

## Smilow Update: April 9, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

### Vaccinations for Employees

To date, 85% of Smilow employees have been vaccinated. If you have not yet scheduled your appointment, Yale New Haven Health will host on-site vaccination clinics for employees next week. Employees who have not yet been vaccinated can schedule an appointment to receive the one-dose Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine per the following dates and locations:

- Monday, April 12: Greenwich Hospital - Noble Conference Room
- Tuesday, April 13: YNHH, Saint Raphael Campus - Selina Lewis Multipurpose Room
- Wednesday, April 14: Bridgeport Hospital, Medical Education Classroom
- Thursday, April 15: Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, Room 1.412
- Friday, April 16: YNHH, York Street Campus, East Pavilion Special Events Room

The fairs will run from 8:30 am – 4 pm each day. All employee vaccinations will be by appointment only. Employees and members of the Medical Staff have three options to schedule an appointment: call a dedicated hotline at 475-246-9492; call the Employee Resource Center at 844-543-2147, option 2; or email [OccCOVIDVac@ynhh.org](mailto:OccCOVIDVac@ynhh.org).

### Patient Visitation Policy

Beginning on Monday, April 12, Yale New Haven will expand visitation under its **Phase 3 policy** and allow one visitor for adult inpatients on their 3rd day of hospitalization daily, from 10am-12pm or 2pm-6pm. One visitor per day and no switching during the day, although patients can have a different visitor each day. Patients on COVID units, regardless of COVID status or length of stay are not eligible for visitation. All exceptions currently in place remain the same.

### Magnet Survey Visit

Yale New Haven Health hosted appraisers from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) last week for our Magnet site visit. Thank you to our entire oncology nursing team who worked diligently to prepare for the week-long site visit, along with our colleagues at Yale New Haven Health, and to our entire clinical enterprise at Smilow Cancer Hospital and our Care Centers. Without hesitation, all of our providers and staff always showcase the outstanding clinical enterprise we are proud to be a part of daily. We look forward to sharing the results of the Magnet reaccreditation.

### Clinical Trial Updates

The Clinical Trials Office reports a boost in accruals from March, with 64 new patients enrolled in clinical trials. Our Phase I team led accruals with 9, followed by Leukemia and Breast Cancer with 8 each, and Lymphoma/Myeloma with 7. In addition, 17 new trials

have been opened for accrual since March 1. Thank you to each of the investigators and all of the providers and staff who are working to enroll patients on trials. Please continue to review our [list of trials available](#) for patient enrollment for opportunities for your patients.

### **Radiation Oncology Systems**

On Tuesday, April 6, the Elekta Radiation Oncology Information System was compromised and, as a result all YNHHS radiation therapy treatment locations were unable to treat patients for the entire day. All patient treatment appointments were cancelled and rescheduled across the system. A special thanks to YNHHS ITS and operational teams who maintained coordination with Elekta and worked through the night to prepare for patient care when systems returned. All operations were tested and available again for the start of clinics on Wednesday, April 7, thanks in large to the effort of Thomas Mooney, Christina Solano, Matthew Zawalich, and James Dennison.

### **North Haven Infusion Moves**

Today, Smilow is vacating from North Haven's endoscopy suites and will allocate more infusion chairs on floors 2 and 4 to compensate for the lost space. The careful planning will result in no overall change in infusion chairs for Smilow services in North Haven. Gastrointestinal Cancers will continue to see their patients on the first floor, but patients will receive infusions on floors 2 and 4. A special thanks to Kathleen Moseman and Paula Pike and their teams for their careful planning, flexibility, and assistance during this transition.

### **Vaccinating our Patients**

Yale New Haven Health administered just under 20,000 doses last week and administered more than 45,000 doses this week. Our patients and community are getting vaccinated! Please remind your patients to attest to a high-risk medical condition in the [online scheduling portal](#) for priority access at [www.ynhhs.org/covidvaccine](http://www.ynhhs.org/covidvaccine).

### **Clinical Guidance for the COVID-19 Vaccination in Hematology/Oncology Patients on Therapy**

The Yale New Haven Health Formulary Integration Committee has released [guidance to clinicians](#) on the COVID-19 vaccination for patients who receive immunosuppressive therapy. Clinical guidance is based on the mechanism of immunosuppression and extrapolating the likely effect on the immune response to a novel antigen in the COVID-19 vaccine from prior vaccine response studies in immunosuppressed patients and expert opinion.

### **Recruiting Oncology Nurses**

Please share a special opportunity to learn more about nursing at Smilow Cancer Hospital with your colleagues and [attend a virtual information session](#): "Promoting Oncology Nursing Professional Development through a Pandemic," on Thursday, April 15, from 5:30-6:30pm. Catherine Sumpio PhD, MSN, RN AONS, Oncology Patient Education Specialist, and Lisa Barbarotta MSN, ANP-BC, AOCNS, Program Director, Oncology Education and Clinical Practice, will share how Smilow Cancer Hospital was able to care for our patients and support our nurses' professional development during the COVID-19 pandemic. CEU is available for attendees, and new graduate and experienced RNs are welcome to attend! Questions about registration or job opportunities? Please email [Julie.Lamb@ynhh.org](mailto:Julie.Lamb@ynhh.org).

**Best regards,**

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