

**American Society of Hematology  
Carrier Advisory Committee Meeting  
June 26, 2020**



**Virtual Annual Meeting  
Zoom Teleconference  
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. EDT**

*NEW! The 2020 CAC Meeting will solely be hosted by ASH and will focus on coverage policy issues specific to benign and malignant hematology, including leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma. ASCO will no longer be co-hosting the annual meeting. However, ASH and ASCO are working to create a virtual CAC Network for oncology and hematology CAC representatives and Contractor Medical Directors, and both Societies will continue to collaborate on other CAC-related issues moving forward.*



# American Society of Hematology

Helping hematologists conquer blood diseases worldwide

## Hematology Carrier Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting Agenda

*June 26, 2020*

10:00 a.m.	Welcome & Introductions	Steven Allen, MD, Jamile Shammo, MD
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Speaker List</li><li>• ASH Staff</li><li>• CMD List and Jurisdiction Map</li></ul>	<u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u>
10:15 a.m.	Continued Challenges Related to CAC & LCD Process	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Medicare Program Integrity Manual <a href="#">Chapter 13 – Local Coverage Determinations</a></li></ul>	Laurence Clark, MD Gary Oakes, MD
11:00 a.m.	Changes to Medicare Telehealth Policy Due to COVID-19	
		Ellen Riker Jean Connors, MD
11:45 a.m.	BREAK	
11:50 a.m.	Overview of ASH Guidelines	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implications for Evidence-based Medicare Coverage Decisions</li><li>• <a href="#">ASH Clinical Practice Guidelines</a></li></ul>	Matthew Cheung, MD Menaka Pai, MD
12:50 p.m.	Closing Remarks	Dr. Allen, Dr. Shammo
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CMS Resources</li><li>• ASH Practice Resources</li></ul>	<u>8</u> <u>9</u>
1:00 p.m.	Adjourn	

## **Speaker Information**

### **LAURENCE CLARK, MD, FACP**

Contractor Medical Director  
Noridian Healthcare Solutions  
[Laurence.Clark@noridian.com](mailto:Laurence.Clark@noridian.com)

Dr. Clark is a graduate of the Georgetown University School of Medicine. He completed his Internal Medicine training as an intern with the S.U.N.Y. Stony Brook program, and residency with the Georgetown University- Washington Veterans Administration Medical Center program. During his 34 years of internal medicine practice in Alexandria, VA, he served as the President of the Medical Staff of Mount Vernon Hospital, as the President of the Virginia Society of Internal Medicine, and on the Governor's Council of the VA chapter of the American College of Physicians. He served as the Internal Medicine alternate for VA on the inaugural Medicare Carrier Advisory Committee for the DC Metro Area. Eventually, he became the co-chair of the Committee, and then stepped down to serve as a regional consultant for TrailBlazer Medicare. He served as a Medicare Medical Director for TrailBlazer in the Mid-Atlantic region for almost a decade, and subsequently served in the same role for Highmark, while also continuing in clinical practice. This was followed by seven years with NGS, as medical director for New York and New England. Dr. Clark accepted his current position with Noridian fourteen months ago, and still continues to practice clinical medicine as the volunteer medical director of the Carpenters Shelter clinic, a homeless shelter in the City of Alexandria. His interests remain in medical policy development and clinical outcomes.

### **GARY OAKES, MD, FAFPP**

Contractor Medical Director  
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Dr. Oakes graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine. From there he completed a residency in Family Medicine at Naval Hospital, Jacksonville, Florida and is Board Certified by the American Board of Family Medicine and a Fellow with the American Academy of Family Practice.

Upon completion of his residency Dr. Oakes entered into active duty in the United States Navy which included a tour in Desert Shield/Storm where he served as a Senior Medical Officer. Having completed his military obligation, Dr. Oakes returned to his home state of Tennessee and entered into private practice. Following several years of private practice he transitioned to a managed care role initially with CIGNA HealthCare subsequently assuming his current role as a Medical Director for Noridian Healthcare Solutions.

### **ELLEN RIKER**

Principal  
Artemis Policy Group  
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Ellen Riker is a Principal with the Artemis Policy Group, an association management and lobbying firm she established in April 2020 in Washington, DC. She has advised the American Society of Hematology on government affairs, health policy and practice issues for nearly twenty years. As a federal policy advisor and lobbyist since 1989, Ellen has managed federal strategies for corporate and non-profit organizations, specializing in public and private insurance reimbursement and coverage policies, biomedical and health services research, and public health programs. Ellen has worked with the many agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services and has been involved in the development of legislation coming out of the House and Senate committees with jurisdiction over Medicare, Medicaid, and public health service programs. Ellen served on the professional staff of the House Energy and Commerce Committee from 1983 - 1988, with particular focus on health policy. Before coming to Washington, Ellen worked as assistant to the president of a major multi-hospital system in Cincinnati, Ohio. Ellen received her master's degree in Health Administration from Xavier University and a B.A. with honors from the University of Cincinnati.

