

Surgical ICU recognized with Beacon Award for Excellence



The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) has recognized the Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU) at the Bridgeport Campus with a gold-level Beacon Award for Excellence, the highest level a unit can achieve.

The national award recognizes unit caregivers who successfully improve patient outcomes and align practices with AACN's six Healthy Work Environment Standards, which include skilled communication, true collaboration, effective decision-making, appropriate staffing, meaningful recognition and authentic leadership.

The gold-level Beacon Award for Excellence shows an effective and systematic approach to policies, procedures and processes that include engagement of staff and key stakeholders; fact-based evaluation strategies for continuous process improvement; and performance measures that meet or exceed relevant benchmarks.

This is the second gold-level Beacon Award received by Bridgeport Hospital in the past two months. In August, the Milford Campus ICU was recognized with the same honor.

Bridgeport Hospital now offering new advanced AFib treatment

YNHHS Heart and Vascular Center is a leader in delivering advanced patient care for arrhythmias and treatment for atrial fibrillation (AFib) has now expanded to include pulsed field ablation. YNHHS now offers the FARAPULSE™ Pulsed Field Ablation System, advanced technology that uses a non-thermal approach to treat atrial fibrillation. Pulsed field ablation uses short electrical pulses to ablate cells triggering the AFib without damaging surrounding structures.

Advantages of pulsed field ablation include:

- Focused thermal electric energy that does not damage surrounding structures
- Shorter ablation procedure time compared to traditional ablation techniques
- Low complication rates compared to traditional ablation techniques

Atrial fibrillation is one of the most common abnormal heart rhythms that can have life-threatening consequences if left untreated. In addition to being offered at Bridgeport Hospital, pulsed field ablation is also now offered by Yale Medicine and Northeast Medical Group physicians at Greenwich and Yale New Haven hospitals.

To make a patient referral on Epic, place an ambulatory referral to a Yale New Haven Health Heart and Vascular Center cardiologist and/or electrophysiologist.

Flu vaccination mandatory by Dec. 1

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 employees 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 vaccination at <https://fluvaccination.ynhh.org> or a COVID vaccination through <https://vaccinepartner.ynhh.org/>

In addition to the onsite locations, staff may choose to get vaccinated by their primary care physician, at a YNHHS outpatient pharmacy or at a participating retail pharmacy in either the CVS Caremark vaccination network or a CVS Minute Clinic.

Employed physicians enrolled in a YNHHS Medical Plan will have their copay waived if they get vaccinated at one of these participating retail pharmacies after Sept. 1, 2024.

Additional details about vaccination options, including how to submit documentation of vaccination by a primary care provider or participating pharmacy are available on Infor. For additional questions, email vaccineinfo@ynhh.org.

For additional questions/information, please email vaccineinfo@ynhh.org.



Fit testing offered at select vaccination fairs

Fit testing, for those who require it, will be accommodated at select flu vaccination fairs across all delivery networks on a walk-in basis, no appointment necessary (appointments are required for flu/covid vaccines).

Severe IV fluid shortage continues

The IV fluid shortage (250mL, 500mL and 1000mL) announced earlier this month continues. To address this shortage, all staff must actively conserve the IV fluid supply and embrace all alternatives to IV fluid use:

- 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, staff should consider:

- Has necessity been critically assessed?
- Have all alternatives been considered?
- Is there an order?

The time is now to conserve and preserve. Watch for IV fluid shortage System Incident Management updates via email.

YNHHS rebrands PhysicanOne Urgent Care Centers

Yale New Haven Health recently announced the launch of the health system's newly branded urgent care centers with the opening of Yale New Haven Health Urgent Care in Fairfield. The Fairfield location is the first new center to open under the new Yale New Haven Health Urgent Care name, following the health system's acquisition of PhysicianOne Urgent Care last year.

Yale New Haven Health Urgent Care now has 23 locations and provides high-quality, easily accessible, walk-in and 24/7 virtual medical care for non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries. All locations throughout Connecticut and New York provide services 365 days per year, with walk-in care 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 5 pm on weekends and holidays.

BH chaplain named 2024 healthcare hero



Father Adrian Budica, director of Spiritual Care and Education at Bridgeport Hospital, was named a 2024 Healthcare Hero by the *Hartford Business Journal*. Fr. Budica, who won in the category of healthcare staff, oversees all chaplaincy staff and supervises the chaplain residents and interns in the Clinical Pastoral Education

program. This past year he aligned the spiritual care units at Bridgeport Hospital under one shared vision.

