

Medical Staff News

Newsletter for the Medical Staff of Bridgeport Hospital | April 2024

Yale
NewHaven
Health
Bridgeport
Hospital

CMS Open Payments review and refute period is April 1 - May 15

The federally run CMS Open Payments program provides transparency and increases public awareness of financial relationships between the healthcare industry and certain healthcare providers and teaching hospitals.

This is accomplished by collecting and making public any payments or transfers of value from drug and device manufacturers to certain healthcare providers or teaching hospitals.

The Open Payments program includes these providers:

- MDs/DOs
- Physician assistants
- Nurse practitioners
- Clinical nurse specialists
- Certified registered nurse anesthetists, anesthesiologist assistants
- Certified nurse-midwives

Per Open Payments, all transfers of value from an industry representative to certain healthcare providers or teaching hospitals valued at or above \$10 or aggregate of \$100 per year are reported. Transfers of value may include food and beverage, entertainment, charitable contributions, speaking fees, royalties or licenses, grants, consulting fees, honoraria, travel and lodging, education, research and more. The nature and purpose of the amount will also be recorded and disclosed.

On April 1, CMS will begin the 45-day dispute period when healthcare providers can review their 2023 data posted by drug and device manufacturers. This review and dispute period gives physicians and other covered recipients the opportunity to dispute any inaccurate or incomplete data before it is published to the public on June 30.

Each YNHHS provider is responsible for reviewing their 2023 data and disputing any inaccurate information during the review and dispute period, April 1 - May 15. To do so, providers must register on the CMS Enterprise Portal and the Open Payments System.

Providers should ensure that all interactions with drug and device manufacturers comply with the YNHHS Interactions with Vendors policy, available on the employee intranet under Policies.

For more information, call 203-688-8416 or email conflictofinterest@ynhh.org.

Register for April 30 CME dinner

All physicians are invited to **Bandages and Beyond: Updates in Wound Care and Hyperbarics**, on Tuesday, April 30 at 6 pm at the Fairfield Museum and History Center, 370 Beach Rd, Fairfield, CT.

Speakers are Walter Cholewczynski, MD, chief, Center for Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine, Bridgeport Hospital and Diane Merkle, APRN, Center for Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine, Bridgeport Hospital

Objectives:

- State three common indications for hyperbaric oxygen (HBOT)
- State two mechanisms of action of HBOT
- State the rationale for selecting moist versus desiccating wound healing topicals

RSVP to alison.tighe@bpthosp.org.

The Bridgeport Hospital is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The Bridgeport Hospital designates this live activity for a maximum of 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

YNHHS launches Health at Home

Recognizing the significant health benefits that home care services bring to patients, Yale New Haven Health recently launched Health at Home, its home-based health service that includes home health, hospice and private-duty home care.

“We’ve supported our communities with home-based health services throughout the years, but the official launch of Health at Home highlights the comprehensive range of our services under one brand, one program,” said Katie O’Leary, YNHHS vice president, Post Acute Care Services.

YNHHS has provided home-based health services through its entities Home Care Plus and Visiting Nurse Association of Southeastern Connecticut (VNASCT), which were folded into YNHHS with the acquisitions of Milford Hospital in 2019 and Lawrence + Memorial Hospital in 2016, respectively. To better position post-acute care services in the market, Home Care Plus is part of Health at Home, and VNASCT remains an entity of L+M.

Adding perspective to the demand for home health services, Health at Home carries an average daily census of 1,800 patients – which exceeds the inpatient average daily census at Yale New Haven Hospital, the largest hospital in the state.

Health at Home serves patients in 57 towns in Fairfield, Middlesex, New Haven and New London counties with: **Licensed home health services** (also referred to as medically certified home care), working with the patient’s physician, nurses, therapists, social workers and home health aides; **Licensed home hospice services** (called certified Hospice Care), working with the patient’s physician and the Hospice Medical Director are provided to hospice patients wherever they call home; **Private-duty home care** (called Lifetime Care at Home) provides non-medical care through live-in and hourly aides and companions.

Visit Health at Home on at ynhhs.org/health-at-home to learn more about services.

April 25 Monthly Medical Staff Breakfast

Thursday, April 25, Medical Staff Lounge, 7 - 9 am

May 9 Medical Staff Update

The annual Medical Staff spring update will be Thursday, May 9, 6 pm at the Milford Yacht Club, 131 Trumbull Ave., Milford. RSVP to alison.tighe@bpthosp.

Mask use no longer required in general patient interactions

Due to the demonstrated decrease in respiratory viruses, YNHHS discontinued the mask use requirement for staff in patient interactions as of April 15, 2024. Staff will continue to be required to mask when indicated by standard or transmission-based precautions, including during the care of any patient who may have an acute respiratory infection.

Paul Possenti named PA of the year

Paul Possenti, PA, executive director of Emergency Services at Bridgeport Hospital, has been named Physician Assistant of the Year by ConnAPA, the Connecticut Academy of PAs. The award is given in recognition of a PA, nominated by their peers, for outstanding service provided to their patients, colleagues and community. Congratulations!

Joel Malin, MD, celebrates a robot-assisted surgery milestone



Joubin Bavarian (left), vice president, Operations, and Brooke Spadaccino (right), vice president, Orthopedic Services, celebrated the milestone with Dr. Malin (center) and his team.

