

Medical Staff News

Newsletter for the Medical Staff of Greenwich Hospital | November 2024

Yale
NewHaven
Health
Greenwich
Hospital

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From the desk of the CMO

Gratitude

Karen Santucci, MD, Chief Medical Officer

Dear Mighty Team,

In this month of November, I thought it would be important to talk briefly about gratitude.

Gratitude can be experienced spontaneously, but it can be cultivated consciously, and this awareness might benefit all of us.

When we practice gratitude, we experience mental health benefits.

For a long time, I left the hospital thinking about what I didn't get done or do well. I still think of those things daily, but now make it a point to think about what did go well and what did get done, and I try to practice being thankful for those things.

Taking a couple of seconds to hold a door, make eye contact or greet a colleague as we are rushing down a hall might invoke a smile, or a nod and we can be grateful for that human connection and that contact.

When we recognize what we have, rather than what we don't, we can also feel an elevation in our mood. So much of life is our perspective, and we can't control a lot around us, but we can try to be mindful of how WE respond to it.

Each day, try to think of three good things that happened. I will start you with your first... I kept this note brief! Okay here is a second, I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving! You just need one more for today—I know you can do it!

There is always something to be grateful for and I am grateful for you,

Karen

YNHHS, HHC celebrate Connecticut Proton groundbreaking



Yale New Haven Health and Hartford HealthCare (HHC) broke ground recently on a facility that will offer the most advanced form of radiation treatment for cancer patients in Connecticut.

The Connecticut Proton Center will deliver proton beam therapy at this leading-edge facility currently under construction in Wallingford, representing a significant milestone in cancer care.

Using highly targeted radiological proton therapy rather than X-rays to treat cancer, this therapy is currently only available at a handful of facilities in the Northeast. The 25,000-square-foot center will be the first in Connecticut.

Connecticut Proton is a collaborative effort between two of the state's leading health systems, YNHHS and HHC, with Proton International, a global leader in proton therapy, providing expertise in facility development and operations.

The chief advantage of proton therapy, which is a type of radiation therapy that uses a high energy beam of protons to irradiate cancer, is the provider's ability to finely control the dose. With a proton beam, providers can safely deliver higher doses of it directly to tumors, which also means fewer side effects and improved outcomes from the treatment.

Construction of the Connecticut Proton Center is expected to be completed by mid-2026, with the first patients receiving treatment in December 2026. This facility is poised to serve not only Connecticut residents but also patients from neighboring states, ensuring them access to the most advanced cancer care in the region.

The facility will include a treatment room, control room, exam rooms and other clinical space. It will be run by physicians and clinical colleagues from YNHHS and HHC.

William Oh, MD, named service line medical director of Smilow Cancer Hospital at Greenwich Hospital



Smilow Cancer Hospital at Greenwich Hospital has appointed William K. Oh, MD, service line medical director and director of precision medicine for Yale Cancer Center.

In his new role, Dr. Oh will serve as the oncology service line leader and regional physician leader

for lower Fairfield and Westchester counties at Smilow Cancer Hospital. At Greenwich Hospital, he will continue to develop integrated oncology care teams and expand the impact of multidisciplinary cancer care for patients in the region. In addition, for Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital, he will focus on building a cohesive program in precision medicine, integrating basic and translational science, clinical trials and Smilow Cancer Hospital's Precision Medicine Tumor Board.

Dr. Oh is a genitourinary oncologist with decades of experience caring for patients with prostate cancer. Before his appointment at Yale, Dr. Oh served as the chief medical officer and executive vice president of the Prostate Cancer Foundation, where he focused on barriers to the delivery of care for prostate cancer nationally.

He received his undergraduate degree at Yale University, earned his medical degree from New York University School of Medicine, and completed his internship and residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital before his clinical fellowship in medical oncology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Severe IV fluids shortage continues

The shortage of IV fluids (250mL, 500mL and 1000mL) continues. Please remember these important guidelines:

- Minimize waste and use oral hydration and oral medications whenever possible
- Evaluate the need for ongoing use of any IV fluid at the time of ordering
- When opening multi-packs, it is mandatory to label them with the date opened
- Avoid pre-spiking or opening IV fluids until needed

Before spiking a bag, ask yourself: Has necessity been critically assessed? Have all alternatives been considered? Is there an order?

See the latest information on the Supply Chain and Utilization dashboards which are updated daily and help with the assessment of the strength of our System supplies.

Have additional ideas on how to reduce IV fluid use? Submit your ideas on the IV Fluid Reduction Ideas survey.

Dec. 1 flu vaccination deadline approaching quickly

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 staff 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>.

New features added to Epic

The recent Epic upgrade which took place earlier this month offers several enhancements and new features including:

- The Search feature is now prominently placed on the front door of Epic, at the top center of the screen, for quicker navigation.
- New, more intuitive Epic downtime tool icons and enhanced training for improved user adoption during downtime.
- Ability to send messages to patients without an active MyChart account, providing a quick way to reach patients for tasks like scheduling appointments and filling out questionnaires.
- Diagnosis Aware Notes which provide the ability for a clinician to document the assessment and plan for each diagnosis.
- For providers with outpatient scheduled visits, Abridge (Ambient Listening) is now available inside Haiku and Canto mobile devices.
- Enhanced scanning of insurance cards reduces time at registration by pulling information directly from the card into Epic.