The 23 honorees throughout Connecticut were chosen in nine categories including physicians, nurses, volunteers and mental healthcare providers. Heroes were nominated by those who know their work the best – coworkers, patients, etc. They share a common passion for the services they provide and life-changing impacts they have on the lives of others.

Other YNHHS honorees include Athanassios Petrotos, MD, medical director of Trauma at Greenwich Hospital and assistant professor of Surgery, YSM; Elyssa Noce Ely, APRN, nurse practitioner, Yale New Haven Hospital; and Pedro Hernandez IV, RN, Yale New Haven Hospital.

Congratulations!

BH awarded Commission on Cancer reaccréditation

The Commission on Cancer (CoC), a quality program of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), recently granted three-year accreditation to Bridgeport Hospital as an Academic Comprehensive Cancer Program.

To earn this accreditation, a cancer program must meet 34 CoC quality care standards, be evaluated every three years through a survey process and maintain excellence in delivering comprehensive patient-centered care. CoC care standards include a review of processes and outcomes with a focus on the full continuum of care.

Five YNHCH pediatric subspecialties achieve national recognition from *U.S. News & World Report*

Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital (YNHCH), the top-ranked children’s hospital in Connecticut, has been ranked among the best children’s hospitals in the nation for five out of 11 pediatric subspecialties in the 2024-2025 Best Children’s Hospitals rankings, published by *U.S. News & World Report*. YNHCH was nationally recognized in Urology (18), Diabetes and Endocrinology (29), Neonatology (38), Gastroenterology and GI Surgery (39) and listed among the top 50 in Behavioral Health.

Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital is a national leader in pediatric care with campuses in New Haven and Bridgeport and program services and sites across the health system and the region. The network of eight integrated Pediatric Specialty Centers, including one at 5520 Park Ave. in Trumbull, provides access to more than 35 pediatric medical and surgical subspecialties across the region.

Safety Matters

Supporting the “second victim”

Adverse patient events can negatively affect a healthcare worker’s ability to deliver safe care. After an adverse patient event, more than 50 percent of involved healthcare workers become “second victims” and they may experience feelings of remorse, guilt, anxiety and depression. Second victim support programs have been shown to reduce the individual’s distress by providing psychological support, fostering coping strategies, and promoting individual resilience. Moreover, second victim support programs are a powerful signal against blame culture and reinforcement that second victim’s personal and professional wellbeing is important. A well-supported second victim will be better able to move on rapidly after a stressful event and help to identify corrective actions to prevent the recurrence of the same system failure.

Take away: Leaders, please provide easy access to Peer Support Team resources after an adverse patient event to support the second victim. In addition, the Peer Support Team has partnered with the Employee and Family Resources program to provide confidential counseling to second victims.

Library Services resources for staff

The library at Bridgeport Hospital provides access to outstanding health information resources and services that support education, research and patient care.

Reference services

The library staff is happy to help you search library resources, both in-person and online. Whether you're looking for a book or article, conducting a basic or advanced literature search or unsure of where to begin, staff is available to help.

Contact Todd Lane, MAT, MLS, Podium 4 at 203-384-3615. Library is open Mon. - Fri., 7 am – 4:30 pm. Badge access is required evenings, weekends and holidays.

39th Annual Ella T. Grasso Memorial Conference in Gynecologic Oncology Nov. 6

Register for this CME conference with presentations on the latest updates in gynecologic oncology. Conference takes place on Wednesday, Nov. 6, 8 am – 1 pm at Yale West Campus, 800 West Campus Dr., West Haven. To register: <https://bit.ly/conference-in-gynecologic-oncology>.

Digestive Health Virtual CME Series 2024: Trust Your Gut – Nov. 21

Yale Medicine and Yale New Haven Health 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 Nov. 21, presenters James Farrell, MD, and Julie Schmidt, APRN, will present Pancreatic Cyst on CT, What to do now? 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.

Save the Date: Nov. 22 for Yale Obesity Symposium – CME Event

The Yale Obesity Symposium is a one-day CME event designed to improve the skill set of general practitioners in treating the disease of obesity, discuss new developments and how to apply them based on input from leading experts in the field.

The symposium is Friday, Nov. 22, 7:45 am - 4 pm, at The Anlyan Center, 300 Cedar St., New Haven. Course directors include: Bubun Banini, MD, PhD; Jorge O. Moreno, MD; John Morton, MD, MPH, MHA; Brian Wojeck, MD, MPH.

Credits: AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ (6.00 hours), non-physician attendance (6.00 hours). To register, visit cme@yale.edu or yale.cloud-cme.com

Newsletter submissions

Deadline for submission of content for the November 2024 issue of *Medical Staff News* is Friday, Nov. 1, 2024.

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