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COMMUNITY
ONCOLOGY
PHARMACY
ASSOCIATION

**COMMUNITY ONCOLOGY ALLIANCE PHARMACY ASSOCIATIONS (COPA) NAMES
ADVISORY BOARD**

*Continuity of Care, Development of Standards, Measuring Quality of Care Are
Designated Priorities*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – May 19, 2015 – The Community Oncology Alliance (COA), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving access to community cancer care, and the Community Oncology Pharmacy Association (COPA) announced the appointment of its Advisory Board. Josh Cox and Tommy Harwood will serve as Advisory Board Co-Chairs. Board members include:

- Steve D’Amato, BS Pharm, BCOP, Executive Director, New England Cancer Specialists
- John Clagg, RPh, Director of Pharmacy & Admixture Services, The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders
- Josh Cox, PharmD, BCPS, Director of Pharmacy, Dayton Physicians Network
- Tommy Harwood, CPT, Deputy Director of Clinical Operations, North Shore Hematology Oncology
- Phil Johnson, RPh, MS, FASHP, Consultant, Healthsystems, Oncology, School Health
- Stacey McCullough, PharmD, Director of Pharmacy, Tennessee Oncology
- Michelle Moore, RPh, Clinical Pharmacy Manager, Michiana Hematology Oncology
- Todd Murphree, PharmD, Manager of the Dispensing Pharmacy, Clearview Cancer Institute
- Bob Phelan, CEO, Cancer Specialists of North Florida

- Maryann Roefaro, MS, FACMPE, CEO, Hematology-Oncology Associates of Central New York

The Board will meet bi-weekly to address continuity and quality of care issues for community oncology patients receiving oral therapies within physician practices. Immediate priorities for the Board include:

- Developing national quality measures for practice-based dispensing and retail pharmacies in conjunction with accreditation recognition;
- Conducting and publishing an independent analysis documenting the quality, compliance, and low costs of patients being treated in dispensing and retail pharmacies within integrated community oncology practices versus disconnected specialty pharmacy providers;
- Establishing a closed listserv enabling information sharing among COPA members on best practices; and
- Creating a website with resources available to practices that have a dispensing or retail pharmacy as well as those looking for resources to assist in establishing a pharmacy.

“With the advent of more and more oral oncolytics, many practices are finding that continuity of care is best maintained with an in-house dispensing or retail pharmacy,” said Josh Cox, COPA Advisory Board co-chair. “Issues such as compliance and controlling side effects can best be monitored by the practice; they know patient histories and can provide better care by closely monitoring each patient.”

“About 35% of the cancer drugs in development are oral drugs; community oncology treats almost 70% of all cancer patients,” said Ricky Newton, COA director of financial services & operations. “Previously, community oncology pharmacies have not been very public about their important role in telling the story of how practices provide higher quality, higher patient compliance and do so at a lower overall cost to the health system versus all other forms of oral delivery services. They have been and should continue to be the logical choice to dispense oral drugs and care for patients. COPA was created to support practices by developing standards and measuring quality of care.”

For additional information about COPA, contact Ricky Newton at rnewton@COAcancer.org or contact <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JoinCOPA> to join.

About Community Oncology Alliance (COA)

The Community Oncology Alliance (COA) is a non-profit organization dedicated solely to preserving and protecting access to community cancer care, where almost 70 percent of Americans with cancer are treated. COA has led community cancer clinics in navigating an increasingly challenging environment to provide efficiencies, patient advocacy, and proactive solutions to Congress and policy makers. COA

members have testified before both chambers of Congress, authored cancer care demonstration projects, and been instrumental in the passage of oral cancer drug parity legislation, among many other initiatives. More information can be found at www.CommunityOncology.org.

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