

Smilow Update: October 13, 2022

QOPI® Certification

We're proud to announce that the Smilow Cancer Hospital Network has received QOPI recertification for another three years from ASCO. Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI) status demonstrates a commitment to excellence and ongoing quality improvement in clinical practice. Smilow has achieved this certification by meeting QOPI's core standards in all areas of treatment, including treatment planning, staff training and education, chemotherapy orders and drug preparation, patient consent and education, safe chemotherapy administration, and monitoring and assessment of patient well-being.

New Mastectomy Care Signatures

Smilow Cancer Hospital Surgical Oncology is launching a Care Signature Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) Mastectomy clinical pathway directly within the EMR at the point of care to allow for multidisciplinary coordination of best practice elements (i.e., proactive pain management with regional blocks, multimodal pain control, prevention of postop nausea and vomiting). Additionally, the team is piloting a program at the York Street Campus for eligible women who desire recovery at home following mastectomy, allowing for discharge from the hospital the same day as surgery. The team has coordinated with a fantastic and engaged YNHHS VNA Community trained visiting nursing team who will assess patients in their homes the afternoon of their surgery. This pathway went live Tuesday, October 11.

MRI Capacity in Smilow

Beginning earlier this week, one of the original 2009 MRI scanners in Smilow is being decommissioned to install a new unit. All MRI protocols will be truncated to less than 30 minutes and accommodations will be made to utilize the pediatric MRI scanner for adult inpatient scans after 7pm daily and the breast MRI scanner for non-breast outpatient scans after 5pm daily. In addition, the decommissioned MRI will be set up as a mobile scanner in Hamden during the renovation period.

Pharmacist Management of Warfarin Therapy Protocol in the Adult Ambulatory Settings

The Smilow North Haven and Trumbull anticoagulation clinics have been successfully supporting hematology/oncology patients since 2019. As volume of referrals continues to grow with limited resources, it is necessary to streamline the current process. Anticoagulation pharmacists are

required to manage patients within the protocol guidelines. The YNHHS Pharmacist and Nurse Management of Warfarin Therapy Protocol in the Adult Ambulatory Settings outlines the INR goals of 2-3 or 2.5-3.5; patients that require goals outside of these ranges will need to be deferred to provider management. Also, patients referred for anticoagulation dose bridging often require that the pharmacist speak to a provider. If the primary provider is unavailable or cannot be reached by 3:00pm, a designated on-call physician will be contacted for approval. These measures will ensure adequate time to safely coordinate medication education and access for our patients.

Flu Vaccination and COVID-19 Boosters

A reminder that all YNHHS employees, members of the Medical Staff, and faculty and staff working in Yale School of Medicine patient-facing and human research subject-facing positions are required to receive this year's influenza vaccine by December 1, 2022, or have an approved exception. The vaccination is available at flu clinics located across the Yale New Haven Health System, as well as through Yale University.

In addition, while the bivalent Omicron booster is not currently mandatory, it is highly recommended as it offers robust and continued protection against the version of the virus currently circulating. Like the flu vaccine, the administration of the COVID-19 booster is available for YNHHS and Yale University employees, members of the Medical Staff, students, and volunteers.

[Yale New Haven Health Flu and COVID-19 Booster Information](#)

[Yale University Flu Vaccination Information](#)

[Yale University COVID-19 Booster Information](#)

APP Clinical Ladder II Promotions

Yale New Haven Health System implemented an APP Clinical Ladder this year and we are happy to announce the following APPs have achieved their APP Clinical Ladder II:

- **Amy Barile-Pugliese, APRN** (Stem Cell Transplantation)
- **Christina Holt, APRN** (Palliative Care)
- **Gineesha Abraham, APRN** (Breast Medical Oncology)
- **Jay Hirsch, PA** (Thoracic Surgery)
- **Jenna Addison, APRN** (Breast Surgical Oncology-Smilow Trumbull)
- **Julie Palmer-Hoffman, APRN** (Palliative Care)
- **Karen Hammond, APRN** (Smilow Waterbury)
- **Kate Mason, APRN** (Breast Medical Oncology)
- **Lynsey Teulings, APRN** (Head/Neck Medical Oncology)
- **Marianne Davies, APRN** (Thoracic Medical Oncology)
- **Megin Iaccarino, APRN** (Lung Cancer Screening—Smilow Trumbull)
- **Polly Sather, APRN** (Lung Cancer Screening—Smilow YSC/North Haven)

Rituximab-arrx (Riabni™)

Effective October 18, Rituximab-arrx (Riabni™) will become the first-line preferred formulary rituximab infusion product across the YNHHS.

