

Medical Staff News

Newsletter for the Medical Staff of Greenwich Hospital | October 2024

Yale
NewHaven
Health
Greenwich
Hospital

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From the desk of the CMO

Updated information from HHS on non-discrimination criteria

Karen Santucci, MD, Chief Medical Officer

Dear Mighty Team,

On May 6, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published its final rule revamping the non-discrimination regulations issued under section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act. It is important to know that the revised rules apply to all healthcare providers that receive (directly or indirectly) federal financial assistance, including, but not limited to participation in Medicare or Medicaid. Section 1557 is intended to protect individuals from discrimination in health care on the basis of all protected categories: race, color, national origin, sex, age and disability. This rule provides clarity on Section 1557 and will help ensure non-discriminatory access to care for all including women, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, those with limited English proficiency (LEP), people of color, and people regardless of age.

The hope is to balance technology's role in reducing health disparities and increasing access to care with the need for responsible use of these tools that do not lead to discrimination in patient care.

The final rule requires those covered to make reasonable efforts to identify patient care decision support tools that use input variables or factors that measure race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, and to make reasonable efforts to mitigate the risk of discrimination that may result from the use of such tools.

We need to implement policies and procedures to ensure compliance. In particular, we must focus on providing language assistance services for people with LEP and ensure effective communication and reasonable modifications for people with disabilities. We are required to train staff on our policies and procedures.

The nondiscrimination requirements apply to health programs and activities provided through telehealth services as well.

Thank you for your help in implementing these rules. Wishing you all a great October and Happy Halloween,

Karen

Greenwich Hospital now offering pulsed field ablation for atrial fibrillation

YNHHS Heart and Vascular Center is a leader in delivering advanced patient care for arrhythmias and our treatment for atrial fibrillation (AFib) has expanded to include pulsed field ablation.

YNHHS now offers the FARAPULSE™ Pulsed Field Ablation System, advanced technology that uses a non-thermal approach to treat atrial fibrillation. Pulsed field ablation uses short electrical pulses to ablate cells triggering the AFib without damaging surrounding structures.

Advantages of pulsed field ablation include:

- Focused thermal electric energy that does not damage surrounding structures
- Shorter ablation procedure time compared to traditional ablation techniques
- Low complication rates compared to traditional ablation techniques

Atrial fibrillation is one of the most common abnormal heart rhythms that can have life-threatening consequences if left untreated. In addition to being offered at Greenwich Hospital, pulsed field ablation is now also offered by Yale Medicine and Northeast Medical Group physicians at Bridgeport and Yale New Haven hospitals.

To make a patient referral on Epic, place an ambulatory referral to a Yale New Haven Health Heart and Vascular Center cardiologist and/or electrophysiologist.

Flu vaccination mandatory by Dec. 1

A reminder to all medical staff: as a condition of your medical staff appointment, you must receive a flu vaccination annually or provide an approved medical or religious exemption. This requirement also applies to employees who work remotely.

Onsite flu vaccinations are currently underway at locations throughout the health system. The deadline to comply with the flu vaccination program is **Dec. 1, 2024**.

The 2024-2025 Moderna mRNA COVID vaccine is also available for employees and physicians at onsite vaccination clinics. This latest vaccine, while not mandatory, is highly recommended to help protect against currently circulating variants of COVID-19.

Employed physicians may schedule an appointment for an onsite flu vaccination by going to Infor and under Employee Information, selecting Employee Health/Get Your Flu Vaccine or an onsite COVID vaccine by selecting Employee Health/Get a COVID Vaccine.

Non-employed Licensed Independent Practitioners may schedule an appointment for a flu vaccine at <https://fluvaccination.ynhh.org> or a COVID vaccination through <https://vaccinepartner.ynhh.org/>.

See below for the dates and times of the remaining vaccination fairs at Greenwich Hospital (Noble Conference Room). Please schedule an appointment for a convenient date and time.

