

Smilow Update: April 12, 2022

Dear Colleagues,



Proton Center Approved for Wallingford

Yale New Haven Health System has received final approval from the state of Connecticut to introduce proton beam therapy—a highly advanced form of radiation treatment for cancer—to Connecticut. The new Connecticut Proton Therapy Center is an unprecedented collaboration between the Yale New Haven Health System and Hartford HealthCare. The 25,000-square-foot center will be the first and only proton center in Connecticut and will be located at 932 Northrop Road in Wallingford.

Proton therapy is a type of radiation therapy that uses a high energy beam of protons to irradiate cancer. The chief advantage of proton therapy over other types of radiotherapy is that the dose is more finely controlled. With proton beam, there is less entry, exit, and scattered radiation so that physicians can safely deliver higher doses of radiation to tumors with fewer side effects.

“We look forward to bringing proton beam therapy to patients diagnosed with cancer in Connecticut who may benefit from this advanced form of treatment. Access to this treatment, close to home, will be transformational for many patients,” said Peter M. Glazer, MD, PhD, Robert E. Hunter Professor and Chair of Therapeutic Radiology.

The Wallingford center, which is projected to open in 2024, will include the latest technology and equipment, treatment room, control room, exam rooms, and clinical space. Employees will include physicians and clinical staff from Yale New Haven Health System and Hartford HealthCare, as well as additional new staff.

Pharmacogenomic Panel Testing for Newly Diagnosed Patients with GI Malignancies with Potential for 5-FU-Based Adjuvant Therapy

Patients with newly diagnosed GI malignancies are poised to benefit from ActX testing. To ensure DPYD results are available at the initiation of adjuvant chemotherapy, the test is needed perioperatively.

- Smilow oncology pharmacists will identify qualifying patients and place the pharmacogenomics panel laboratory order, with the respective surgeon's co-signature, during their inpatient surgical encounter.
- Pharmacists will coordinate result return and any necessary therapeutic changes, while also documenting findings important to patient care. Pharmacists will also engage the patient's medical oncologist to adjust fluoropyrimidine dosing if indicated.
- Smilow Cancer Hospital Pharmacy Contacts: Stephanie Trexler, PharmD, BCOP; Jane Lee, PharmD, BCOP; Man Yee Merl, PharmD, BCOP; System Clinical Coordinator, Pharmacogenomics: Rebecca Pulk, PharmD, MS
- Pharmacogenomics Service Email: PGx@ynhh.org

Connecticut Medical Assistance Program Policy Updates and Changes to Clinical Review Criteria

New policy updates have been issued for the Connecticut Medical Assistant Program, including policies pertaining to Implantation of Polyethylene-glycol (PEG) Spacing Hydrogel (i.e. SpaceOAR™ System); rehabilitation services, and other services for covered individuals.

[Learn More](#)

Closer to Free

The 2022 Closer to Free Ride will return on September 10, 2022 and will take place as a hybrid program, offering you the opportunity to join us in person or remotely. Registration is now open, and all Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital employees receive 50% off registration fees. [Register now!](#)

Best regards,

Kevin G. Billingsley, MD, MBA

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