**JEAN CONNORS, MD**  
ASH Committee on Practice  
Harvard University  
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Jean M. Connors, MD is a hematology attending at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Dana Farber Cancer Institute; the Medical Director of the Anticoagulation Management Services, and the Hemostatic Antithrombotic Stewardship Program; and an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. She received a medical degree from The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, completed her residency in internal medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, as well as fellowships in transfusion medicine and hematology & oncology from Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Dr. Connors is an Associate Editor for the Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis and is a member of or holds a leadership role in many professional societies. She has participated in numerous clinical trials for patients with venous thrombosis and for the use of reversal agents for the direct oral anticoagulants, and is leading trials in the area of mechanical circulatory support and cancer associated thrombosis.

**MATTHEW CHEUNG, MD, MS, FRCP**  
ASH Committee on Practice  
ASH Guideline Oversight Subcommittee  
University of Toronto  
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Dr. Cheung obtained his Medical Degree in 1999 at the University of Toronto. He completed residency programs in Internal Medicine and Hematology from 1999-2004 at the University of Toronto. Thereafter, he completed a clinical and research fellowship in Lymphoma and a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) HIV/AIDS post-doctoral research fellowship. In 2006, he obtained a master's degree in Clinical Epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston. He holds peer-reviewed grant support from CIHR, the National Cancer Institute of Canada, and the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research (CANFAR).

Dr. Cheung joined the medical staff at the Odette Cancer Centre/Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre as a Clinician-Investigator and Clinical Hematologist in 2007. He is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Toronto. He is the Co-Chair for the Committee on Economic Analysis at the Canada Cancer Trials Group and the Co-Chair of the Hematology Cancer Disease Site Group of the Cancer Care Ontario Program in Evidence-Based Care. Dr. Cheung is a member of the American Society of Hematology (ASH) Committee on Practice and the ASH Guideline Oversight Subcommittee. His research interests include clinical trial development in lymphoma, economic evaluations in clinical trials, and health outcomes research in the hematologic malignancies.

**MENAKA PAI, MD, MSc, FRCPC**  
ASH Guideline Oversight Subcommittee  
Hamilton General Hospital  
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Dr. Menaka Pai completed her medical training at McMaster University and the University of Toronto. She has been a hematologist and thrombosis medicine physician at McMaster University since 2008. She is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine, Head of Service for Benign Hematology at Hamilton Health Sciences, and Quality Lead for Transfusion Medicine in the Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program. Dr. Pai holds a master's degree in Health Research Methodology. She is a member of McMaster University's Thrombosis and Atherosclerosis Research Institute (TAARI), and the McMaster Centre for Transfusion Research (MCTR). Dr. Pai's clinical interests focus on thrombotic and bleeding disorders, as well as benign hematology. Her research interests include venous thromboembolism, research methods in rare diseases, clinical practice guideline development, quality improvement, and implementation science. She is currently Chair of ASH's Guideline Oversight Subcommittee.

