

Smilow Update: February 10, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Pharmacy Updates

- YNHHS has been able to secure adequate supplies of Abraxane. All restrictions lifted and Abraxane can be used in all treatment indications.
- **Adult Algorithm for COVID Treatment**
- **Pediatric Algorithm for COVID Treatment**
- A pharmacy Mobile Heartbeat number (471-247-6988) is set up to assist providers in navigating the prescribing of these agents.

Evusheld

Evusheld is available under an EUA for the pre-exposure prophylaxis of COVID-19 in patients with moderate to severe immune compromise.

- Administrated sequentially as 2 IM injections (one in each gluteal region) followed by a one-hour monitoring period
- YNHHS has developed criteria for use, created decentralized workflow, delivered drug to all Smilow locations, patient lists shared with providers, and continue to work with our teams across the network on workflow
 - Immunocompromised patients not eligible for COVID-19 vaccine OR not responsive to vaccination should receive treatment with Evusheld
 - Vaccination should be prioritized for immunocompromised patients
 - Booster dose after their vaccine primary series
 - Check Spike Antibody level at least 2 weeks post vaccination. If Spike Ab level is < 210 U/ml, schedule patient to receive Evusheld

Vaccine Terminology

It is very clear that COVID-19 vaccine boosters have a substantial impact on reducing COVID-19 infections, severity of illness, hospitalization, and death. Immunocompromised patients should receive a booster in addition to their primary series of three COVID vaccinations.

- Primary Series
 - Immunocompetent patients:
 - 2 dose mRNA vaccine series
 - 1 dose J & J vaccine

- Immunocompromised patients:
 - 3 dose mRNA vaccine series
 - Booster: shot given after completion of the primary series
 - Immunocompromised patients who have completed their primary series are eligible for a booster after completion of their third shot.

YNHH COVID19 Vaccination

What dose of the COVID19 vaccine are you scheduling for?

- I am scheduling my first dose and I have not had a dose yet.
- I am scheduling my second dose of a 2-dose vaccine
- I am scheduling for my third dose because I am immunocompromised and I have completed my second dose at least 28 days ago.
- I am scheduling a booster dose and have completed my second or third (if immunocompromised) dose at least 5 months ago

If you are scheduling your initial first dose of the Vaccine, your second dose appointment will be made for you at the Vaccination clinic at the time of your appointment.

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Ambulatory Visitors

As of February 8, patients can now bring one visitor with them to their ambulatory appointments.

Y-note Program Launching February 22

Ensuring appropriate closed loop communication of critical imaging results and follow-up of incidental findings are central to Yale Radiology's goals of patient-centered care and high reliability practice. As part of the Y-note program, the radiology communications command center will go live on February 22nd, 2022.

- Command center staff and new functions in Epic will replace the Veriphy automated system for reporting critical results from Yale Radiology. Life threatening imaging findings will result in a direct conversation with the radiologist.
- You will begin to see some urgent findings displayed as popups in patient charts within Epic.

- Non-urgent but unexpected findings will show up as inbox notifications. These findings can be closed with new buttons that will be added within chart review.
- Acknowledging findings in Epic will allow for closed loop communications, with fewer phone calls, faxes, and voicemails from radiology.
- The Radiology Command Center will be available 24/7 and can be reached at 475-246-8135
- The Y-note program also includes a recommendation follow-up system. Any follow-up imaging recommended by the radiologist will be tracked. If these studies are not ordered, reminders will be sent out, targeted based on the initial study ordering.
- Roll out to the other delivery networks will follow shortly. The intention is to create a system wide communication center.
- If there are questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to **Emily Amento Haverly**, Senior Service Coordinator for the center.

Blood Collection Product Shortage

There is a nationwide shortage of blood collection products. The immediate issue significantly impacting Yale New Haven Health System is a lack of lavender top blood collection tubes. The highest volume tests that use lavender tubes are Complete Blood Count (CBC), Glycohemoglobin (HBA1C), and Sedimentation Rate (ESR). Ordering practices should be reviewed and all efforts should be made to conserve tubes:

- Please order CBCs only when results will change clinical management
- Please review and reduce test frequency to avoid duplication
- Please DO NOT use additive tubes as discard tubes
- Please DO NOT collect extra tubes without orders
- Orders for Hemoglobin A1c will be limited to every 90 days
- Orders for Sedimentation Rate (ESR) will convert to CRP

COVID Testing

- Community members should make appointments at www.ynhhs.org
- Healthcare workers should make appointments at <https://ocucovidtesting.ynhhs.org/>
- Members of the Yale University community should take advantage of free, **voluntary testing** after travel, after attending gatherings, or any time you are concerned about exposure to COVID-19.

Smilow Star!

Lisa Czajkowski, a Patient Financial Access Specialist (PFAS) at our Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Orange, is incredibly dedicated to our patients and goes above and beyond to ensure that all their needs are met with convenience. In addition, Lisa is a team player and will do whatever it is to get the job done so that no one is left behind. This comes with much flexibility on her part whenever possible to support the needs of the Care Center overall. Kelsey Martin, MD, shared in her nomination, "Lisa is an incredible person whose heart is really in the right place for our patients." Thank you for your support of our team and patients, Lisa!



Best regards,

Eric P. Winer, MD

Director, Yale Cancer Center
Physician-in-Chief, Smilow Cancer Hospital

Lori C. Pickens, MHA

Senior Vice President and Executive Director
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Kevin G. Billingsley, MD, MBA

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