

# Medical Staff News

Newsletter for the Medical Staff of Bridgeport Hospital | September 2023

Yale  
NewHaven  
**Health**  
Bridgeport  
Hospital

## New initiative aims to improve process for prescribing specialty medications

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance care for patients while simplifying workflows for clinicians, YNHHS and Yale Medicine have partnered with a firm called RxLightning to ease medication assistance program enrollment for patients receiving specialty medications. This applies to prescriptions sent and filled through the specialty pharmacy at YNHHS Outpatient Pharmacy Services (OPS). This initiative will reduce the time it takes for patients to begin treatment and reduce the administrative burden on our clinicians and clinic staff. This partnership could reduce the time to begin treatment with specialty drugs from several weeks to a few days.

With RxLightning, clinicians input their authorization code to approve a medication access program enrollment form instead of sending multiple emails, faxing, or having staff upload forms into Epic. The RxLightning process replaces multiple steps of communication with a single intervention.

Physicians who regularly send specialty prescriptions to OPS recently received an email from RxLightning inviting them to enroll in this service. It only takes a few minutes, but it can make a big difference for patients.

Questions and comments about the new process may be directed to Terri Sue Rubino, associate director, Specialty Pharmacy Services at [terrisue.rubino@ynhh.org](mailto:terrisue.rubino@ynhh.org).

## Reminder: New requirement for all DEA Registered Practitioners

In December 2022, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 enacted a new one-time, eight-hour training requirement for all Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)-registered practitioners on the treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders.

### Questions and answers related to this new requirement:

#### *Who is responsible for satisfying this new training requirement?*

All DEA-registered practitioners (except for veterinarians).

#### *How will practitioners be asked to report satisfying this new training requirement?*

As of June 27, 2023, practitioners are required to check a box on their online DEA registration form—regardless of whether a registrant is completing their initial registration application or renewing their registration—affirming that they have completed the new training requirement.

#### *What is the deadline for satisfying this new training requirement?*

The deadline for satisfying this new training requirement is the date of a practitioner's next scheduled DEA registration submission—regardless of whether it is an initial registration or a renewal registration—on or after June 27, 2023. This one-time training requirement affirmation will not be a part of future registration renewals.

*Continued on page 2*

### **How can practitioners satisfy this new training requirement?**

There are multiple ways that practitioners can satisfy this new training requirement.

First, the following groups of practitioners are deemed to have satisfied this training:

**Group 1:** All practitioners that are board certified in addiction medicine or addiction psychiatry from the American Board of Medical Specialties, the American Board of Addiction Medicine, or the American Osteopathic Association.

**Group 2:** All practitioners that graduated in good standing from a medical (allopathic or osteopathic), dental, physician assistant, or advanced practice nursing school in the United States within five years of June 27, 2023, and successfully completed a comprehensive curriculum that included at least eight hours of training on:

- Treating and managing patients with opioid or other substance use disorders, including the appropriate clinical use of all drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of a substance use disorder; or
- Safe pharmacological management of dental pain and screening, brief intervention, and referral for appropriate treatment of patients with or at risk of developing opioid and other substance use disorders.

Second, practitioners can satisfy this training by engaging in a total of eight hours of training on treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders from the groups listed below. A few key points related to this training:

1. The training does not have to occur in one session. It can be cumulative across multiple sessions that equal eight hours of training.

2. Past trainings on the treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders can count towards a practitioner meeting this requirement. In other words, if you received a relevant training prior to the enactment of this new training obligation on Dec. 29, 2022—that training counts towards the eight-hour requirement.
3. Past DATA-Waived trainings count towards a DEA registrant's 8-hour training requirement.
4. Trainings can occur in a variety of formats, including classroom settings, seminars at professional society meetings, or virtual offerings.

For information regarding the DEA Diversion Control Division, visit [www.DEAdiversion.usdoj.gov](http://www.DEAdiversion.usdoj.gov). With additional questions, contact the Diversion Control Division Policy Section at 571-362-3260.

---

## **YNHHS gears up for mandatory flu vaccinations**

Flu season will soon be upon us, and YNHHS is gearing up for its annual mandatory flu vaccination program designed to protect patients, families and employees.

Beginning in October, YNHHS will provide flu vaccinations for employees at locations throughout the health system. As a condition of continued employment, physicians and employees must receive a flu vaccination or have an approved medical or religious exemption. Onsite vaccinations will begin at Greenwich Hospital on Oct. 10. The deadline to receive the flu vaccination is Friday, Dec. 1, 2023.

Employed members of the medical staff may schedule their flu shot by signing into Infor, and then Employee Self-Service (ESS), or through the Employee Health section on the Infor landing page. Non-employed Licensed Independent Practitioners may schedule an appointment by visiting <https://fluvaccination.ynhh.org>.

Additional details about vaccination options, including how to submit documentation of vaccination by a primary care provider or participating pharmacy, will also be available on ESS. Information about applying for a medical or religious exemption is available on ESS as well. Employees must request the appropriate exemption by Oct. 14. For additional questions, contact [vaccineinfo@ynhh.org](mailto:vaccineinfo@ynhh.org).