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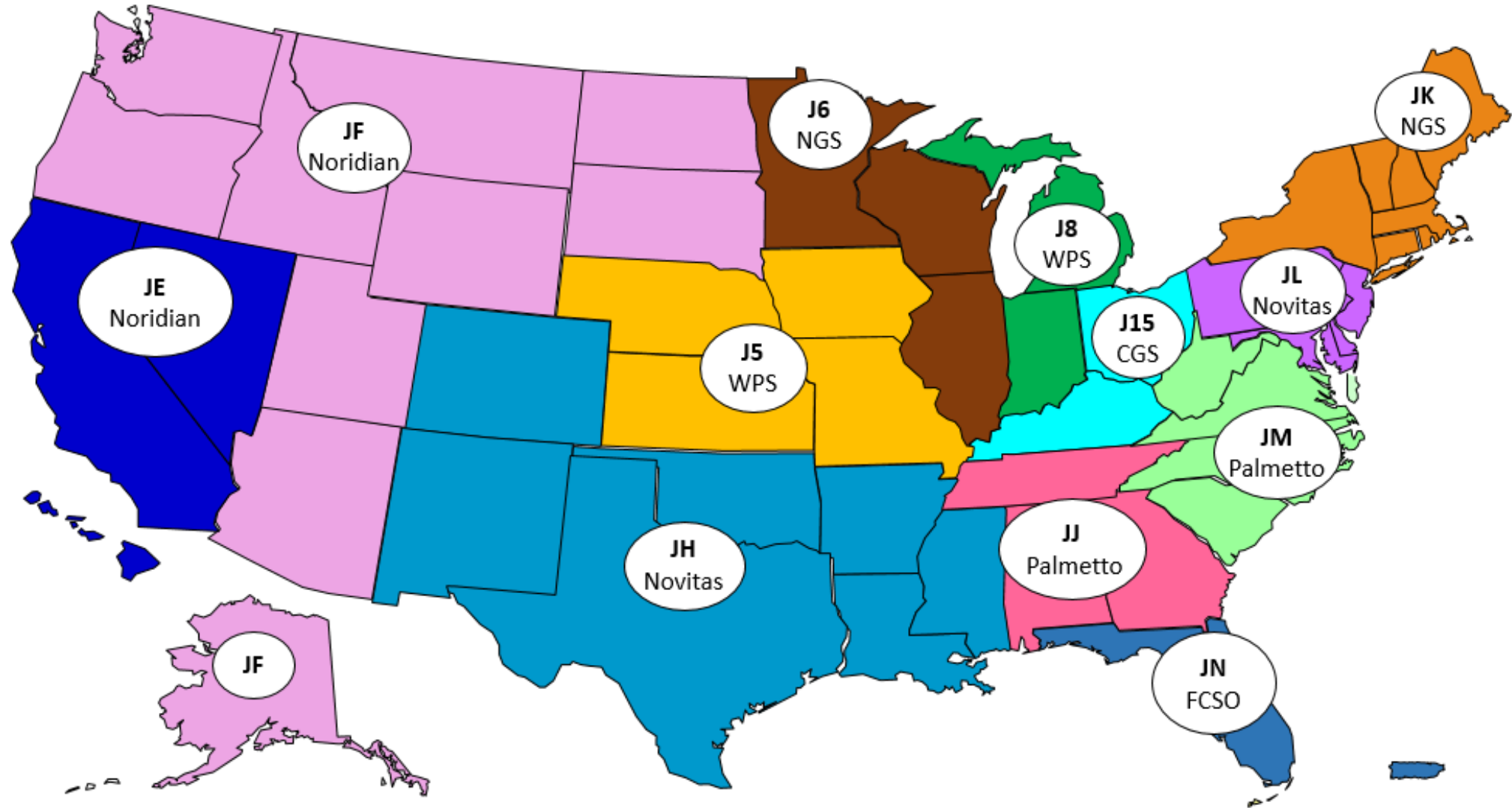
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# A/B MAC Jurisdictions as of June 2019





## **CMS Resources**

- [Medicare's Program Integrity Manual, Chapter 13](#) (*Revised 2/12/19: outlines the local coverage determinations the Carrier Advisory Committee (CAC) and contractor responsibilities surrounding CACs*)
- [General Information on CMS' Contracting Reform](#)
- [Medicare Administrative Contractors \(MAC\) Regions and Updates](#)
- [Map of Current Jurisdictions](#)
- [Map of Consolidated Regions](#) (*what CMS is moving toward*)
- [Durable Medical Equipment MACs](#)
- [Medicare Coverage](#)
- [Medicare Coverage Centers](#)
- [Patients over Paperwork: 9<sup>th</sup> Issue - Modernization Update: Local Coverage Determination \(LCD\)](#)



## American Society of Hematology Practice-Related Resources

ASH offers a wide range of practice-related resources on its [website](#). Below, please find a list of resources that may be of interest to you.

