

Oncology Nursing Society Comments on Erythropoiesis-Stimulating Agents

Recently, a lot of discussion has taken place about the use of erythropoiesis stimulating agents (ESAs), including announcements from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the use of and coverage for the agents. The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) retains an independent voice on these issues and maintains that clinical decisions should be supported by guidelines, protocols, and the most up-to-date science to ensure that the care provided—and paid for—is evidence based and the most appropriate for each individual patient's situation. The *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing* urges readers to use available evidence when making practice decisions and to stay abreast of changing recommendations.

To view ONS's comments with regard to the use of ESAs, please visit ONS's Legislative Action Center at www.ons.org/lac/pdf/correspondence/110/052107e.pdf.

The following links to the CMS and FDA provide additional background information.

- CMS: www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/viewdraftdecisionmemo.asp?id=203

- FDA: www.fda.gov/cder/drug/advisory/RHE2007.htm

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