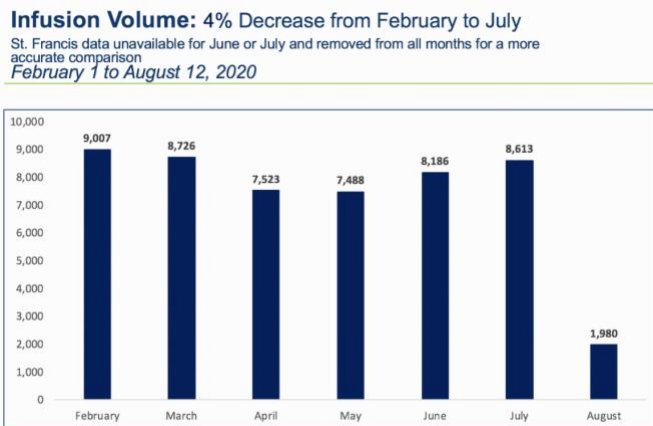


Smilow Update: August 14, 2020

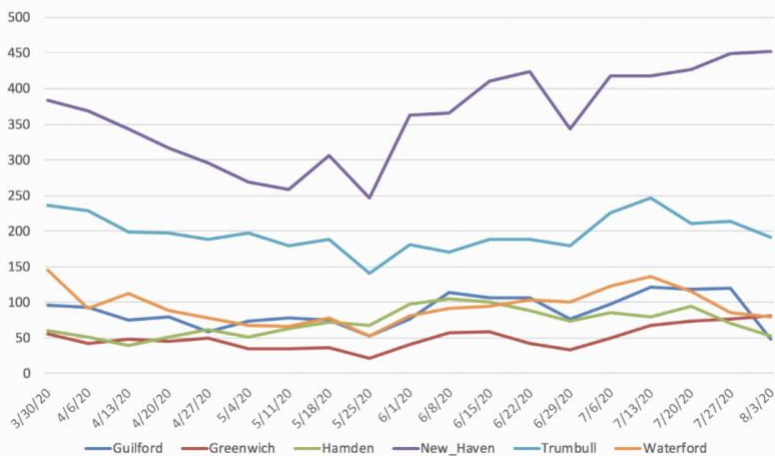
Dear Colleagues,

Patient Volume

Infusion volume is showing a 4% decrease overall from February to July, some of which can be attributed to the change in infusion schedule for some treatment plans. Radiation Oncology continues on a steady trajectory, recovering in most sites from drops during the peak of COVID. Last week’s tropical storm will have a varying impact of the volume for the first week of August, but we expect the overall recovery trends to continue. Thank you all for your continued efforts to ensure our patients are returning for their care at Smilow, and scheduled in a timely manner.



Radiation Oncology Treatment Volume:
 March 30 – August 7, 2020



Guidelines for Patients from “Hot Zones”

Our High-Risk for COVID working group continually evaluates our guidelines for scheduling appointments and caring for Smilow patients who have tested positive for the coronavirus or who are presenting for care from a deemed “hot spot,” including Extended Care Facilities, Group Homes, Short Term Rehab, and Correctional Facilities.

- The subcommittee recently streamlined the pre-visit COVID screening questions to remove questions regarding recent hospitalization and ED visits. These patients should not be treated as PUI, and should be seen in usual location of care using universal precautions.
- For patients coming from a facility, they should have a COVID test within 3 days of their ambulatory visit. The Smilow team will notify the facility regarding the need for the test. If negative, the patient can be seen in usual location of care with universal precautions. If the facility cannot comply with testing within 3 days of visit, the patient should be treated in the SREC or Regional Site.
- For any positive pre-screen (including travel), a test will be ordered prior to visit (within 3 days of visit) using a YNHHS based test if the patient cannot quarantine for 14 days or be managed via Telehealth. If negative, the patient can be seen in usual location of care using universal precautions.

Guidelines for Patients who are COVID+

Smilow patients who are confirmed COVID positive may require direct management or supportive care for their hematologic or oncologic diagnosis. Ambulatory care should be coordinated at the Smilow Rapid Evaluation Clinic (SREC) or at a designated regional site.

- Direct verbal communication between primary attending and SREC or regional site is required.
- Written documentation of plan, including documentation of Chief Medical Officer approval, consent and goals of care discussion, and treatment plan signed by primary attending.
- Referring MD will have telehealth visit with patient on day of treatment.
- Consider risk for hypersensitivity reaction and need for emergent care (if risk high, delay treatment or plan for inpatient treatment).
- Patients should return to home site after convalescence per YNHHS guidelines.

Clinical Research

Our Clinical Research Transformation Team has entered Phase 2 of recovery, with essential staff granted permission to return to campus at 300 George Street and attend to clinical research needs during patient appointments at Smilow Cancer Hospital for tasks that cannot be handled remotely. We continue to be pleased by the velocity of our ramp up since beginning consents and trial enrollment on May 28, and have since consented 169 patients and accrued 76 to trials.

Epic Sessions

We are pleased to offer several Epic drop-in sessions in the month of August and September to work directly with John Murray, Principal Trainer and Instructional Designer. John will be available every Tuesday from 1-3pm to help go through the new

layout of storyboard and address additional personalization needs. Please sign up for sessions through the **Doodle Poll** or email **John Collins** to schedule directly.

Smilow Stars

Today we applaud the dedication of the Medical Assistants for our Gynecologic Oncology Program! **Meredith Farr, Andrea Langner, and Linda Cuomo** work together to make sure our patients are their first priority, and have worked through many changes over the past five months as they moved their clinic from NP1 to Guilford in April, and then to NP8 in June, and finally back to their home on NP1 in July. Together, they adjusted to each new environment and were flexible, not only in the space, but with new team members, new patient care models, and new schedules. Vital to the smooth operations for the entire gynecologic oncology team, they make sure each day runs smoothly and our patients are as comfortable as possible. Their manager, Kerstyn Deskin, said, "I have been amazed during all of this how they have maintained a positive and willing to go the extra mile attitude!" Thank you, Meredith, Andrea, and Linda for being Smilow Stars!



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

Chief Medical Officer
Smilow Cancer Hospital

Kim Slusser, MSN, RN, CHPN, NEA-BC

Vice President for Patient Services
Smilow Cancer Hospital

Yale Cancer Center | www.yalecancercenter.org

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