

## Smilow Update: December 22, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

### COVID Vaccine

- As a reminder, the vaccination scheduling process is being managed through **Epic MyChart**. If you do not have a MyChart account, please create one at: <https://mychart.ynhhs.org/mychart-prd/signup>.
- Invitations to schedule vaccination are sent through MyChart – please make sure you are checking whichever email address you used to enroll in MyChart – in many cases that may be your personal email address.
- Emails were sent to all YNHH medical staff eligible for vaccination in these next 8 weeks across the System. If you feel you should be eligible but have not been contacted, send an email to [VaccineEligibility@ynhh.org](mailto:VaccineEligibility@ynhh.org)
- If you do not have clinical privileges at YNHH but are a health care worker employed by Yale University, Yale Medicine, or Yale Health, you will be eligible for vaccination at Yale Health starting on December 29.
- **Scripting for Patient Inquires:** “We are following guidance from the State of Connecticut and our current supply is being used to vaccinate our healthcare workers. The vaccination plan is currently being evaluated for people with cancer. We will follow FDA, CDC, and State of Connecticut guidelines on when and how cancer patients can be vaccinated safely. We will update you as soon as we have more information.”

### Social Work

A reminder that requests for routine social work support should be submitted through EPIC, and will be triaged within five business days. If there is an urgent need, such as high distress, or a patient has immediate transportation issues, please call the social work office directly at 203-688-2195. For emergencies such as a patient that is suicidal or has concerns about personal safety, please call the social work emergency number at 475-247-6276.

Please reach out to [Constance Smith](#) with any questions or concerns as we continue to find ways to work collaboratively and better the patient experience on main campus and at our Care Centers.

### Clinical Research Update

The Yale Cancer Center Clinical Trials Office leadership has announced a reorganization of its structure to streamline the operations and create a new position of Medical Director

of the Clinical Trials Office. This CTO Medical Director will replace two current positions, including the Assistant Director of the CTO for Medical Oncology and the Assistant Director of the CTO for Hematology. We would like to extend our appreciation to **Dr. Scott Gettinger** and **Dr. Thomas Prebet** for their service during a time of growth and transition over the last three years, and look forward to their continued leadership in our clinical research efforts. More details on the newly created Medical Director position will be forthcoming, including opportunities for internal candidates to apply.

### Telehealth Updates

- Please note that the time spent in face-to-face time using the current Zoom platform is readily evident, so please bill accordingly.
- Archived training using the new Zoom platform is still available [here](#).
- Every state has individual requirements for telehealth. You must be cleared to practice medicine in the state that the patient is actually located at the time of the visit. You can check each state's requirements [here](#). This is particularly important for patients who might be in New York state (for Greenwich and Fairfield/Trumbull—currently video visits are allowed with a CT state license, but this is scheduled to expire 1/1/2021, although it may be renewed) or in Rhode Island (for providers practicing at Lawrence + Memorial).

### Smilow Star!

On a daily basis, physicians and staff at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Greenwich comment on how thankful and lucky they are to be working with **Elizabeth Gineo, RN**, Nursing Professional Development Specialist. Liz supports the entire clinical team including ACAs, practice nurses, infusion nurses, RNCs, and physicians to ensure a safe, effective, and efficient environment of care for our patients in Greenwich. She assists with IV insertion and verifying chemotherapy orders, all while observing and educating. Liz is the go-to person with any questions on documentation issues or with EPIC, and addresses problems head on. Always willing to take initiative and jump in when needed, Liz is a Smilow Star!

Liz is pictured here participating in the Smilow Cancer Hospital Closer to Free Spin Event at Greenwich Hospital in September.



**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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