

Smilow Update: October 15, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Volume is Trending Up

Thanks to the continued dedication of all of our clinical team at Smilow Cancer Hospital and throughout our Network, we are proud to report that we have a 6% increase in total visits from February to September. This is a reflection of your incredible efforts, and our patients' trust in your care and we thank the entire Smilow and Yale Cancer Center enterprise.

6% Increase in Total Visit Volume from February to September

February 1 – October 5, 2020



COVID-19 Testing for Asymptomatic Staff

Testing remains available for faculty, nurses, and staff who are asymptomatic but have a concern of exposure or request testing.

- Appointments can be scheduled by logging in at <https://ocucovidtesting.ynhhs.org/>
- Please bring your employee ID and wear a mask to your appointment.
- Symptomatic employees should continue to call the COVID-19 Call Center at (203) 688-1700.

Flu Shot Information

It is imperative that all Smilow Cancer Hospital clinical team members get their flu shots as soon as possible for their protection and for the protection of our patients during the upcoming flu season. All Yale Cancer Center faculty and staff are strongly encouraged to get their annual flu shots as well.

- All Smilow/YNHHS employees must schedule a specific vaccination appointment by logging into Infor, and selecting Employee Health, Get Your Flu Vaccine on the landing page or by accessing the Employee Self Service [scheduling link](#). Vaccination dates and locations will be added throughout the coming weeks. In addition to the YNHHS on-site locations, employees may also obtain their flu shot from their primary care provider (PCP) or a participating pharmacy in the CVS Caremark vaccination network, which includes CVS and Walgreens, if enrolled in a YNHHS medical plan.
- If employees are vaccinated at CVS or Walgreens or by a provider who is on Epic, documentation will be submitted to YNHHS automatically. If an employee receives a vaccination from a pharmacy or PCP that is not on Epic, they will need to submit documentation to YNHHS.
- In addition to vaccination, all employees will be asked to complete the online flu module on the Infor Learning Management System (LMS). The vaccination deadline for all employees and medical staff is Tuesday, December 15. For more information or with questions, please email fluinfo@ynhh.org.
- Yale University employees can review their options for getting their flu shot by using the University [Find Your Flu Shot Tool](#) and choosing the best option. In addition, [Yale Health's flu page](#) will provide updated information throughout the flu season.

Reduction in Hospital Acquired Infections

Thanks to outstanding work by all of our caregivers, Smilow Cancer Hospital improved the number of hospital acquired infections (HAIs) in all three categories, CLABSI, CAUTI, and C. difficile infections, in FY2020. One key change over the past year, was a change in the approach to chlorhexidine bathing from "bathing" to "treatment," which has increased our patient's tolerance and acceptance of this measure. We especially want to recognize that we had zero CAUTIs over the entire fiscal year. This is particularly noteworthy for our Gynecologic Oncology and Surgical Oncology teams, where a higher number of Foley catheters are used. Thank you all for your attentive care of our patients.

Team Moves

- On Monday, October 12, our Liver Cancer Program began seeing their patients on the second floor of the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in North Haven. They have been caring for patients on the 1st floor. Patients are being directed to the new location when they enter the Care Center.
- The Thoracic Interventional Program team will begin seeing patients on NP 8 on Monday, October 19. They transitioned their care to North Haven this spring, and had previously cared for patients on NP 4. Please welcome the team to NP 8 starting next week.

Inpatient PPE

Inpatients are required to wear a face mask when hands on care is being provided, they are in close proximity to any other person in their room, they are outside their room (e.g., transport, ambulating), and during any other situation where appropriate social distancing may not be feasible.

- All inpatients are provided a face mask to be used for up to one week while in the hospital. Masks should be stored in a labeled paper bag at their bedside.
- Eye protection is to be worn by the healthcare team as a standard precaution for all patient care activities when the patient is unable to wear a mask.
- Staff will remind patients to wear the mask and ask if assistance is needed.
- Education of all staff and inpatients will be provided to highlight the policy requirement and why this policy was put into effect.

Clinical Research

Clinical Trials participation continues to grow as we rebound to pre-COVID accrual numbers.

- Since May 28, we have had 344 new consents and 189 accruals. Last month, there were 55 new accruals, with 11 from the Care Centers.
- Special thanks to **Michael Cecchini, MD**, and **Patricia LoRusso, DO**, who each accrued five patients to trials during the month of September, leading our physician accruals. **Alessandro Santin, MD**, **Andrea Silber, MD**, and **Jaykumar Thumar, MD**, each accrued three patients.

DART	September Accrual
Brain Tumor	5
Breast Cancer	8
Cellular Therapies	0
Gastrointestinal Cancers	3
Gynecologic Oncology	6
Head and Neck Cancers	3
Leukemia	2
Lymphoma/Myeloma	1
Melanoma	3
Pediatric Heme/Oncology	0
Phase I	12
Prostate and Urologic Cancers	3
Sarcoma	0
Therapeutic Radiology	1
Thoracic Oncology	8
NA	0
Total	55
Care Center	11

Smilow Star!

Patti Casper, RN, cares for our patients who need treatment for brain metastasis either through surgery or through the Gamma Knife Program, under the leadership of Dr. Veronica Chiang. Patti has been working alongside Dr. Chiang and her team for over a decade, and the services they provide to their patients are seamless because of Patti's dedication and outstanding care. Patti goes above and beyond to ensure every patient's treatment course is well planned. She takes the time to help the patients understanding their procedure and coordinates their care with the appropriate multidisciplinary cancer teams, while ensuring that all their questions are answered throughout the entire process. Patti is a true Smilow Star!



Best regards,

Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH
Director, Yale Cancer Center
Physician-in-Chief, Smilow Cancer Hospital

Lori C. Pickens, MHA
Senior Vice President and Executive Director
Smilow Cancer Hospital

Kevin G. Billingsley, MD, MBA
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