Thursday, Oct. 24	8:30 am – 3:30 pm ^{FT}
Wednesday, Oct. 30	8:30 am – 3:30 pm* ^{FT}
Thursday, Oct. 31	8:30 am – 3:30 pm ^{FT}
Saturday, Nov. 2	7:30 am – 1:30 pm
Thursday, Nov. 14	8:30 am – 3:30 pm ^{FT}
Saturday, Nov. 16	7:30 am – 1:30 pm
Thursday, Nov. 21	7:30 am – 6:30 pm* ^{FT}
Wednesday, Nov. 27	8:30 am – 3:30 pm ^{FT}
Friday, Nov. 29	10:30 am – 3:30 pm ^{FT}

**denotes Moderna mRNA COVID booster offered on this date*

In addition to the onsite locations, staff may choose to get vaccinated by their primary care physician, at a YNHHS outpatient pharmacy or at a participating retail pharmacy in either the CVS Caremark vaccination network or a CVS Minute Clinic.

Employed physicians enrolled in a YNHHS Medical Plan will have their copay waived if they get vaccinated at one of these participating retail pharmacies after Sept. 1, 2024.

Additional details about vaccination options, including how to submit documentation of vaccination by a primary care provider or participating pharmacy are available on Infor. For additional questions, email vaccineinfo@ynhh.org.

Fit testing offered at select vaccination fairs

Fit testing, for those who require it, will be accommodated at select flu vaccination fairs across all delivery networks on a walk-in basis, no appointment necessary (appointments are required for flu/covid vaccines).

^{FT}denotes vaccination fairs where fit testing will be available for walk-ins.

For additional questions/information, please email vaccineinfo@ynhh.org.

GH surgeon named 2024 healthcare hero



Athanassios Petrotos, MD, medical director of Trauma at Greenwich Hospital, and assistant professor of Surgery, YSM, was named a 2024 Healthcare Hero by the *Hartford Business Journal*. Dr. Petrotos, who won in the category of physician, practices general, acute care and minimally invasive surgery. This past year, he played a pivotal role in the hospital's Level III Trauma Center designation from the American College of Surgeons and the State of Connecticut.

The 23 honorees throughout Connecticut were chosen in nine categories including physicians, nurses, volunteers and mental healthcare providers. Heroes were nominated by those who know their work the best – coworkers, patients, etc. They share a common passion for the services they provide and life-changing impacts they have on the lives of others.

Other YNHHS honorees include Father Adrian Budica, director, Spiritual Care and Education, Bridgeport Hospital; Elyssa Noce Ely, APRN, nurse practitioner, Yale New Haven Hospital; and Pedro Hernandez IV, RN, Yale New Haven Hospital.

Congratulations!

GH awarded for quality leadership

Vizient, Inc. recognized Greenwich Hospital recently as a top performer in the 2024 Bernard A. Birnbaum, MD, Quality Leadership Study. GH was recognized for demonstrating excellence in delivering high-quality care based on the Vizient Quality and Accountability Study, conducted annually since 2005.

The study measures performance on the quality of patient care in six domains: safety, mortality, effectiveness, efficiency, patient centeredness and equity of care. It factors in measures from the Vizient Clinical Data Base and includes performance data from the HCAHPS (Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems) survey and the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network.

Five YNHCH pediatric subspecialties achieve national recognition from *U.S. News & World Report*

Yale New Haven Children's Hospital (YNHCH), the top-ranked children's hospital in Connecticut, has been ranked among the best children's hospitals in the nation for five out of 11 pediatric subspecialties in the 2024-2025 Best Children's Hospitals rankings, published by *U.S. News & World Report*. YNHCH was nationally recognized in Urology (18), Diabetes and Endocrinology (29), Neonatology (38), Gastroenterology and GI Surgery (39) and listed among the top 50 in Behavioral Health.

Yale New Haven Children's Hospital is a national leader in pediatric care with campuses in New Haven and Bridgeport and program services and sites across the health system and the region. The network of eight integrated Pediatric Specialty Centers, including one at 500 West Putnam Ave. in Greenwich, provides access to more than 35 pediatric medical and surgical subspecialties across the region.

YNHHS rebrands PhysicianOne Urgent Care Centers

Yale New Haven Health recently announced the launch of the health system's newly branded urgent care centers with the opening of Yale New Haven Health Urgent Care in Fairfield. The Fairfield location is the first new center to open under the new Yale New Haven Health Urgent Care name, following the health system's acquisition of PhysicianOne Urgent Care last year.

Yale New Haven Health Urgent Care now has 23 locations and provides high-quality, easily accessible, walk-in and 24/7 virtual medical care for non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries. All locations throughout Connecticut and New York provide services 365 days per year, with walk-in care 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 5 pm on weekends and holidays.