- Rituximab infusion product preference hierarchy is rituximab-arrx (Riabni™), rituximab-pvvr (Ruxience™), rituximab-abbs (Truxima™), and Rituximab (Rituxan®).

- YNHHS reference and biosimilar product preference hierarchy can be found on pharmacy [website](#).
- All new rituximab infusion containing treatment plans assigned to patients will have the rituximab orderable that is defaulted to rituximab-arrx (Riabni™).
- If the payer does not approve the institution's preferred product, the PAR team will proceed to prior authorize the next preferred product allowed by the payer, enter the approved HCPCS in Epic, then the order will be automatically changed to the payer's preferred coverage product.
- Current patients receiving rituximab therapy may remain on currently prior authorized rituximab product until the treatment course is completed.

Updated Policies

The following policies have been systematized and are now live in Policy Manager. Please note that the acceptable anti-cancer dose discrepancy is now 10%.

- [**Anti-Cancer Therapy Administration**](#)
- [**Care of the Patient Receiving Intrathecal & Intraventricular Chemotherapy**](#)
- [**Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy Administration**](#)

Recognizing and Combating Compassion Fatigue and Burnout

Ashley Shelden, MSN, RN, OCN, recently presented Nursing Grand Rounds at Yale New Haven Hospital to highlight the impact of the often-overwhelming needs of patients and families, which can result in compassion fatigue and burnout among healthcare providers. Compassion fatigue has a sudden onset after caring for a patient with significant symptoms, which can cause emotional distress and exhaustion. Burnout occurs gradually and can cause symptoms such as being emotionally disconnected, loss of motivation or interest, difficulty focusing, and increased exhaustion and fatigue. According to recent studies, 32% of nurses cited burnout for their reason for resignation. It is important to recognize the symptoms, prioritize self-care, and be aware of the challenges our colleagues may be facing by taking care of one another.

YNHHS Resources:

- Thrive on Sharepoint
- Employee Resource Center: 877-275-6226
- Confidential counseling, work/life services, and other assistance: ynhhs.mybeaconwellbeing.com

Building Against Burnout Webinar

Join us for a short, 30–45-minute, focused Physician Builder-led Zoom session on Building Against Burnout today, **Thursday, October 13 at 12:15pm** on “Notes Best Practice: Succinct Accurate Note Essentials (SANE)”. Our physician builders are physicians and APPs who have completed rigorous training at EPIC and are certified to “build” in our version of EPIC at Yale. Building Against Burnout is our version of fireproofing, to help make ourselves resistant to the challenges and stress of practicing medicine and to make our tools work for us.

Zoom

Access: <https://ynhh.zoom.us/j/93716103824?pwd=U1A0aklNK0lzcmlVNHhFM0Zvbzljdz09>

Catherine A. Lyons Excellence in Oncology Nursing Leadership Award

This award has been established in remembrance of Catherine “Cathy” Lyons, who was not only Smilow Cancer Hospital’s inaugural nursing leader, but an esteemed national leader in the field of oncology nursing, to recognize an outstanding oncology nurse leader who has demonstrated exemplary leadership at Smilow Cancer Hospital and made a difference in the oncology nursing profession. Cathy’s impact spanned the entire Smilow enterprise including Smilow Cancer Hospital and the Smilow Network. During her tenure Cathy never lost focus of her commitment to patient and family-centered care and this award continues in that spirit.

