



## **FACT SHEET**

### **Community Oncology Alliance Components of Care Study**

#### **Purpose**

The Community Oncology Alliance (COA) has designed a Components of Care Study to identify and quantify the clinical and operational components of delivering modern-day cancer care. The objective of this study is to provide community oncology with data to present to the Congress, Administration and private payers.

Unfortunately, Medicare uses antiquated, non-specific data in establishing payment rates for services. Certain essential services, such as cancer treatment planning, are not reimbursed by Medicare. Unfortunately, private payers are increasingly following Medicare payment decisions. With the prospect of fundamental healthcare reform and a possible major change in the payment for medical services, community oncology needs specific, accurate data more now than ever.

Without national, comprehensive data, community oncology will not be able to argue effectively for appropriate payment for services. Additionally, the data collected from practices, benchmarked against the nation, will provide practices with a new, powerful tool to help in negotiations with private payers.

#### **Methodology of the Components of Care Study**

COA has hired Avalere Health, a Washington, DC-based policy and research firm, to undertake the Components of Care Study. Avalere Health was selected because of the firm's sterling reputation with the Congress and the Administration. Government agencies often call on Avalere to undertake complex issues research and recommendations on policy initiatives.

COA then created a committee that has been working closely with Avalere to first identify the components of delivering cancer care and then to develop a survey tool to quantify them. Avalere has received the input of other individuals from community oncology including oncologists, mid-level providers, oncology nurses, pharmacists, administrators and accountants. Unlike other surveys that are not specific to community oncology, the Components of Care Study has been designed by and for community oncology. Before the study survey was finalized, it was beta tested by six community oncology practices.

#### **How Components of Care Study Results Will Be Used**

Study results will be used by community oncology to substantiate the complexity of delivering cancer care, both in terms of the clinical requirements, as well as the increasing operational requirements.