

May 24, 2006

Dear Colleague:

Approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the National Oncologic PET Registry (NOPR) opened on May 8, 2006. While Medicare has provided coverage for positron emission tomography (PET) for certain specific indications for a number of cancers for several years, many other cancers and some indications (such as treatment monitoring) remained uncovered. With the opening of the NOPR, essentially all of these other cancers and indications will be covered for patients who have Medicare as their primary insurance (including those with Medicare Advantage managed care plans). Accordingly, Forsyth Medical Center is pleased to announce that we will participate in the Registry starting on June 12, 2006.

The objective of the Registry is to assess the effect of PET with F-18 fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) on referring physicians' plans of intended patient management for those cancers and indications not currently covered by CMS. Therefore, data will be collected from the referring physician before and after the PET study. If complete and timely data are reported to the NOPR, CMS will provide coverage under a new program known as "coverage with evidence development" (CED).

Compared to a non-Registry study, obtaining a PET study on a Medicare patient eligible for inclusion in the NOPR will require some additional effort by referring physicians and their staff. But we have tried to make this process as easy as possible. Although detailed information about the NOPR can be found on the NOPR web site at www.cancerPETregistry.org, please know that we are implementing site-specific procedures that utilize Central Scheduling to accommodate better our referring physicians.

The process begins by contacting Central Scheduling at 1-888-840-0080 to schedule a PET exam for a patient eligible to participate in the Registry. The referring physician has only three responsibilities:

- The referring physician must provide the patient a copy of the *Patient Informational Sheet* before the PET exam. (*This form will be available at www.cancerpetregistry.org/cancer.*)
- The *FMC Case Registration and Pre-PET Form* must be completed by the referring physician and submitted (along with the exam order) via fax to Central Scheduling at 718-9270 within 48 hours of the initial PET exam request. (Completion of this form should take less than five minutes.)
- After the PET exam is performed, Central Scheduling will e-mail to the referring physician a patient-specific *Post-PET Form*. The referring physician must complete this form and return it to Central Scheduling via fax at 718-9270 within 15 days of receipt. (Completion of this form should take about three minutes.)

Thank you for your continued support of Nuclear Medicine and PET/CT Services. Indeed we look forward to working with you as we participate in the Registry. If you have any questions regarding our specific procedures, please contact us at 718-2757.

Sincerely,

Liston Orr, M.D.
Medical Director

Randy Navy, BA, AS, CNMT
Supervisor

Devi Mecum, RT(R)(CT)
Radiology Clinical Manager