

# Medical Staff News

Newsletter for the Medical Staff of Bridgeport Hospital | July/August 2022

Yale  
NewHaven  
**Health**  
Bridgeport  
Hospital

## The Wellness Corner

### A message from the Chief Wellness Officer



It feels daunting to write about wellness in the midst of current events: from frequent news of mass shootings to political division over Supreme Court rulings to local issues such as staffing challenges and budget deficit projections, there is much that seems out of control. When things appear out of control, it's challenging to experience agency and

self-efficacy, two qualities that contribute to wellbeing. It is in these times that doubling down on a few core wellness strategies can be essential to protecting our wellbeing: Those wellness strategies are 1) maintaining a focus on what we can control and 2) establishing small, concrete, short-term goals.

On an organizational level, Yale New Haven Health is making efforts to follow those strategies. Two significant efforts are worth noting:

Dr. Allen Hsiao, chief medical information officer and Dr. Nitu Kashyap, associate chief medical information officer, have been leading efforts to improve Epic inbasket volume. They call it the “inbasket diet plan.” One of the most exciting measures coming soon is an update to the MyChart login page for patients. While this may not sound relevant to you, the changes are specifically intended to help patients navigate MyChart better, sending most messages to office staff rather than physicians and APPs. You can benefit from these design changes by ensuring your practice has an inbasket pool management plan.

The second system effort is from Dr. Joni Hansson, medical director, Medical Staff Communication, Yale New Haven Hospital. Dr. Hansson and her team continue to optimize the Medical Staff Portal, an effort to increase communication with the medical staff and keep important news and resources accessible in one location. She and her team have released a brief video (<https://vimeo.com/714114553>) which demonstrates key features.

At Bridgeport locally, the leadership team recognizes that a sense of community is also important for wellbeing and is working on ways to increase connection. Plans are underway for an in-person New Medical Staff Reception on Sept. 15, and another engagement brainstorming session in October. In addition, Dr. Morris, Alison Tighe and I will be beginning Wellness Rounds with divisions to hear the major organizational issues that impact teams' wellbeing.

Those wellness strategies are equally effective on a personal level. At the beginning of the month, in the midst of many concerning news headlines, I was fortunate, yes fortunate, to spend the Fourth of July weekend covering our medicine teaching service as we transitioned to the new academic year. During this unique weekend, I had the opportunity to celebrate the skill, dedication and accomplishments of the outgoing residents while also witnessing the enthusiasm, compassion and curiosity of the incoming residents. I focused on my gratitude for them and for the opportunity to share a little wisdom and encouragement along their journeys. No matter what the external circumstances in your lives, I hope you find some similar moments to cherish what you have, appreciate those working alongside you, and impart your wisdom to the next generation. And may we all remember our agency in looking forward and helping to shape the future.

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.

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## YNHHS develops Care Signature pathways, FAQ for monkeypox

Yale New Haven Health has developed two Care Signature pathways for diagnosing and managing patients with monkeypox, based on its success in creating and using standardized clinical pathways during COVID-19.

The new Care Signature pathways include standardized processes for diagnosing and treating patients with suspected or confirmed monkeypox in both the outpatient and Emergency Department settings, supporting prompt and consistent care across YNHHS.

“For monkeypox, and future infectious disease outbreaks, we are leveraging our Care Signature approach to ensure that all clinicians have immediate, efficient access to the most up-to-date recommendations, which continue to evolve rapidly,” said Deborah Rhodes, MD, YNHHS vice president, Care Signature. “The pathways will ensure that we are safely and effectively managing patients with suspected or confirmed monkeypox, and that clinicians and other staff members are well supported.”

See excerpts from YNHHS’ frequently asked questions about monkeypox below. For more information, clinicians may refer to the Care Signature pathways, available in Epic and via the “Resources” tab on the Employee intranet, and the YNHHS High Impact Pathogen Plan on the Emergency Management SharePoint site. Additional information on monkeypox is available on the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

### Monkeypox FAQs

#### What is monkeypox?

A viral illness characterized by fever, headache, muscle aches and backache, lymph node swelling, chills, exhaustion and a rash that can look like pimples or blisters that appears in the mouth and other body parts, such as the hands, feet, chest, genitals or anus. While the monkeypox virus is related to the smallpox virus, it is a far less-dangerous disease than smallpox.

#### How widespread is the current monkeypox outbreak?

Most of the more than 2,000 cases documented have occurred in Europe. Monkeypox cases in the U.S have been seen mostly among travelers returning from countries with known outbreaks.

#### How does monkeypox spread?

The virus can spread when people are in close contact with one another for prolonged periods, or when there is direct skin contact with monkeypox skin lesions. Fortunately, monkeypox has not been shown to spread through the air over longer distances.

#### If I am involved in caring for a suspected or confirmed monkeypox patient, how should I protect myself?

Healthcare staff should wear gloves, a disposable gown, eye protection and a fit-tested respirator.

#### Do I need to monitor myself for symptoms if I am caring for a patient with monkeypox?

Yes. Watch for fever or chills, lymph node swelling and/or skin rash. You may continue to work, unless you develop symptoms. If you do, stay home and call Occupational Health at the Employee Resource Center (1-844-543-2147, select option 2, then press 2 to speak to an occupational telehealth nurse).

#### Is there a monkeypox vaccine?

The CDC does not currently recommend vaccination for people providing routine care for patients with monkeypox. However, a recently developed smallpox vaccine (JYNNEOS) may be administered if a significant, unprotected exposure occurs.

