

CENTRAL NJ MULTIPLE MYELOMA SUPPORT GROUP RECAP FOR  
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6, 2017

**SPEAKER:** Scott Friedly, Regional Account Executive with Takeda  
Oncology

We were very fortunate to have Scott speak to the group on December 6, 2017 regarding healthcare and healthcare reimbursement. His discussion was detailed and thorough, and the information he provided was very important to all. He provided a wide range of information related to commercial insurance medical coverage that your employer would provide, Medicare coverage and Medicare Advantage coverage.

Because of the detailed nature of his presentation, and the questions and dialogue that were generated from the group, it would be difficult to capture that amount of information in this update. Below however, are some links that may be of assistance to you. We will reach out to Scott Friedly in 2018 to speak to the group again, before the Medicare open enrollment for 2019.

[www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan/questions/home.aspx](http://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan/questions/home.aspx)

<https://q1medicare.com/PartD-BrowseMedicare-2018PlanFormulary.php>

Also, the IMF is still providing updates on co-pay assistance programs. If you are interested, please visit this site frequently as the information is constantly being updated.

[www.myeloma.org/article/co-pay-assistance-programs-update](http://www.myeloma.org/article/co-pay-assistance-programs-update)

### **MEDICAL NEWS:**

The IMF publication, Myeloma Today, had many informative articles in their “Fall 2017” issue on important medical news in the Myeloma field. A brief synopsis of this information was provided to the group on...

- Daratumumab (Dara, Darzalex)
- Denosumab (Prolia, Xgeva)
- Carfilzomib (Kyprolis)
- “Is There Myeloma in the Stem Cells Harvested for Transplant?”
- “Advocacy Team Closely Watching Legislation for Veterans”

To receive a copy of this publication, or to view this issue (and the articles pertaining to the above) as well as prior issues, please visit

[www.myeloma.org/myeloma-today](http://www.myeloma.org/myeloma-today)

Also in the news,

- Car-T Cell [www.myelomacrowd.org/celgenes-bb2121-car-t-therapy-receives-breakthrough-fda-status/](http://www.myelomacrowd.org/celgenes-bb2121-car-t-therapy-receives-breakthrough-fda-status/)

- New Drug GSK2857916 <http://www.onclive.com/web-exclusives/fda-grants-bcma-antibodydrug-conjugate-breakthrough-status-for-myeloma>
- iStoppMM Program - It's been one year since the program was launched in Iceland <https://www.myeloma.org/article/imf-visits-iceland-1st-anniversary-istopmm-launch>
- Daratumumab (Dara, Darzalex) - In trials, a sub-cutaneous injection, that would only take 30 minutes to administer. Also, being presented at ASH 2017 Conference (American Society of Hematology), a new approach to Dara will be discussed, where a radioactive isotope is added, giving Dara a ten-fold increase in killing power [www.myelomacrowd.org/actinium-labeled-daratumumab-demonstrates-enhanced-killing-multiple-myeloma-cells-naked-daratumumab/](http://www.myelomacrowd.org/actinium-labeled-daratumumab-demonstrates-enhanced-killing-multiple-myeloma-cells-naked-daratumumab/)

### **ASH 2017:**

The American Society of Hematology will be meeting in Atlanta December 9-December 12. <http://www.hematology.org/Annual-Meeting/>

Ron and Sheree Pask, members of your Steering Committee, will be attending to present their grant monies raised from the Miracles for Myeloma 2017 5k Walk/Run, to a single scientist working towards finding a cure for Myeloma. They are proud to announce that \$80,000 was raised this year!! Thank you, Ron and Sheree, for your time and effort well spent on this amazing event!!

Also, there will be many support group leaders from around the country in attendance. You can read the blogs of their individual experiences at [www.ash2017blogs.myeloma.org](http://www.ash2017blogs.myeloma.org)

**VIDEO PROGRAM:**

“Getting Clear Answers to Complex Treatment Challenges”

[www.myeloma.org](http://www.myeloma.org)

**JANUARY MEETING**

Finally, please join your support group members for a social meeting on Wednesday, January 3, 2018 from 6:30 pm- 8:30 pm in our first-floor meeting room. If you are baking treats this Holiday Season, please bring some along to share with others. We will be having coffee and tea, as well light refreshments from Takeda. Our regularly scheduled Celebration of Life Event will be held in May.

Happy Holidays to you all, best wishes for a Healthy and Happy New Year, and Peace on Earth.

Debbie Morelli

