

Smilow Update: March 9, 2022

A Week of Gratitude
March 4 - 11

Yale
NewHaven
Health



Dear Colleagues,

Week of Gratitude

Every day we are reminded of the expertise and dedication of our staff and the kindness expressed toward our patients at Smilow Cancer Hospital and at our Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers. Today, we are halfway through the Yale New Haven Health System's Week of Gratitude and would like to reiterate our appreciation for every member of our team.

The stories that have been shared as we round this week showcase exceptional skill, commitment, and camaraderie. We have also heard the worries and concerns of many and hope you will continue to share your feedback with us, either in person or by reaching out by email at any time.

Please pause and share your gratitude for one another this week. Our teams are stronger with each of you working together and for that we are grateful.

Updated Evusheld Availability and Care Pathway

The COVID-19 Ambulatory Clinical Consensus group and the Care Signature team have updated the Evusheld pathway to reflect the new recommended FDA dosing. Changes are now live in Epic.

- Eligibility criteria remains the same including requirements for being up to date on COVID-19 vaccination and documentation of low titers of COVID-19 spike antibody despite vaccination.
- For people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, the interval to receive a booster has been shortened from five months to three months after completion of the three-dose primary series.
- Patients who received the initial FDA approved dose of Evusheld through a YNHHS site will be contacted for scheduling to receive an additional dose.
- For patients who may have received Evusheld externally and would like to receive a supplemental dose at a YNHHS location, please contact the Pharmacy COVID Treatment Hotline at (475) 247-6988.
- Details of current eligibility and ordering information can be found in the [Care Signature Pathway here.](#)

Ordering and Documenting Oral Investigational Medication Dispensing in Epic

To support patient safety and compliance with policy, Epic updates to Ordering and Documenting Oral Investigational Medications will be implemented on March 11, 2022. Epic updates will allow to follow the same safe workflow to order and document oral investigational medication dispensing as with intravenous investigational medication treatments. The oral investigational medication order will appear on the Epic MAR and will be scannable against Epic order barcode.

- If the dose can be populated when building the protocol, then this will be done. Some studies, like dose escalation studies, cannot include a pre-populated dose.
- In cases like dose escalation studies, you will need to add the patient's dose to the discrete dose field. The dose will also need to be completed in the Administration Instructions.
- Pharmacy will complete the remaining information (quantity, subject ID, etc.).
- The order for the oral investigational medication will be in the Treatment Plan with other treatment orders.
- When it is released, it will go to pharmacy, like the IV treatments, and to the MAR where you will document the dispensing, rather than in your note.
- On the MAR, document just like you do for IV cancer treatments. A second RN sign-off will be required for oral investigational medication pill bottles being dispensed.

ACS Lodging Support

A unique opportunity has come our way through the American Cancer Society (ACS). The ACS has provided Yale New Haven Hospital a generous grant to be used for direct assistance to patients with cancer and their caregivers for temporary lodging necessary for cancer-related medical appointments at the [Suites at Yale New Haven.](#)

Any Smilow patient identified by their Care Management team as needing this amenity is eligible, along with their caregiver or family member, when appropriate. Scenarios might include, but are not limited to:

- a patient scheduled for early morning surgery who would benefit from or who wishes to be close to the hospital the night before;
- a patient needing daily infusion or other treatments;
- a patient needing the financial assistance of being close to the hospital in conjunction with their medical appointment;
- a caregiver/family member needing to stay close to the hospital while their family member is undergoing treatment;
- a caregiver/family member needing to stay close to the hospital during their family member's comfort care at end-of-life.

For questions or more information please contact [Sonia Grizzle](#) or [Teren Basel](#), Development Officer, Grant Specialist, Office of Development.

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!](#)

Smilow Star!

Stacey Kavanaugh-Schofield, RN, upholds the values of Smilow Cancer Hospital every day. Her compassion and kindness were on display as she cared for a patient with metastatic late-stage cancer who was recently admitted for symptom management.

The patient's symptoms improved during hospitalization, and the team was preparing the patient for discharge. However, on the morning of planned discharge, the patient's condition suddenly worsened. With this change in clinical condition, it was essential for the patient to be with family to make decisions about goals of care.

To allow the patient time to discuss next steps and make decisions with family at the bedside, Stacey agreed to provide critical care nursing support for as long as required to facilitate a calm, unhurried, decision-making process. Together, the patient and spouse decided to go home with home hospice care. The patient was discharged later in the day— after clinical stabilization by Stacey.

The following day, the patient's spouse expressed gratitude for the support of the team. We're grateful for the entire NP 12 team's outstanding support of all our patients, and for the patient-centered care Stacey provided throughout this patient's stay at Smilow. Thank you, Stacey!



Best regards,

Kevin G. Billingsley, MD, MBA

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