From: National Marrow Donor Program
To: Julie Manley
Subject: [Test]:HCT Update: Happy New Year!
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HCT Update

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Happy New Year

Greetings and Happy New Year! The health care landscape continues to shift as we enter 2019. As we enter 2019, we can expect a lot of changes to the field. At the start of the New Year we can expect new cellular therapy companies to continue releasing new cell products, the expansion of opportunities in population health for payers, and the mastery of CAR-T utilization in the field as transplant centers continue integrating new cellular therapy products into clinical practice. Read ahead for the latest updates!

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Patient Resources

ASBMT Releases Consensus Grading for IEC Toxicities

ASBMT has published their paper on consensus grading for Cytokine Release Syndrome and Neurological Toxicity Associated with Immune Effector Cells. Generally, the assessment and grading of these toxicities greatly varied among clinical trials making it a challenge to understand the effectiveness and the safety of the therapies. In June 2018, ASBMT, CIBMTR, ASH, and NCI among other stakeholders came together to provide a uniform consensus grading system for CRS and neurotoxicity associated with effector cell therapies for use across clinical trials and in the post-approval clinical setting. They also set out to create a system that was objective, easy to use and that accurately categorizes the severity of toxicities. Read here to learn more!

2018 Council Session Presentations Now Available

Council Meeting 2018 was held November 9-10, 2018. Access session activities and handouts: Council Session 2018.

Our Advisory Group on Barriers to Transplant (AGBT) coordinated efforts and had Pat Martin from Anthem represent payers during a session on *Financial Hardship: The Unexpected Side Effect of Transplant*. The session summarized the latest research, transplant center experience, and payer perspective regarding patient financial hardship so frequently associated with hematopoietic cell transplant.

HCT Research

Fertility Preservation and HCT: Oral Abstract Presentation at TCT in February

In addition to the CMS Medicare Reimbursement session during the TCT Meetings in February, Susan Leppke will also be presenting our team's oral abstract on fertility

preservation and HCT. The abstract ID is 85 and is titled "Utilization of Fertility Preservation Services By Patients Aged 18-40 Prior to Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation." The presentation is set for Sunday, February 24th at 10:30 AM. NMDP/Be The Match has produced a patient information card on family planning for HCT patients that can be ordered here. This informational handout will help patients learn about fertility and family planning before or after transplant, and get access to the Fertility Module offered through the Patient Support Center.

Survival has significantly improved in recent years for patients with AML undergoing HCT

A recent study found that hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT) significantly improved relapse-free survival (RFS) and overall survival (OS) at 5 years for patients over age 60 with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) classified in intermediate and unfavorable risk groups according to European LeukemiaNet (ELN)-2010. Researchers from the French Innovative Leukemia Organization (FILO) analyzed the records of 521 consecutive patients from six centers, with median age of 65 years (range: 60-70). ELN risk was intermediate and unfavorable in 376 (72%) and 145 (28%) patients, respectively. Six months after first complete remission (CR1), a multistate model showed that patients who received HCT had a lower probability of relapse at 5 years compared to those who did not undergo HCT.
See the results of the study here.

Patient Story

Transplant recipient advocates for access to fertility preservation

In May 2010, Katherine Frega was a high school junior who had spent the past year dealing with a serious illness with no explanation for her symptoms. When her doctors were finally able to give Katherine and her family a diagnosis, it was not good news. She had Stage 2B Hodgkin's Lymphoma. After a bone marrow transplant, Katherine

recovered. Today, she is in medical school and wants to use her fertility preservation journey to advocate for other young cancer patients to have access to this critical opportunity.

Read Katherine's story here.

Educational Opportunities

CME: Improving Sickle Cell Disease Outcomes

Caring for patients with SCD is complex due to many factors, including the unpredictable course of the disease. Treatment decisions need to balance the morbidity and mortality that increase into adulthood with the potential risks and benefits of each treatment option. Additionally, barriers in access to care can affect quality of life for these patients throughout their disease course.

This enduring activity brings together critical perspectives to address these issues. Attendees will examine in-depth data on the latest treatment outcomes, upcoming clinical trials and new insights into shared decision-making between providers and patients.

This CME is expiring in April so be sure to take advantage of it soon. Access the resource and learn more about the credit opportunity here.

Where can you find us next?

Transplantation and Cellular Therapy (TCT) conference (formerly the BMT Tandem Meetings) on February 19-24th in Houston. You can find our team during the CMS Medicare Reimbursement and Coverage Update session featuring our Health and Public Policy Director Susan Leppke and Valerie Rinkle of Nimitt Consulting on February 21st at 9:30 CST.

You can also meet with Ann Poole at the American Health Insurance Program's (AHIP) National Health Policy Conference in Washington D.C. on March 13-14th. The AHIP conference dives into the most critical health care issues and the policies that

will advance a vibrant, private-public system that thrives on choice, product flexibility, and innovation.

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