

Smilow Update: May 8, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Celebrating our Nurses!

We kicked off the month of May with Smilow's annual celebration of Oncology Nursing Month on Wednesday, May 3, and our presentation of awards. Thank you to our entire team of dedicated nurses for their commitment to our patients and families, cancer treatment and care, and one another.

Special congratulations to the following recipients of the 2023 Oncology Nursing Awards:

The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation Smilow Cares Scholarships

RN Smilow Cares Scholarship Awards:

- Christina Matousek, RN
- Kristina Capretti, RN
- Kylie Kuck, RN
- Lauren Binstein, RN
- Patricia Szabo, RN
- Rebecca Bock, RN

PCA/ACA Cares Scholarship Awards:

- Hope Serra
- Olufunke Osisami

The 14th Annual Smilow Nursing Award for Clinical Excellence:

- Robin Esposito, RN

The 12th Annual Smilow Patient Care Associate (PCA) & Ambulatory Care Associate (ACA) Educational Grant:

- Olufunke Osisami

The 2nd Annual Catherine A. Lyons Excellence in Oncology Nursing Leadership Award

- Tracy Carafeno, MS, RN, CNML

Smilow Town Hall

Please join us for the next Smilow Town Hall on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 5pm. Eric Winer, MD, and Lori Pickens, MHA, will open the Town Hall, followed by presentations on Oncology Nursing by Kim Slusser, RN, MSN, Radiology and Imaging Access by Daniel Alexa, MBA, and Smilow East, a new inpatient unit, with Jensa Morris, MD, Cece Calhoun, MD, MPHS, MBA, and Tracy Carafeno, RN, MS, CMNL. Questions are encouraged and welcome during the webinar through chat or Q&A or via email at any time to canceranswers@yale.edu. **Please join the webinar on Thursday, May 18 at 5pm.**

Testing and Masking Updates

Admission COVID-19 testing ended on Monday, May 1, 2023. This includes all asymptomatic patients admitted from other facilities, admissions for surgery/procedure, ED, and direct admits.

- Admission testing will continue for inpatient Behavioral Health Units.
- Admission testing will continue for patients with symptoms concerning for COVID-19.
- Admission testing will continue for patients who report close sustained contact with a person with an active COVID-19 infection and who have not had COVID-19 in the past 90 days.

The requirement for mask use in public areas (i.e., lobbies, waiting rooms, cafeteria, hallways, nursing stations) will end on Thursday, May 11, 2023.

Inpatient areas:

- Staff will continue to mask in all patient rooms, diagnostic/procedural rooms, and when providing direct individual care in close contact with patients.
- Patient and accompanying family/visitors are encouraged but not required to mask
- Ambulatory (Medical offices, draw stations, diagnostic imaging, etc.)

All areas:

- Staff will continue to adhere to all policies related to transmission-based precautions (i.e., isolation).
- Staff and visitors with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or other potentially communicable disease should remain home.

Heparin Flushing

A multidisciplinary group within Smilow has rolled out a new initiative to eliminate heparin flushing from all central lines. This is an important practice change to keep YNHHS aligned with national best practice standards. On Tuesday, May 2, 2023, all YNHHS nursing staff began to use the pulsatile and push-pause technique for CVAD flushing with NS. Heparin flushes, both 10 units/mL and 100 units/mL, have been removed from order sets, treatment plans, therapy plans, and patient care areas. Central line order sets and therapy/treatment plans should be consolidated to one order set and one therapy plan for the system.

Cisplatin Supply

Cisplatin supply remains on allocation; however, we have obtained sufficient quantity for our system for now. Currently, Cisplatin can be used for all treatment indications. We will continue to reevaluate our supply and provide updates as necessary.

Preferred Specialty Pharmacy for Specialty Medications

Effective Tuesday, May 9, 2023, Preferred Specialty Pharmacy will go live in all Smilow Outpatient Departments, including adult and pediatrics and two inpatient pediatric oncology units: YNH SP 73 BMT and YNH WP 7 Pedi Hem Onc and Epilepsy.

Preferred Specialty Pharmacy aims to improve the clinical continuity of care for our patients. When a clinician orders a specialty medication, the order will be sent to Outpatient Pharmacy Services at YNHHS (OPS), the preferred health system integrated specialty pharmacy. Once the benefits investigation is completed the OPS staff will then reach out to the patient to provide an introduction of services, providing the patient a choice of specialty pharmacies. A prior authorization (if required) will be completed on behalf of the clinic. If the patient prefers to continue with OPS then the patient will receive education and support from our specialty pharmacy team as outlined in our disease specific patient management programs. A liaison will schedule deliveries/pickups and refills. In addition, pharmacy staff will assess and coordinate need for financial assistance, if applicable.

Please contact [Terri Sue Rubino](#) or [Tina Do](#) with questions.

How Epic!

Read the latest issue of the [Building Against Burnout Newsletter](#) from the YM/YNHHS Epic team to learn how to use the Event Log report in Epic to get a step-by-step account of your patient's inpatient admission, including flowsheet information, medication administration, note entry, patient movements, and more.

Please join the Epic team for their next [Building Against Burnout Webinar](#) on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 12:15pm on Epic Smart Tools.

Smilow Star!

Wendy Marin is the spirit of NP11. A PCA on the unit, the enthusiasm and pride she displays daily is equal to what she shows her patients. Each encounter she has with her patients is filled with compassion, joy, and laughter. She is forever seeking that little something special that she can do for her patients to make their day a little brighter. The direct care she provides her patients is exceptional. She is always collaborating with her peers to ensure that every patient care need is met, while continually striving to assist with reaching patient and unit outcomes.

Wendy has an extraordinary talent for art and design and has become the official unit theme decorator. With every season and every holiday, Wendy does a whirlwind makeover of the unit. We all watch breathlessly as she brings us from Valentine's Day to St. Patrick's Day to Easter and Spring. Each change in

season is marked with new decorations. Whether it is celebrating a patient or staff's birthday (complete with a cake, tiara, and song), or planning an anniversary dinner for a patient and their spouse; Wendy's mission is to make everyone smile. It is a joy to watch her work. Her enthusiasm and pride in our unit brings everyone together. Wendy embodies the spirit of Smilow, demonstrating all the different ways we can make our patients' and colleagues' lives a little better every day. Thank you, Wendy!



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

