

## Smilow Update: July 14, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

### Gynecologic Oncology Ambulatory Move

With the availability of more space on NP 1 for cancer care, our Gynecologic Oncology Ambulatory Clinic will move on Friday, July 17 from NP 8 to NP 1 and return to their original location in NP 1, Suite B. **Patient care will begin in NP 1, Suite B on Monday, July 20.** At this time, infusion services will continue to be provided for gynecologic oncology patients on NP 8. A special thanks to Elena Ratner, MD, for her leadership and to the providers, nurses, and staff of our Gynecologic Oncology Program for their continued flexibility through several changes over the last few months.

### Household Exposure Policy

Smilow Cancer Hospital has updated its Household Exposure Policy to align with the YNHHS policy, which states providers and staff who have a suspected household exposure to COVID-19 but are not experiencing symptoms, may continue to report to work practicing universal masking while working.

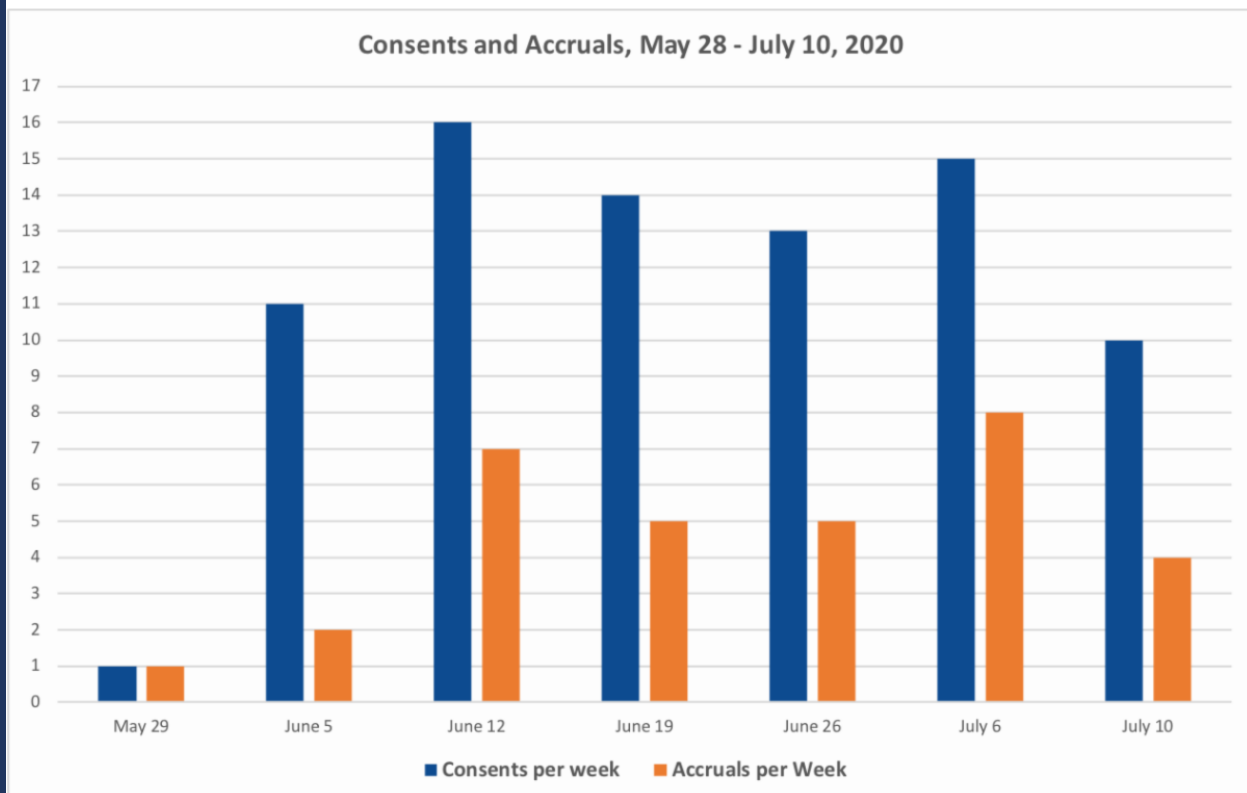
- Employees should continue to self-monitor twice a day, and take their temperature when they report to and depart from their work location.
- In addition, in alignment with YNHHS recommendations, staff are directed to take part in asymptomatic COVID testing within 48 hours of returning to work, and at one week following return to work. Staff should contact the COVID Call Center at 203-688-1700 to arrange testing.

### Smilow Rapid Evaluation Clinic

Beginning this week, the Smilow Rapid Evaluation Clinic on Smilow NP 1 will **only be available on weekdays from 7am-7:30pm**; weekend hours have been discontinued due to decreased need. For referral, a member of the patient's care team should call (203) 200-1919 to review patient's status and discuss next steps.

## Clinical Research Update

- Our Clinical Trials Office has worked tirelessly to **reopen 70% of our clinical trials** portfolio. All open trials are listed on the Yale Cancer Center website.
- Beginning next week, Assistant Directors and Clinical Trial Team Managers (CTTMs) will return to 300 George Street with the planned acceptance of the return plan by the Provost's office. This will allow easy access to Smilow for patient needs, without a retained clinical presence.
- As of Friday, July 10, **86 patients have been consented and 34 patients have started on a clinical trial since the relaunch** on May 28.



## Smilow Star

Becky Halpern, RN, BSN, CMSRN, Assistant Patient Services Manager, is the go-to person on our inpatient surgical oncology units and a clinical expert with all patient populations at Smilow Cancer Hospital. We can rely on her to manage any task assigned to her, and always with a positive attitude and a smile. Becky is forward thinking, and she consistently puts our patients at the center of all of her work, while continuing to be a huge advocate for our staff. She was instrumental in our inpatient move to the Saint Raphael Campus and just yesterday led a successful move of surgical oncology back to Smilow on NP 14.

Becky has spent a lot of time working on policy updates and standard operating procedures regarding care of the surgical airway. Through this work, she worked closely with an interdisciplinary team to accelerate tracheostomy and laryngectomy care amidst the pandemic. In addition to being a phenomenal nurse and leader, she is a wonderful mom to Emilia and Jonah and really juggles it all as 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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