

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# ACCC, HOPA, NCODA, and ONS Partner to Launch Oral Chemotherapy Education

Oral Chemotherapy Education (OCE) focuses on assisting healthcare professionals with patient care and communication.

Chicago, IL (March 21, 2018): Oral Chemotherapy Education (OCE) launches this month as a concise resource for both healthcare professionals and patients. OCE delivers information about oral chemotherapy drugs and their side effects to cancer patients and caregivers.

Aligned to develop uniform and effective resources, OCE is the first partnership between the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC), Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA), National Community Oncology Dispensing Association (NCODA), and the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS). The result of the team effort is an active, comprehensive, web-based library of educational sheets for all oral cancer drugs that are currently commercially available.

"Institutions and pharmacists continue to be challenged with maintaining systems in oral chemotherapy care delivery programs often due to a robust drug approval pipeline," says David DeRemer, PharmD BCOP FCCP, Clinical Associate Professor and Pharmacotherapy and Translational Research at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy. "It is the vision of the OCE program to assist in overcoming these challenges and to provide resources to oncology practitioners across the cancer care continuum."

The OCE patient education sheets incorporate the best practice guidelines for safe handling, administration, and disposal of anticancer agents by patients and caregivers; management strategies for the most common side effects; and manufacturer website links to allow the patient access to additional information.

A number of HOPA members were vital in contributing to the content and development of the education sheets. Representing the HOPA OCE Task Force, David DeRemer, PharmD BCOP, Ashley Glode, PharmD BCOP, and Lisa Holle, PharmD BCOP FHOPA, will introduce the new patient education resource at HOPA's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference this year in Denver, CO.

"Educating patients with cancer about the appropriate use of oral anticancer medications is critical to achieving optimal outcomes," says Lisa Holle, PharmD BCOP FHOPA, Associate Clinical Professor at the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy. "Oral Chemotherapy Education also enables pharmacists to add patient-specific information like specialty pharmacy contact information, instructions based on concomitant diseases or medications, and who to contact with questions or uncontrollable side effects."

More information and the entire library of OCE patient education sheets are available online and for PDF download at <a href="https://www.OralChemoEdSheets.com">www.OralChemoEdSheets.com</a>.



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## **About Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC)**

The Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) promotes the entire continuum of quality cancer care for our patients and our communities. Since 1974, ACCC has been helping oncology professionals adapt to the complex changes of delivering quality cancer care.

### About Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA)

Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA) is a nonprofit, education-based organization formed in 2004 to help oncology and hematology pharmacy practitioners and their associates the best possible cancer care. HOPA supports research, provides education, encourages professional development and advocates for health policy issues that improve patient care.

# About National Community Oncology Dispensing Association, Inc. (NCODA)

At National Community Oncology Dispensing Association, Inc., our focus is to advance the value of dispensing practices for community oncology physicians. NCODA provides leadership, expertise, quality standards, and sharing of best practices with all members and delivers positive outcomes through collaboration with all stakeholders involved in the care of oncology patients.

# **About Oncology Nursing Society (ONS)**

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) is a professional association of more than 39,000 members committed to promoting excellence in oncology nursing and transformation of cancer care.