

COVID-19 Update: March 30, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The YNHHS has issued a policy for PPE to help protect all providers and frontline staff. When working in any clinical area, the expectation is that everyone will wear the mask provided to them, with the exception of when 6 feet of social distancing is in place. Please note that policy can be updated at any time, and please continue to reach out to your manager with any questions or concerns.

- All healthcare workers and support staff on Smilow Cancer Hospital surgical and inpatient units and in the Extended Care Clinic will receive one standard mask per day.
- All healthcare workers and support staff in Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers and ambulatory clinics will receive one standard mask per week.
- Do not wear any makeup while wearing PPE. PPE stained with makeup cannot be reprocessed.
- PPE is to be stored in a paper bag in between patient encounters. When ready for replacement, please discard PPE in recycling containers placed throughout the hospitals for proper sterilization and reuse.
- The full policy and instructions for PPE use, storage, reuse, and recycling is available online.

Palliative Care

Outpatient Palliative Care Clinics at Smilow and the Care Centers are transitioning to Telehealth for both new and follow-up patients.

- Following a new video consult, recommendations will be communicated to the patient's primary disease team for implementation at their discretion.
- Currently, the Palliative Care team is not able to prescribe medications to new patients without a physical Face to Face (F2F) encounter. Medication renewals will continue for existing patients.

- For patients who cannot gain access to MyChart or Telehealth, the Palliative Care team will offer a direct provider to provider telephone consult with recommendations.

Telehealth

Thank you to our entire staff for your dedicated efforts to encourage our patients to enroll in MyChart so they can utilize Telehealth appointments. To provide instructions to patients by phone, including video assistance, please use the following easy to remember link: www.yalecancercenter.org/telehealth

Patient & Family Forum and Town Hall

On Wednesday evening, April 1, we will host an online public forum for our patients and families at 7pm. A [flyer](#) has been distributed by email and social media. Please share with your patients and encourage them to send their questions in advance to canceranswers@yale.edu.

In addition, our weekly [Town Hall](#) for physicians, nurses, caregivers, Yale Cancer Center members, and staff will be on Thursday, April 2 at 5pm. Please schedule time to join us and send your questions by [email](#) for discussion.

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
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