Nomination deadline: Monday, October 17 at midnight

Nomination form: <https://keysurvey.ynhh.org/f/41634735/2f9f/>

APP Award Nominations

On behalf of the 2022 APP Week Planning Committee, we are pleased to announce the 2022 Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Celebration Week will take place the week of October 24th. We are also looking forward to a Virtual APP Award Recognition & Happy Hour on Monday, December 12th at 5:30pm.

Please consider **nominating your colleagues** for one of the following prestigious awards. The deadline for nominations is Friday, October 21 at 5:00pm.

- Clinical Leader
- Distinguished APP Leader
- Clinical Excellence
- Education
- Humanitarian
- Mentorship
- Publishing
- Outstanding Newcomer
- APP of the Year

Smilow Supportive Care Access Program

Patients at Smilow Cancer Hospital and the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers have access to a breadth of Supportive Care resources to assist them throughout their cancer journeys. However, until recently, access to these programs may have been challenging for many patients and their providers. The Smilow Supportive Care Access Program aims to improve access to comprehensive supportive care services for all Smilow patients. Trained non-clinical Referral Coordinators are available on-site at Smilow’s Patient and Family Resource Center to best assist patients and family members in education and advocacy for referrals to our wide variety of supportive care programs (for example Integrative Medicine, Palliative Care, Spiritual Care, Nutrition, and many others.).

Patients, their families, and medical providers may also access the Supportive Care Navigation Team Referral Coordinators via our online website, by emailing SmilowSupportiveCare@ynhh.org, stopping into the Resource Center, or by calling 203-200-4636 (INFO). We are grateful to the Milbank Foundation for their generous support in building this program.

Upcoming CME Programs

Join Yale Cancer Center faculty for several upcoming CME programs this fall highlighting the latest advances in cancer research and care from Yale:

- **Multidisciplinary Breast Cancer Care at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Guilford**, Thursday, October 13 at 6:30pm, Virtual
- **Emerging Strategies in Breast Cancer Treatment and Care**, Wednesday, October 19 at 6:30pm, Virtual
- **Smilow Shares with Primary Care on Lung Cancer**, Tuesday, November 1 at 5pm, Virtual
- **Immunotherapy and Novel Treatment for Head & Neck Cancers**, Wednesday, November 9 at 6:30pm, Virtual
- **Ella Grasso Gynecologic Oncology Conference**, Wednesday, November 16 at 8am, Virtual
- **Scientific Network on Female Sexual Health and Cancer 2022 Conference: Extending Our Reach: Broadening the Boundaries of Oncosexual Health**, Thursday and Friday, November 17-18, Greenberg Center

Smilow Star!

Eileen Dehm, RN, BSN, began her career at Yale New Haven Hospital as the Medical Oncology and BMT Case Manager on 9W and 8W on October 2, 2006. When the cancer programs fully transitioned into Smilow Cancer Hospital in 2010, Eileen started in a newly created position, Oncology Nurse Coordinator for the Melanoma and Renal Cell Carcinoma Disease Team and served as a navigator, educator, and advocate for patients and their families. Eileen went on to become the first Smilow Medical Oncology/Hematology Patient Flow and Elective Admission Coordinator in April of 2015, a position created by the late Catherine Lyons who was Vice President of Patient Services and Chief Nursing Officer at Smilow Cancer Hospital, and she continues in this role. Eileen helps track patients being admitted to Smilow Cancer Hospital and appropriately triages their bed placements with the correct clinical care teams.



After 16 years, Eileen will retire on November 30. Eileen worked tirelessly during the height of the pandemic ensuring our patients received specialized oncology and hematology care during their admissions. Also during the pandemic, she worked closely with the former Supportive Care Unit, which offered full multidisciplinary palliative care support for patients and their families and identified patients throughout the entire hospital system who were pursuing comfort measures only. Eileen is a former hospice nurse and caregiver; her husband Edward passed on January 6, 2021, after living 3 years with stage IV prostate cancer. She continues to remain a strong advocate and supporter of the Prostate Cancer Foundation. Eileen's experience and passion for cancer care will truly be missed.

Eileen is looking forward to spending more time with her family and friends but hopes to remain connected to Smilow and to all the wonderful friends and colleagues she has had the pleasure of getting to know and working with over the years.

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