#### How is monkeypox treated?

Fortunately, most people will recover on their own in two to four weeks. However, some people, including children, pregnant women and people with suppressed or weakened immune systems, may be at higher risk of severe illness. Currently there are no specific medications or therapies approved for monkeypox treatment. If you have questions about treatment, consult an Infectious Disease specialist.

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## Newsletter submissions

Deadline for submission of content for the September 2022 issue of *Medical Staff News* is Friday, August 19, 2022.

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

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## Humans of the Medical Staff

*In order to help members of the Bridgeport Hospital Medical Staff learn more about each other, Medical Staff News features Humans of the Medical Staff where medical staff members share a few special human interest facts about themselves.*

### Spotlight: Kevin Sprague, MD, Emergency Medicine



**Q: What made you decide to work in health care?**

I started working in biotech as a chemist after graduating college. We were synthesizing compounds for early drug development. I was aware that the work we were doing would make a difference to patients, but I also realized that I would find it much more rewarding to actually be at the bedside helping patients. So, after a few years in that industry, I applied to medical school. I don't think anything compares to the feeling of helping someone at the bedside.

**Q: What do you like to do outside of work?**

I enjoy skiing in the winter and I have picked up playing tennis in the last few years.

**Q: Where do you like to vacation and why?**

After a few years of missing out on traveling, my family and I finally went to Disney in June of this year. We had a really great time at the parks, riding the roller coasters, seeing some of the characters, and spending time together.

**Q: What would people be surprised to know about you?**

I enjoy a growing collection of plants and want to have a full garden someday.



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## Renowned cardiac surgeon to lead Yale's Cardiac Surgery growth at Bridgeport Hospital



Gabriele Di Luozzo, MD, a leader and expert in the practice and research of complex cardiac surgery, recently began his role as medical director and section chief of Cardiac Surgery at Bridgeport Hospital, where he is responsible for expanding the portfolio of heart and vascular services in partnership with department and health system leadership.

“Dr. Di Luozzo is a highly respected adult cardiac surgeon, who brings with him a regional reputation for his work with patients with complex heart and aortic diseases,” said Arnar Geirsson, MD, chief of Cardiac Surgery, Yale New Haven Health.

Prior to joining Bridgeport Hospital, Dr. Di Luozzo lead the Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm Program and Aortic Surveillance Program at Mount Sinai Medical Center.

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## Save the date: Aug. 18 – next Trust Your Gut Digestive Health session

YNHHS and Yale Medicine have launched a 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 for the next session on Thursday, Aug. 18 when the topic will be constipation. The topic for the following session, on Sept. 15, will be anorectal disorders.

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.cloud-cme.com](http://yale.cloud-cme.com). For questions, contact Joe Mendes, executive director, Clinical Program Development, Digestive Health at [joseph.mendes@ynhh.org](mailto:joseph.mendes@ynhh.org).

## Epic tool helps patients share personal information with providers to enhance care

Yale New Haven Health recently launched Patient Story, a MyChart tool that gives patients the option of sharing information about their lives beyond what is in their medical record.

Patients may complete a short Patient Story questionnaire about their lifestyles, including hobbies and interests, religious or cultural traditions, and/or any concerns they have about their care. Participation in Patient Story is voluntary, and patients do not have to answer all of the questions.

Clinicians can access participating patients' responses by hovering over an icon within Epic Storyboard on the patient's chart.

## New Epic link connects clinicians with librarians

Yale New Haven Health clinicians are just one click away from a wealth of library resources thanks to the new Ask a Librarian link now live in Epic. The link can be found on the Epic landing page and in the library services tab. It directs users to a contact form which can be used to request several library services like literature searches.

The Ask a Librarian service is monitored by librarians at each YNHHS medical library and Yale School of Medicine's Cushing, Whitney Medical Library 8 am – 4 pm, Monday – Friday. All requests for services will be answered by the local librarian within one business day.

Visit the Ask a Librarian link in Epic for more information. Contact [Clinical.Lib\\_rarians@ynhh.org](mailto:Clinical.Lib_rarians@ynhh.org) with any questions.

## Patient-Centered Communication Principles – July and August

*Barbara Roehl, MD, Bridgeport Hospital consultant focusing on Patient Experience and provider/leader development, shares a monthly Patient-Centered Communication Principle.*

### July Patient-Centered Communication Principle: Manage Up

- **Saying positive statements** about other providers and staff shows our patient that a connected and united team is caring for them.
- **Who to manage up:** your peers, your care team, yourself. An example of managing up self, "Hello Mr. Watkins, I am Dr. Misra. I am a Hospitalist Physician. I specialize in caring for patients in the hospital and I have reviewed your chart. I will make sure to provide you with the best care while you are here."
- **Introduce new residents and fellows** (manage them up, explain why patients should have faith in them).

### August Patient-Centered Communication Principle: Give Patients a WOW moment

Patient Expect...	Go 1 extra Step (WOW Moment)
...their food tray to be delivered and placed on the bed tray	...make sure the bed tray is placed near the patient so they can reach the food
...you to be kind and informative	...connect on a personal level. Learn something personal or special about your patient and talk about it during your rounding.
...you to round on them and have brief discussion	...sit at the bedside without interruption for just a few minutes to make the patient feel part of their healthcare journey.
...you to take care of their medical needs	...address the patient's non-medical needs. Pay attention to their emotional needs.
...the team on the unit to take care of them without missing a beat	...make sure all hands are on deck to promote the wellbeing of patients no matter what your role is. This means being able to communicate across