Safety Matters

Supporting the “second victim”

Adverse patient events can negatively affect the healthcare worker’s ability to deliver safe care. After an adverse patient event, more than 50 percent of involved healthcare workers become “second victims” and they may experience feelings of remorse, guilt, anxiety and depression. Second victim support programs have been shown to reduce the individual’s distress by providing psychological support, fostering coping strategies, and promoting individual resilience. Moreover, second victim support programs are a powerful signal against blame culture and reinforce that second victim’s personal and professional wellbeing is important. A well-supported second victim will be better able to move on rapidly after a stressful event and help to identify corrective actions to prevent the reoccurrence of the same system failure.

Take away: Leaders, please provide easy access to Peer Support Team resources after an adverse patient event to support the second victim. In addition, the Peer Support Team has partnered with the Employee and Family Resources program to provide confidential counseling to second victims.

Library Services resources for staff

The library at Greenwich Hospital provides access to outstanding health information resources and services that support education, research and patient care.

Reference services

The library staff is happy to help you search library resources, both in-person and online. Whether you’re looking for a book or article, conducting a basic or advanced literature search or unsure of where to begin, staff is available to help.

Contact: Donna Belcinski, MLS, MS at 203-863-3293.

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline to submit content for the November 2024 issue of *Medical Staff News* is Friday, Nov. 1, 2024. Please submit items for consideration to Karen Santucci, MD, at karen.santucci@greenwichhospital.org or Myra Stanley at myra.stanley@ynhh.org.

Save the Date: Nov. 19 Medical Staff Cocktail Reception and Meet & Greet

Medical staff members are invited to the Medical Staff Cocktail Reception to welcome the newest members of the medical staff as well as our primary care physicians. The reception is an opportunity to meet each other and network. Reception is Tuesday, Nov. 19, in the Garden Cafe (immediately following the Medical Staff meeting). Please make every effort to attend.

Digestive Health Virtual CME Series 2024: Trust Your Gut – Nov. 21

Yale Medicine and Yale New Haven Health host a free, virtual Digestive Health CME series, called Trust Your Gut, on the third Thursday of each month at 5 pm.

On Nov. 21, presenters James Farrell, MD, and Julie Schmidt, APRN, will present *Pancreatic Cyst on CT, What to do now?* Yale School of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ per session, a total of 12.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ for the series.

To register, visit the Yale CME portal at yale.cloud-cme.com.

Save the Date: Nov. 22 for Yale Obesity Symposium – CME Event

The Yale Obesity Symposium is a one-day CME event designed to improve the skill set of general practitioners in treating the disease of obesity, discuss new developments and how to apply them based on input from leading experts in the field.

The symposium is Friday, Nov. 22, 7:45 am - 4 pm, at The Anlyan Center, 300 Cedar St., New Haven. Course directors include: Bubu Banini, MD, PhD; Jorge O. Moreno, MD; John Morton, MD, MPH; Brian Wojcek, MD, MPH.

Credits: *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* (6.00 hours), Non-Physician Attendance (6.00 hours). To register, visit cme@yale.edu or yale.cloud-cme.com.

MEDICAL STAFF CHANGES (September 2024)

Appointees



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Resignations

Yousif Ahmad, MD (Medicine Cardiology) Resigned 6/30/2024

Rebecca Beagan, MD (Pediatrics Hospital Medicine) Resigned 7/6/2024

Taralyn Cronin, DO (Pediatrics Allergy/Immunology) Resigned 8/9/2024

Lauren Einfrank, APRN (Medicine) Effective 7/19/2024

Alan Enriquez, MD (Medicine- ardiology) Effective 8/19/2024

Richard Forthwith, PhD (Psychiatry) Effective 12/31/2024

Alexandria Georgadarellis, MD (Pediatrics Hospital Medicine) Effective 7/6/2024

Deepthi Gunasekaran, MD (Medicine Nephrology) Resigned 7/7/2024

Ateeq Haseeb, MD (Medicine Neurology) Resigned 7/31/2024

Mark Landreneau, MD (Medicine Neurology Telestroke) Resigned 9/30/2024

Molly Ludwig, APRN (Orthopaedics) Resigned 7/12/2024

Tomonori Nakagama, MD (Medicine) Effective 8/20/2024

Nicholas Tsamparlis, MD (Medicine) Resigned 7/23/2024