

Medical Staff News

Newsletter for the Medical Staff of Bridgeport Hospital | February 2022

Yale
NewHaven
Health
Bridgeport
Hospital

The Wellness Corner

A message from the Chief Wellness Officer

In 2018, after eight school snow days in March, this native southern Californian added an annual Outlook reminder on March 1st that says “Remember, weather doesn’t get good until the end of April. Plan social time and some good events. Don’t overschedule March!” I have variable success in adhering to that reminder, but the takeaway lesson is that when we become aware of patterns, we can anticipate and predict our wellbeing needs. We are in one such pattern right now.

As an organization, we are currently on the downslope of the Omicron Surge. While many of us may expect to feel better, experience and mental health experts tell us to anticipate something different: the adrenaline fall out gives us time to reflect upon the recent difficulties, our bodies fall into fatigue, and our moods respond to the disconnect between hopeful expectation and lackluster reality. Now is the time to mindfully attend to our need for rest, recovery and healing connection.

With that in mind, the BH organization continues to make efforts to support our hard working clinicians and staff. Community donors responded in record time to a recent request for support, enabling senior leadership and the Bridgeport Hospital Foundation to provide 5,343 restaurant prepared meals to our staff at the cost of \$41,280.18 to date. ITS efforts continue behind the scenes to streamline EPIC efficiency for our providers, and planning teams are working to bring wellbeing concepts into our orientation for new hires.

One benefit that deserves special mention is our Employee Wellbeing Check-Ins. In July 2020, Bridgeport Hospital was the second delivery network to pilot these voluntary, proactive 30-minute conversations with a mental health professional. During the confidential telephone call, individual medical staff and BH employees can talk with a supportive individual about their current coping and be

connected to appropriate resources. Beginning this month, we are re-launching these check-ins. If you would like to schedule one for yourself, please reach out to Elizabeth Locke at elizabeth.locke@bpthosp.org.

In the meantime, please remember, weather doesn’t get good until the end of April. Plan social time and some good events. Don’t overschedule March, or even February for that matter.

In gratitude,
Kristin Edwards, MD, Chief Wellness Officer

Wellbeing Resources

Medical Staff Portal <https://ynhhconnect.org/>

Includes more Wellbeing Resources and remote access for EPIC. The Wellness Hub is on the right under “Quick Clicks.”

Employee and Family Resources Call 877-275-6226 (24/7) or visit <https://www.achievesolutions.net>

Offering confidential counseling and work / life support services for YNHHS employees and family members.

Vaccination boosters required for medical staff, employees

In the continued efforts to combat COVID-19, Yale New Haven Health now requires all medical staff, employees, volunteers, contracted staff, and students to receive a COVID-19 vaccination and booster. The COVID-19 booster must be received by March 31 as a condition of employment. Those who originally had their second dose Moderna or Pfizer vaccine at least five months ago or a single dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least two months ago are eligible to receive the booster.

Continued on page 2

Vaccination boosters *Continued from cover*

Please schedule an appointment for a booster. Affiliated physicians not employed by YNHHS can schedule through <https://vaccinepartner.ynhh.org>.

Employed physicians can schedule an appointment by logging into Infor and choosing Schedule a COVID Booster in the Employee Health space.

Remaining onsite employee COVID-19 booster clinics

Bridgeport Campus	Milford Campus
Mill Hill B	Conference Room 1
Feb. 24	Feb. 22
March 3	March 1
March 10	March 8
March 17	March 22
March 24	March 29

Electronic Death Reporting System launches Feb. 28

The State of Connecticut has set Feb. 28 for the launch of electronic Connecticut death certificates within the state. Currently, all death certificates and reporting are manual paper driven processes.

In preparation for this change, YNHHS worked to optimize the decedent processes for all patient deaths within the Health System. This includes a Clinical Redesign project that enhanced the EPIC pathways for physician and nurse workflows for post-mortem care and developed morgue queues within Epic.

The launch of the State of CT Electronic Death Reporting System (EDRS) will require clinicians to begin certifying deaths in the electronic system after midnight on Feb. 27.

For more information, visit the Medical Staff Portal.



Paper death certificates will no longer be used beginning Feb. 28, 2022.

BH recognizes National Women Physicians Day by sharing perspectives from female physician leaders

In recognition of National Women Physicians Day on Feb. 3, Bridgeport Hospital hosted a webinar examining the role of female providers and how they will shape the future of medicine. During the event, Julie Silver, MD, director of Cancer Rehabilitation at Harvard Medical School, delivered a keynote address entitled, “Our time is now – leading, innovating and staying sane,” to a system-wide audience. Through her address, she shared strategies and advice for women in medicine to advance their careers while leading and mentoring others. Moderated by Magna Dias, MD, chair of Pediatrics, the event also included opening remarks supporting women in medicine by Marna Borgstrom, CEO, YNHHS and closing comments by Karen Santucci, MD, CMO, Greenwich Hospital.

Also in celebration of National Women Physician’s day, BH President Anne Diamond, in her biweekly coffee chat, hosted a panel discussion that included women medical staff leaders sharing their thoughts and detailing their career journeys. Moderated by Kristin Edwards, MD, medical director, Palliative Care, panelists included Drs. Dias, Monique Misra, executive director, Hospital Medicine; and Manisha Gupta, medical director, Primary Care.