### Resources for Clinicians

- [COVID-19 Resources](#) for Hematologists – In an effort to serve its members, ASH is maintaining this webpage as a medium to exchange information to assist hematologists in navigating the COVID-19 public health crisis.
  - COVID-19 Policy Resources – These resources, including practice webinars and reimbursement fact sheets, are intended to help navigate the complex and fast-changing COVID-19 policy landscape.
- [ASH Practice Partnership](#) - The ASH Practice Partnership (APP) is a group within the Society that was formed to better represent the interests of practicing hematologists. The APP is comprised of practicing hematologists from across the nation; participants must be board-certified in hematology and active members of ASH. Ideal candidates should be interested in malignant and nonmalignant hematology.
- [Drug Resources](#) - This page provides links to patient assistance programs and sample letters of appeal for high-cost drugs, links to REMS resources, an up-to-date list of hematologic drug shortages, resources for physicians dealing with shortages, and links to ASH/FDA webinars featuring an unbiased discussion of newly approved drugs and their uses.
- [Consult a Colleague](#) - A member service designed to help facilitate the exchange of information between hematologists and their peers.
- [ASH Choosing Wisely List](#) - Evidence-based recommendations about the necessity and potential harm of certain practices developed as part of Choosing Wisely®, an initiative of the ABIM Foundation.
- [ASH Clinical Guidelines, ASH Pocket Guides, and Hematology Quality Metrics](#) - Access guidelines on the management and treatment of Acute Leukemia, Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura, Antithrombotic Drug Dosing and Management, Heparin-Induced Thrombocytopenia (HIT), Immune Thrombocytopenia (ITP), von Willebrand Disease, Sickle Cell Disease, Red Blood Cell Transfusion, and Thrombocytopenia in Pregnancy Access the full guidelines, along with other tools and resources, including pocket guides, apps, teaching slides, webinars, and podcasts.
- [Well-Being and Resilience](#) - Well-being is a critical factor in the strength of the workforce, and the Society is committed to helping hematologists address the myriad factors impacting well-being through interventions such as openly addressing burnout in live meetings and in publications, advocating on behalf of hematologists to streamline administrative work, and sharing approaches to building resilience among hematologists.

### Advocacy Resources

ASH's [Advocacy Center](#) houses all of the Society's policy positions, advocacy efforts, and campaigns. Hematologists and their patients can follow the latest national [policy news](#) and directly influence their representatives through [ASH Action Alerts](#). The Center also displays ASH's official [policy statements](#) along with [Testimony and Correspondence](#) related to federal regulation and private insurance developments.

- ASH's online [advocacy toolkit](#) provides members with the information and guidance necessary to communicate with elected officials in support of hematology. The toolkit clearly and concisely explains how members can undertake a number of actions to support ASH's advocacy efforts.

### Clinical ASH Publications

- [Practice Update](#) - The Practice Update is the society's bimonthly e-newsletter reporting on breaking news and activities of interest to the practice community.
- [ASH Clinical News](#) - ASH Clinical News is a magazine for ASH members and non-members alike – offering news and views for the broader hematology/oncology community.

- [The Hematologist: ASH News and Reports](#) - An award-winning, bimonthly publication that updates readers about important developments in the field of hematology and highlights what ASH is doing for its members.

### Meeting [Information](#) for Clinicians

- [ASH Meeting on Hematologic Malignancies: A Virtual Experience](#) – August 27-September 12, 2020. This virtual event will allow you to hear top experts in hematologic malignancies discuss the latest developments in clinical care and to find answers to your most challenging patient care questions.
- [ASH Annual Meeting and Exposition](#) – December 5-8, 2020, San Diego, CA. The Society’s Annual Meeting and Exposition is designed to provide hematologists from around the world a forum for discussing critical issues in the field. Abstracts presented at the meeting also contain the latest and most exciting developments in hematology research.
- [Consultative Hematology Course](#) – This intensive half-day program focuses on updates in non-malignant hematology designed for practitioners who are trained as hematologists or hematologist-oncologists, but now see patients with non- malignant hematologic conditions on a less frequent basis.
  - CHC: A Virtual Experience – Held in conjunction with the Virtual Meeting on Hematologic Malignancies
  - CHC San Diego – Monday, December 7, 2020 in conjunction with the ASH Annual Meeting.
- [Highlights of ASH](#) - This meeting is designed to provide the highlights of the top presentations from ASH’s annual meeting.

### Other ASH Activities and Resources

- [The ASH Academy](#) – The ASH Academy provides hematologists with easy-to-use options for knowledge testing (for both MOC and CME purposes), completing practice improvement modules, as well as evaluating ASH meetings you attend and claiming CME credit for participating. The sixth edition of the ASH Self-Assessment Program (ASH-SAP) is also available on the ASH Academy.
- [FDA](#) – ASH partners with the Food and Drug Administration to alert members on new approved hematologic therapies.
- [AMA](#) – ASH is an involved member in the American Medical Association’s (AMA) activities such as the AMA House of Delegates (HOD), AMA Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Committee, and RVS Update Committee (RUC).
- [Committee on Practice](#) - The Committee on Practice is concerned with all issues affecting the practice of hematology. The Committee communicates with other organizations that have programs and policies that affect hematology practice. With appropriate review and approval by the Executive Committee, the Committee on Practice responds to practice-related issues by formulating positions on pending federal legislation, regulatory issues, and private insurance developments. The Committee also responds to matters of importance at the regional, state, and local levels, and to Society member requests.

If you have any questions on this list or any of the programs, please contact Katherine Stark, Policy and Practice Specialist at [kstark@hematology.org](mailto:kstark@hematology.org).