Bridgeport Hospital orthopedic surgeon, Joel Malin, MD, performed his 1,000th robotic-assisted surgery at Milford Campus in March. 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.

Robotic surgery helps preserve healthy bone and soft tissue, and results in less post-operative pain, quicker recovery and a shorter hospital stay than manual techniques.

Doctors' Day 2024



Doctors at both Bridgeport Hospital campuses were invited to stop by for breakfast last month in celebration of Doctors' Day. (l-r) Bryan Kerner, MD, Anesthesiology; Latha Alaparathi, MD, associate CMO; James Garofalo, MD, Anesthesiology; and Richard Greiner, MD, associate chair, Emergency Medicine, posed for a quick photo before grabbing breakfast.

YNHHS eliminates race, ethnicity in evaluating pulmonary function testing results

As part of our ongoing commitment to provide equitable patient care, Yale New Haven Health and Yale School of Medicine (YSM) no longer use race or ethnicity for interpreting lung function in patients undergoing spirometry testing.

Last March, the American Thoracic Society and European Respiratory Society issued a joint recommendation to use the Global Lung Function Initiative (GLI) Race-Neutral equation to interpret lung function. Historically, the GLI standard equations have included correction factors based on a patient's reported race or ethnicity, which results in different interpretations of lung function.

Yale New Haven Health and YSM implemented the race-neutral equation in February. Pulmonary function test reports include a statement indicating that the new race-neutral standard is being used and how to best interpret the patient's results. For details, please refer to guidance in the Care Signature Asthma: Pediatric Ambulatory; and Care Signature COPD: Adult Inpatient pathways.

Save the Date

The Medical Staff Picnic will be Saturday, July 20 at 4 pm at the Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport. More details coming soon.

Paradigms, Pearls, and Pitfalls in Practice CME conference – May 15 and 16

Paradigms, Pearls and Pitfalls in Practice is a CME conference designed for clinicians to learn about the most important and recent updates in medicine on a variety of specialty topics. Speakers will deliver an engaging presentation highlighting their wisdom and practical insights in dealing with challenging clinical cases.

The conference is open to physicians and APPs and their designated learners (residents, medical students, APP students, etc.).

The event will be held at the Shelton Courtyard Marriott, 780 Bridgeport Ave., Shelton, 7 am – 1 pm. There is a \$75 per day registration fee (\$125 for both days).

Wednesday topics include:

- Diabetes management – Brian Wojeck, MD
- Updates on management of hyperlipidemia: Moving beyond LDL-C – Nihar Desai, MD
- Addressing cardio-reno-metabolic risk in 2024 – Nihar Desai, MD
- Approach to knee pain – David Bindelglass, MD
- Updates in COPD – Kavitha Gopalratnam, MD
- Pulmonary nodules and lung cancer screening – Jeffrey Kwon, MD

Thursday topics include:

- Obstructive sleep apnea – Brian Wojeck, MD
- Rheumatology pearls for the Internist: An internist's updated diagnostic approach to vasculitis – Robert McLean, MD
- Approach to arthritis – David Bindelglass, MD
- IBS, gut health & microbiome – Raquel Rozner, MD
- GERD and Refractory GERD – Lucy Shamberg, MD

Register online at www.bridgeporthospital.org/events and search for the program.

YNHHS now offers online blood draw appointments at many locations

Patients can now make appointments online to have blood drawn at 38 Yale New Haven Health outpatient blood draw locations throughout the region, including Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island. Visit ynhh.org/services/blood-draw-stations for a list of locations; those with online scheduling available will have a “book online” button at right.

Patients must have a current order for blood or lab testing from their provider. YNHHS blood draw locations will accept orders for other labs such as Quest.

Patients may still walk into a blood draw station without an appointment during business hours.

Digestive Health Virtual CME Series 2024: Trust Your Gut – May 16

Yale Medicine and Yale New Haven Health will continue to offer the free, monthly virtual Digestive Health CME series, called Trust Your Gut. The year-long series will again be held the third Thursday of each month at 5 pm throughout 2024.

The series provides digestive health educational programming, professional development and networking opportunities for physicians and advanced practice providers.

On May 16, presenters will share medical updates on GI Issues from presenters Anamika Reed, MD and Oz Harmanli, MD. 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. For questions, contact Joseph Mendes, executive director, clinical program development, Digestive Health at Joseph.Mendes@ynhh.org.

Library Services resources for staff – CINAHL database

The library at Bridgeport Hospital provides access to outstanding health information resources and services that support education, research and patient care. The hospital libraries promote the Yale New Haven Health care signature initiative by fostering an atmosphere of innovation, collaboration, cooperation and life-long learning in support of an academic health network. Each library is open to YNHHS faculty, students, staff and affiliates.

Access to the CINAHL database

The CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature) database allows users to search for content from journals in the fields of medicine, nursing allied health professions, alternative/complementary medicine and consumer health. The CINAHL database uses basic and advanced search features to help users effectively search and retrieve information.

Library staff can assist in locating the specific resource to meet your needs. At BH, contact:

Todd Lane MAT, MLS

Location: Podium 4

203-384-3615

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 7 am - 4:30 pm

Badge access is required evenings, weekends and holidays.

Newsletter submissions

Deadline for submission of content for the May 2024 issue of *Medical Staff News* is Tuesday, April 30, 2024.

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