 2, 2008 for the Clinical Pharmacology Compendia. Please disregard the earlier issue and reference this corrected one.*

### DRUG COMPENDIA NEWS

#### *ACCC OFFERING ACCESS TO DRUGDEX® COMPENDIUM*

The Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) announced last week that ACCC members have been granted access to DRUGDEX® Drug Compendium through an agreement with the publisher Thomson Micromedex. ACCC reports that the agreement is in effect until May 31, 2009 and may be renewed at that time. So, for at least the next two weeks ACCC members can access DRUGDEX®, through the [ACCC Members website](#) and clicking on the link on the DrugDex link.

#### *UNITEDHEALTHCARE PROVIDES ACCESS TO NCCN COMPENDIUM*

UnitedHealthcare was the first private payer to base coverage for chemotherapy drugs on the National Comprehensive Cancer Network ( NCCN) Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Until recently access to the NCCN was available at no cost on the NCCN website. However, when the NCCN began charging for access to their compendium UnitedHealthcare announced they would offer access to the NCCN Compendium free of charge to physicians and healthcare officials. Instructions on accessing the NCCN Compendia are available on the [UnitedHealthcare website](#).

#### *MEDICAL RECORD DOCUMENTATION OF COMPENDIA REFERENCE*

Monitor your Medicare contractor's website and newsletters for information on documentation of compendia citations or references when using drugs for indications not included on the FDA label.

Highmark Medicare Services the Part A/B MAC for Jurisdiction 12 requires providers who use a drug off-label to retain in the patient's record either a hard copy of the reference material or citations of the reference material and to submit this information upon request.

*CMS CLARIFICATION ON EFFECTIVE DATE OF NEW COMPENDIA*

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently amended the Internet Only Manual (IOM), *Medicare Benefit Policy Manual* Publication 100-02, Chapter 15, Section 50.4.5, with the new Medicare approved compendia for determining "medically-accepted indications" of drugs and biologicals used off-label in an anti-cancer chemotherapeutic regimen, and their effective date:

- American Hospital Formulary Service-Drug Information (AHFS-DI)
- NCCN Drugs and Biologics Compendium, effective 06/05/2008
- Thomson Micromedex DrugDex, effective 06/10/2008
- Clinical Pharmacology, effective **07/02/2008**

On April 27, 2009 citing [CMS Transmittal 96, Change Request 6191](#) Noridian Medicare announced a mass adjustment of claims back to 6/05/2008 denied in error as a result of the new reference material.

If you have had claims incorrectly denied based on the effective dates of the new compendia listed above contact your Medicare contractor and ask them how they will correct the errors. If your Medicare contractor announces a mass adjustment carefully monitor the claims that should be adjusted as the contractors often miss claims that should have been included in the mass adjustment.

**NOTICE: The Oplinc Office Will be Closed From May 16 - June 9<sup>th</sup> during that time I will not have access to emails or phone messages. The next Fast Facts will be on June 15<sup>th</sup> - Risë**

Access the archived Oplinc Fast Facts on the [Oncology Supply](#) Web site at [www.oncologysupply.com](http://www.oncologysupply.com).

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This communication is for informational purposes only. Medicare regulations are constantly evolving, consult your Medicare carrier, contracted insurers & state laws for specific guidelines on billing and reimbursement.

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A FRIEND**