When discussing biases or obstacles faced as a female physician, Dr. Gupta described how at times during her career, she has felt a constant pressure to be less assertive in order to not appear too aggressive, and being taught that she should not show weakness or vulnerability for fear of seeming less competent. Dr. Misra added that especially as a young resident, she found that her ideas and concerns were often dismissed while those of her male counterparts were welcomed and acted upon.

During the discussion, Dr. Dias commented that as leaders and teachers, she and other female physicians have the opportunity to make a difference in the next generation of female doctors by supporting them and being intentional about offering a diverse set of opportunities for everyone.

Feb. 3 is celebrated as National Women Physicians Day each year in recognition of the birthday of Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell’s, the first woman to earn a medical degree in the United States in 1849.

ECMO added to heart surgery toolkit



February is American Heart Month and the Heart and Vascular Center at Bridgeport Hospital continues to introduce new innovations to improve the safety and effectiveness of care. This includes the recent addition of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) during heart surgery. The ECMO machine is similar to the heart-lung bypass machine used in open-heart surgery. It pumps and oxygenates a patient's blood outside the body, allowing the heart and lungs to rest. It provides prolonged cardiac and respiratory support to patients whose heart and lungs are unable to produce an adequate amount of oxygen.

500th robotic surgery milestone at Milford Campus



Bridgeport Hospital leaders, including (l-r) Janet Serra, OR nurse manager; Sue Bojka, director of Nursing for perioperative services; Amy Mariconda, manager, Sterile Processing; Chief Medical Officer Victor Morris, MD, and Chair of Surgery Karen Gibbs, MD (second from right) joined orthopedic surgeon Joel Malin, MD (far right) to celebrate Dr. Malin's 500th robot-assisted surgery. Dr. Malin works with the Mako robotic surgery system, which allows for more precise placement of hip and knee implants, minimal blood loss and smaller scars, helps preserve healthy bone and soft tissue, and results in less post-operative pain, quicker recovery and a shorter hospital stay than manual techniques.

New scheduling application for providers on the way

The roll-out of QGenda, a cloud-based scheduling application, is underway to support physicians within YNHHS and Yale Medicine (YM). The new application is designed to provide a digital, single source to view and update on-call schedules and offer a common, enterprise solution beneficial to providers, and ultimately to patients, faculty and staff.

Through the QGenda mobile app, physicians will be able to shift schedules in real-time, sync schedules to their personal calendars, streamline requests and swap options. This platform, which will be shared across the health system, will enhance collaboration and reduce gaps in communication. A partnership of YNHHS and YM, the QGenda deployment is expected to be completed in June 2023.

The transition to QGenda began in fall 2021 and initial feedback has been positive. Once the deployment is complete, existing scheduling applications will no longer be supported for on-call scheduling.

Benefits of QGenda:

- **Easy updates:** Automation provides easy click-and-drag swapping and request options and push notifications, plus minimizes duplicative work.
- **Schedules on the go:** The mobile app allows the user to use their phone to view and swap schedules/shifts and sync them with their calendar, if desired.
- **Real-time updates:** Updates occur in real-time and meet strict requirements for performance, security, and accessibility.
- **One enterprise schedule:** Provides one source of scheduling information so that physicians and clinicians are referencing the same schedule; avoiding any gaps in coverage.

YNHHS will share more information regarding the roll-out in the coming months. To view a demo of the QGenda application, visit [QGenda Demonstration](#). For additional information or with questions, email medicineandhealth@yale.edu.

Study supports link between burnout and high reliability

Many pre-pandemic studies have demonstrated a link between provider burnout and events of patient harm. However, a recent study published in the *American Journal of Medical Quality* (Nov./Dec. 2021 issue) indicates that high reliability principles can decrease workplace burnout by over 50 percent. The authors conclude, “Few healthcare priorities are greater than mitigating provider burnout and preventing medical errors. Previously, it appeared that separate interventions were required to tackle each issue. However, (this study) demonstrates that these two issues could be addressed simultaneously.”

The study concludes that providers should practice CHAMP behaviors (communicate clearly, handoff effectively, attention to detail, mentor each other with 200 percent accountability and practice and accept a questioning attitude) daily to improve patient safety and employee well-being.

See more information on the study: **High Reliability Organization Principles Improve VA Workplace Burnout: The Truman THRIVE2 Model** - PubMed (nih.gov).
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34010164/>

Newsletter submissions

Deadline for submission of content for the March 2022 issue of *Medical Staff News* is Friday, Feb. 25, 2022.

Please submit items for consideration to
Alison Tighe at alison.tighe@bpthosp.org or
Myra Stanley at myra.stanley@ynhh.org.

Save the date: March 17 – Trust Your Gut Digestive Health session

YNHHS and Yale Medicine continue the free, monthly virtual Digestive Health CME series called Trust Your Gut. The yearlong series, held the third Thursday of each month at 5 pm, is designed to provide world-class digestive health educational programming, professional development and networking opportunities for physicians and advanced practice providers.

Tune in next month on March 17 when Xavier Llor, MD, PhD, and Karen Brown, MD, will present colon cancer screening updates. Yale School of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits per session, for a total of 12.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits for the series.

To register, visit the Yale CME portal at yale.cloudcme.com. For questions, contact Joe Mendes, executive director, Clinical Program Development, Digestive Health, at joseph.mendes@ynhh.org.