## **CME Conference Oct. 21 – There and Back Again: An Unexpected Journey**

### **Rediscovering medicine after the pandemic**

Register for the one-day CME event based on updates in internal medicine topics for both inpatient and outpatient providers. The course will be a mix of group sessions and breakout sessions to select.

The CME conference is Saturday, Oct. 21 at the Trumbull Marriott Shelton, 180 Hawley Lane, Trumbull. Conference begins at 7 am and ends at 5:30 pm. Physicians, NPs, PAs, and their respective trainees who practice in internal medicine, hospital medicine, geriatrics, family medicine, primary care and urgent care are invited. An option to attend virtually is also available.

### **Presentations**

**Updates in Cardiology** – Victor Mejia, MD and Robert Sackstein, MD

Victor Mejia, MD, Interventional Cardiology; and program director, Interventional Cardiology, Yale University School of Medicine/Bridgeport Hospital. Robert Sackstein, MD, non-invasive cardiologist, Northeast Medical Group Heart and Vascular.

**Updates in Diabetes Care** – Guillermo Umpierrez, MD

Professor of Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism; chief of Diabetes and Endocrinology, Grady Health Systems; president, American Diabetes Association

**Updates in Asthma and COPD** – Isabel Bazan, MD

Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, Winchester Center for Lung Diseases, Yale New Haven Hospital; assistant professor of Medicine (Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine), Yale University School of Medicine.

**Updates in VTE** – Samuel Goldhaber, MD

Section head for Vascular Medicine and director, Thrombosis Research Group within the Cardiovascular Medicine Division of Brigham and Women's Hospital; professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School.

**Updates in Infectious Disease (Non-COVID)** –

Zane Saul, MD, chief of Infectious Disease, Bridgeport Hospital

### **Breakout Session A**

- Outpatient: Perioperative Care – Victor Morris, MD, CMO, Bridgeport Hospital
- Outpatient: LGBTQ Care – Vanessa Pomarico, APRN, Northeast Medical Group
- Inpatient: Pulmonary Embolism Response Team (PERT) - Kavitha Gopalratnam, MD, Pulmonary and Critical Care, Bridgeport Hospital
- Inpatient: Addiction Medicine – Melissa Weimer, DO, MCR, FASAM, medical director, Yale Addiction Medicine Consult Service, YNHH

### **Breakout Session B**

- Outpatient: Addiction Medicine – Cassandra Scott, MD, and Melissa Weimer, DO, MCR, FASAM; Emergency Medicine/Addiction Medicine, Bridgeport, Greenwich and Yale New Haven hospitals
- Outpatient: Diabetes/Weight Management – Brian Wojeck, MD, MPH, Endocrinologist, Sleep Medicine/Obesity Medicine/Weight Management specialist, Yale Medicine
- Inpatient: Perioperative Care – Jensa Morris, MD, director, Smilow Hospitalist Service

*Continued from page 3*

- Inpatient: Diabetes – Patricia Peter, MD, endocrinologist at Yale Diabetes Center

### **Breakout Session C**

- Outpatient: Post COVID – Lisa Sanders, MD, FACP, medical director, Yale New Haven Health Long COVID Consultation Clinic
- Outpatient: Thyroid – Patricia Peter, MD, endocrinologist at Yale Diabetes Center
- Inpatient: Stroke Care – Farhad Bahrassa, MD; vascular neurosurgeon; Trista Pennington, PA, Neurology; Jennifer Reynolds, RN, stroke coordinator; all at Bridgeport Hospital
- Inpatient: AFib/Arrhythmias – Murali Chiravuri, MD, electrophysiologist/cardiologist at Cardiac Specialists, president, Bridgeport Hospital Medical Staff

**Group Session:** Wellness  
Kristin Edwards, MD, et al.

To register, visit  
<https://qrcodes.pro/yy9g41>  
or scan this QR code.



Registration fees: Physicians (In-Person Event):  
\$150; APPs and Trainees (In-Person Event): \$100

Webinar Virtual Access Only: \$100

For information, contact: [Alan.Olson@bpthosp.org](mailto:Alan.Olson@bpthosp.org)

## **Save the date and register for Oct. 24 CME dinner**

### **Topic: Breast Cancer Update**

Tuesday, Oct. 24

5:30 pm networking - 6 pm presentation

Fairfield Museum and History Center


370 Beach Road, Fairfield

RSVP to [alison.tighe@bpthosp.org](mailto:alison.tighe@bpthosp.org).

## **Medical Staff breakfast this month on Sept. 28**

You are cordially invited to the

# Monthly Medical Staff Breakfast



**Last Thursday of every month**  
**7 – 9 am**

Medical Staff Lounge

A selection of breakfast foods  
will be served.

**YaleNewHavenHealth**  
Bridgeport Hospital

16702 (09/23)

## **Newsletter submissions**

Deadline for submission of content for the October 2023 issue of Medical Staff News is Friday, October 6, 2023. 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).