

Smilow Update: October 23, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Stress Assessment

The leadership at Smilow Cancer Hospital recognizes that we continue to work and live with many stressors in our local and national environments that may be affecting you. Along with the Health System and School, we are committed to monitoring stress levels among members of our community and to making the broad range of support services available at the medical school, health system, and university accessible.

We invite you to take this modified **Self-Assessment Survey** that has been designed to help you assess your stress level and to provide personal information on resources to help you manage your stress. You may take this survey as often as you like. The survey is completely anonymous, and no personal information will be collected.

Inpatient PPE

Please use extra diligence with PPE and social distancing as COVID-19 cases continue to climb. As a reminder, 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 as to the policy requirement and why this policy was put into effect.
- **Review the full policy.**

EPIC Optimization Committee

Our EPIC Optimization Committee launched in 2013 under the leadership of **Kerin Adelson, MD**, and **Monica Fradkin, RN, MPH**, to work on behalf of our faculty and caregivers at Smilow Cancer Hospital and our Care Centers to better align EPIC with the workflows of our teams. Over the last several years, the committee focused their efforts on

supporting Epic/Beacon upgrades, the addition of treatment plans, use of standing orders, creation of supportive care plans, and optimization of the technology.

We are pleased to announce that **Johanna LaSala, MD**, and **Lisa Barbarotta, MSN, APRN-BC, AOCNS**, have now agreed to chair the committee, which will be supported by **Donna LaPolt**, Smilow Cancer Hospital's inaugural Workflow Optimization Specialist. Together, Dr. LaSala, Lisa, and Donna will reengage our EPIC optimization efforts and work with the Smilow community to voice your optimization changes, ideas, and concerns with the IT and EPIC teams at the Yale New Haven Health System. Their work will closely align with the Technology Transformation Workgroup at Smilow, and will help to streamline our efforts to improve EPIC usage for our faculty and caregivers. Please reach out to [Dr. LaSala](#) or [Lisa](#) at any time if you have concerns you would like brought to their attention, and to [Donna](#) if you would like to schedule a review clinical workflows and Epic optimization opportunities.

COVID-19 Testing for Employees

There is currently no large scale asymptomatic healthcare worker testing available through the YNHHS. Symptomatic employees should continue to call the COVID-19 Call Center at (203) 688-1700.

Team Moves

The Women's Oncology Unit and the Hematology Purple Team moved on Thursday, October 15 from Verdi 4 East to Main 5/SLA5 on the Saint Raphael Campus. The entire staff moved together to increase our bed capacity from 17 to 22. Thank you to the physicians, APPs, and the entire nursing team and staff in Gynecologic Oncology and on the Purple Team for your continued flexibility during these transitions and their dedication and commitment to their patients.

Ray of Hope Fund

In memory of Raymond Lenox APRN, a colleague and friend who died of pancreatic cancer a few weeks ago, a fund has been established in his name to honor his memory and to be used by patients who are under the care of the Stem Cell Transplant Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital. The funds will help meet the financial needs and obligations necessary to maintain patient well-being during the challenging effects associated with a stem cell/bone marrow transplant. To contribute, please send donations to the Ray of Hope Fund at the YNH Development Office, PO Box 1849, New Haven, CT 06508, or [online](#).

Smilow Cares Oncology Scholarships

Nominations are open for the 2020 Smilow Cares Oncology Scholarships for our nurses, PCAs, and ACAs who are continuing their professional education.

[Learn More](#)

Luminary Award Nominations

Last year, we launched the Smilow Luminary Awards to recognize staff or teams that have gone beyond the call to advance the various missions of YCC and SCH. We are pleased to announce a request for nominations for the 2020 Smilow Luminary Awards. Please take time to recognize and nominate your colleagues who consistently exceed performance expectations and deliver high quality cancer care for our patients, families, and the health system through community service, optimization and innovative solutions, patient experience, leadership, and research initiatives. The deadline for [nominations](#) is Friday, October 30.

Smilow Star!

Karen Lynch, RN, has spent four decades caring for and treating women with gynecologic cancers. She remembers every patient and treats them as if they are her own family member. Karen is the calm in the storm and is diplomatic and ambassador-like in the most trying patient care circumstances. She has supported research trials throughout her career whose treatments have now been adapted as the standard of care. Karen is polite and professional and sets the stage for the NP 1 infusion team.

Karen is composed when she is in charge and she always takes an assignment which includes patients who face a myriad of challenges. During her recent 40th anniversary celebration, we should have been celebrating Karen for her dedication and devotion to our patients, and instead she was celebrating the team. This just shows her giving and generous nature as a 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

Chief Medical Officer
Smilow Cancer Hospital

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

Vice President for Patient Services
Smilow Cancer Hospital

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