All Epic users are encouraged to review the available resources to help navigate these changes.

- Take a moment to visit the Epic Upgrade Page at <https://epic.ynhh.org> and review documents outlining these key changes and access upgrade training slides, tip sheets, webinar information.
- Keep an eye on your Epic Learning Home Dashboard by clicking the Tip Sheet button in your Hyperspace Toolbar.

Some of the most popular upgrade content may be found here:

- Epic Upgrade Training Portal
- Epic Upgrade for All Hyperspace Users – Universal Changes
- Physician and Provider Upgrade Resources
- Epic Moments-60 Second or Less Videos for Physicians and Providers
- Nursing Upgrade Resources
- Changes Coming to Epic Downtime Icons

GH physician elected president of Fairfield County Medical Association



Joseph Feuerstein, MD, Integrative Medicine, was elected president of the board of trustees of the Fairfield County Medical Association (FCMA) at its annual meeting recently.

In addition to practicing as an attending physician at GH, Dr. Feuerstein is also assistant professor,

Medicine, Columbia University; assistant professor at Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University; and on the faculty of the University of Arizona Andrew Weil Center for Integrated Medicine. Dr. Feuerstein also has a private practice in Greenwich serving lower Fairfield County residents.

Founded in 1792, the purpose of the Fairfield County Medical Association is to bring together the doctors of medicine of Fairfield County, CT; to increase their knowledge in the art and science of medicine; to enlighten the public in matters of health and to promote the health of the community. The organization currently has nearly 1,000 physician members.

Dr. Feuerstein aims to offer innovative solutions and new opportunities through Fairfield County Medical Association resources, empowering physicians to thrive in today's evolving medical landscape and serve their communities more effectively.

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.

Interlibrary loan

Interlibrary loan can provide an article that is not in your library's collection at no cost to you. Request forms are built into several databases. It can also be as simple as emailing your librarian.

Contact: Donna Belcinski, MLS, MS at 203-863-3293 or donna.belcinski@greenwichhospital.org.

Safety Matters

Communicate Clearly – Repeat Backs and Read Backs

In healthcare we use Repeat Backs/Read Backs as a part of a closed-loop communication strategy to validate and verify that information exchanged is correct. We use this to prevent errors in high-risk workflows such as patient identification, communication of critical lab values, initiation of blood transfusions, high-alert medication administrations and emergent medication administration. These techniques are also essential with all patient communication, particularly when there are limitations with language and health literacy.

A review of data collected in SAFER tells that on average, Care Coordination events make up approximately 22 percent of patient safety events with Inadequate Communication being one of five subcategories within that domain. We can work towards significantly reducing the number of patient safety events just by utilizing our CHAMP techniques of Communicate Clearly.

Take away: When communicating with patients and other personnel, attempt to find a quiet place to reduce distractions and disruptions. Incorporate the use of repeat backs and read backs to prevent communication failures which could, in turn, reduce a significant number of patient safety events.

In the News: 24/7 Baby Program

Yale New Haven Children's Hospital's 24/7 BABY program connects neonatologists directly with emergency medical services with the primary aim of improving prehospital care for babies born outside the hospital. The program combines community outreach and education with real-time expert assistance for neonatal emergencies during field deliveries via direct audio and/or video.

This collaboration outside the hospital is the first of its kind nationally, and any first responder can activate the service by dialing the number directly (475-247-BABY/2229) or by requesting connection through regional EMS medical control. Advice aligns with the American Academy of Pediatrics Neonatal Resuscitation Program and Connecticut State EMS Protocols. All recommendations cater specifically to individual first responder scope of practice. Access to 247 BABY is free and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Please direct any questions to brooke.redmond@yale.edu.

See the newsclip from NBC CT news <https://bit.ly/247BABY>

Digestive Health Virtual CME Series 2024: Trust Your Gut – Dec. 19

Yale New Haven Health and Yale Medicine host a free, virtual Digestive Health CME series, called Trust Your Gut, on the third Thursday of each month at 5 pm. The series provides digestive health educational programming, professional development and networking opportunities for physicians and advanced practice providers.

On Dec. 19, presenters Veronica Arceri, PharmD, and Alvin Imaeda, MD, will provide an update on Pharmacotherapy for Weight Loss.

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.

Newsletter Submissions

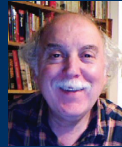
Deadline to submit content for the December 2024 issue of *Medical Staff News* is Friday, Nov. 29, 2024. Please submit items for consideration to Karen Santucci, MD, at karen.santucci@greenwichhospital.org or Myra Stanley at myra.stanley@ynhh.org.

MEDICAL STAFF CHANGES (October 2024)

Appointees



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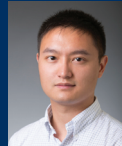
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Resignations

Kaoru Harada, MD (Allergy & Immunology) Effective 11/30/2024

Leora Hauptman, APRN (Gastroenterology) Effective 7/24/2024

Nathan Heller, MD (Internal Medicine) Effective 6/23/2024

Keira O'Reilly, PA (Orthopaedics) Effective 8/31/2023

Sebring Sands, PA (Orthopaedics) Effective 9/13/2024

Krista Ulrich, PA (Orthopaedics) Effective 08/15/2024



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