

Smilow Update: April 17, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Smilow Town Hall

Please join us for the next Smilow Town Hall on Wednesday, April 26 at 5pm. Eric Winer, MD, and Lori Pickens, MHA, will open the Town Hall with an introduction to patient access, integration and regionalization. Sarah Schellhorn, MD, and Lisa Shomsky, MBA, BSN, CNML, will follow with a presentation on the Access Initiatives, and Elizabeth Herbert and Jeremy Kortmansky, MD will present on the plans for Clinical Integration. Questions are encouraged and welcome during the webinar through chat or Q&A or via email at any time to canceranswers@yale.edu. **Please join the webinar online Wednesday at 5pm.**

Inpatient Anticancer Treatment Administration Hours

Effective on Monday, April 10, administration of anticancer treatment during off-shift hours is now limited to emergency treatments to prevent interruption of patient sleep and ensure patient safety.

- Except for emergently needed therapy, anticancer treatment will only be initiated between 7am and 11pm
- For ongoing treatments, staff will not re-time infusions outside these hours
- All elements of the treatment plan (Consent, Orders, Labs, Line, & MD/Pharmacy addressing any deviations from the protocol) must be completed by 5pm to allow treatment to be initiated by 11pm
- Emergency treatments are: ATRA; Hydroxyurea; High dose Cytosin or HDAC for cytoreduction; Induction for acute leukemia; Urgent treatment for high grade lymphomas
- Providers requesting initiation of therapies not listed above between the hours of 11pm and 7am can escalate to the YNHHS Oncology Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Subcommittee Chair or Vice Chair to request an exception
- Elective anticancer treatments delayed due to bed availability and planned BMT conditioning should start as scheduled and not be delayed until the following morning.
- For anticancer treatment outside of NP11, NP12, & NP14, the Chemotherapy Resource Nurse should be notified as soon as intended treatment is identified

Critical Shortage of Cisplatin Injection

A national shortage of cisplatin has resulted in a limited supply within YNHHS. While we understand these are not easy discussions to have with our patients, a mitigation strategy is necessary. We will continue work with the manufacturer and distributor to monitor supply status and provide you with updates.

Effectively immediately:

1. For new treatment, please consider alternative therapy or delay initiation if possible. If treatment is necessary, please check with your oncology pharmacist for supply update before initiation.
2. For current patients with noncurative disease, please switch to alternative therapy.
3. Current supply will be prioritized for patients with HIC protocols and treatments with curative intent if an alternative is not an option.
 - GI: substitute with oxaliplatin in GemCis for cholangiocarcinoma
 - GU: prioritize curative treatment for germ cell, testicular and bladder cancer
 - GynOnc: substitute with carboplatin for current patients and new starts for cervical and other GynOnc indications
 - H&N: prioritize curative treatment using cisplatin with concurrent radiation.
 - Thoracic: prioritize curative treatment for neoadjuvant and adjuvant treatment for stage 2-3 NSCLC and SCLC, substitute with carboplatin for other patients
 - Hematologic: use alternative regimen (carboplatin or oxaliplatin)

Neutropenic Fever Best Practice Alert

National guidelines recommend urgent, appropriate assessment and treatment of neutropenic fever to be imperative for optimal patient outcomes. The YNNH “Neutropenia, Care of the Patients Standard Operating Procedure” (SOP) states identification and treatment of neutropenic fever within *one hour* of presentation of fever onset is critical for optimal patient care.

A new Neutropenic Fever Best Practice Alert (BPA) build is underway in Epic for nursing, advance practice providers, and physicians in the ambulatory setting of Smilow enterprise. This BPA will be activated for all Smilow locations except Smilow St. Francis- Hartford (due to a non-YNHHS EPIC platform). *This BPA will go live on Wednesday, April 26, 2023.*

Cancer Registrar's Appreciation Week

Smilow honored Cancer Registrar's Appreciation Week April 3-7 and the dedicated work of our cancer registrars across the Yale New Haven Health System. The team celebrated on Wednesday, April 5 during a hybrid lunch program to emphasize the important role cancer registrars play in capturing the data that informs cancer research, prevention, and treatment programs. Thank you for all you do!

Look It, It's Book It! – Epic Upgrade July 2023

With our next Epic Upgrade, we will be implementing Book It, Epic's new scheduling functionality. This is a total change for scheduling (except One Click visits) and will impact a lot of users. It brings all the scheduling into one screen and adds some efficient features,

allowing customization for the first time in the scheduling space. Visit the Epic Upgrade Portal [here](#) to get important dates/details about this and other Upgrade items. Please favorite this page and check back often for other updates for all Epic applications.

Smilow Star!

Liana Braga, RN, has been working on NP12 for 8 years. She began as a PCA and has been an inpatient nurse on the unit for the last 5 years. She also serves as co-chair of the Smilow Nursing Rewards and Recognition Committee. Her commitment toward continued education and thoughtful patient focus is making a difference for patients at Smilow.

In 2022, Liana launched a patient mobility initiative on NP12 for her master's degree capstone project. Liana recognized the need to better encourage mobilization of patients to achieve both improved outcomes and decreased length of stay. Using the Activity Measure for Post Acute Care, or AM-PAC score, to drive mobility goals, Liana encouraged focused education for both staff and patients on the unit and charting to create goals for each patient in their room. Her efforts have made a considerable impact!



The overall length of stay has stopped increasing and the number of patients at or above goal for mobilization has increased from 42% at the start of the program in October of 2022 to 63% in March of 2023. Liana credits the diligence of her colleagues and the education and reminders in making the largest impact and hopes the program can be implemented in other inpatient units.

Thank you for your dedication, Liana! You are a Smilow Star!

Best regards,

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

