

Smilow Update: January 27, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Universal Open Notes

Beginning on Tuesday, February 2, clinician visit notes will be automatically made visible to patients through MyChart in compliance with the 21st Century Cures Act. The goal of the new mandate is to empower patients by providing easy and secure access to their health data.

- Under the new regulations, all ambulatory, ED, and inpatient results (all laboratory and imaging diagnostic tests, including pathology and genetic tests) will be released to patients as they are finalized and appear in Epic.
- The new regulations also require clinician visit notes to be shared with patients through MyChart. Note-sharing seeks to enhance transparency, engage patients, and improve communication between patients, caregivers, and clinicians.
- Please review the recently published [Clinician Guide to Shared Notes](#), and the [FAQ Guide](#) for more information.

NCCN Guidelines Released

Preliminary Recommendations of the NCCN COVID-19 Vaccination Advisory Committee, which included representation from Smilow Cancer Hospital by Kerin Adelson, MD, Michael Hurwitz, PhD, MD, and Thomas Prebet, MD, PhD, have been released. A summary is below, and full detail is available [online](#).

- Patients with cancer should be prioritized for vaccination (CDC priority group 1b/c) and should be immunized when vaccination is available to them.
- Immunization is recommended for all patients receiving active therapy, with the understanding that there are limited safety and efficacy data in these patients.
- Reasons for delay of vaccines are similar to the general public (e.g., recent exposure to COVID-19), and cancer-specific factors. Vaccination should be delayed for at least 3 months following HCT or engineered cellular therapy (e.g. CAR T-cells) to maximize vaccine efficacy.
- Caregivers and household/close contacts should be immunized when possible.

Resource Center for Employee Questions

Employees and medical staff should call the new Employee Resource Center at 1-844-543-2147, Option 2, with COVID-19 related questions, including concerns about exposure, testing, vaccine reactions, return to work, travel, etc., seven days a week, 7am – 7pm.

COVID Vaccine Information

- If you have not yet scheduled your vaccination, please login to MyChart to do so. A guide to navigate MyChart is available **online**. All first dose appointments for employees and medical staff are now routed to YNHHS's mass vaccination sites. Second dose appointments will continue to be held onsite at our hospitals.
- Yale New Haven Health has started scheduling vaccinations for people 75+ in phase 1b through an online portal: <https://www.ynhhs.org/patient-care/covid-19/vaccine/get-your-covid-vaccine.aspx> The phone line, 1-833-ASK-YNHH (275-9644), is also available for scheduling assistance. The number for MyChart or technical assistance is 475-246-8041.
- Smilow Cancer Hospital will host a **Patient and Family Forum** tomorrow, Thursday, January 28 at 7pm focused on the vaccine and to answer our patients' questions. Please encourage your patients to **register** and join us if you are able.
- All patients with active cancer undergoing active treatment, except those post-stem cell/bone marrow transplant or CAR T treatment, are highly encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccination as soon as they are eligible, with recommendation from their treating hematologist/oncologist about the timing of the vaccination. **National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) consensus guidelines** are available to provide additional guidance.
- Faculty and university staff with healthcare credentials interested in volunteering to staff vaccination clinics should email vaccineclinics@ynhh.org. YNHH staff should discuss availability with their managers so hours can be documented through the labor pool.

Smilow Town Hall

We invite you to please **Save the Date** for our next Smilow Cancer Hospital/Yale Cancer Center Town Hall meeting on Thursday, February 4 at 5:00pm. Join us via **Zoom** to hear an update from Smilow Cancer Hospital leadership and for an opportunity to ask questions. You can also email **questions** in advance of the meeting.

Smilow Star!

Carolyn Truini, BA, MCHL, OPN-CG, Coordinator for Smilow Cancer Hospital's Department of Operations, started in oncology over 20 years ago. When an opportunity arose in the newly opened Smilow Cancer Hospital, Carolyn jumped at the chance to continue working with oncology patients and the team at Yale. Now, as she approaches retirement at the end of February, she looks back on the work that has been done here with pride, especially in the last year as the COVID-19 pandemic took hold. During this time, Carolyn, along with YNHH Plant Engineering, took the initiative to identify the appropriate placement of clear barriers to protect staff.



She was also responsible for the organizing and moving of medical equipment, staff, furniture, and supplies in and out of North Pavilion to make room for COVID units, and prepared all areas of NP with social distancing signage and reception areas to provide distanced seating. All of this was done with the intent of keeping patients and staff as safe as possible.

While her last year before retirement has been anything but normal, Carolyn commented, “The one thing that hasn’t changed about Smilow is the focus on our patients and their families. We are a building where patients are often receiving the best and worst news of their life. We want our environment to reflect the care that we provide, and make sure that our staff is supported and kept safe as well. I will miss the monthly Smilow New Hire Orientations where I was able to introduce staff to the Smilow culture, service lines, and introduce them to patients and family members who shared their experiences with cancer.”

“This is classic Carolyn Truini,” said Todd Wilcox, Smilow Operations Manager, “whenever the focus is on her, she shifts it right back to what matters most, the patients and families. Carolyn has been the face and voice of the North Pavilion for as long as I can remember. And I, along with others, have always admired her dedication, commitment, and work ethic. While I am happy that she will be spending more time with her family, I surely will miss her.”

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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