

Medical Staff News

Newsletter for the Medical Staff of Bridgeport Hospital | November/December 2024

Yale
NewHaven
Health

Bridgeport
Hospital

Bridgeport Hospital certified by Joint Commission as Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center

Bridgeport Hospital has been certified by the Joint Commission as a Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center (TSC).

Offered in collaboration with the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, achieving TSC Certification means a hospital meets rigorous standards for performing endovascular thrombectomy and providing post-procedural care. Recent studies have shown the efficacy of mechanical thrombectomy for large vessel occlusive ischemic strokes, according to the Joint Commission.

Bridgeport Hospital was recently evaluated by the Joint Commission on a set of standardized performance measures for inpatient stroke care. This certification replaces Bridgeport Hospital's previous designation as a Primary Stroke Center by the Joint Commission. The Bridgeport Hospital Milford Campus is an Acute Stroke Ready Hospital.

THE STROKE CENTER

VOLUME 5
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BRIDGEPORT HOSPITAL IS ADVANCED THROMBECTOMY CAPABLE CERTIFIED

The success of the Stroke Program is a result of the hard work and dedication of the people and departments throughout the entire hospital. We are so appreciative of the teamwork and commitment of each and every one of you!

Meet the Stroke Team

From left to right: April Alfano, Michael Blake, Brittany Grasso, Jennifer Reynolds, Andressa Goncalves, Megan Heidenis, Charis Keane, Justin Cahill (not pictured Gary Bernardini, Farhad Bahrassa, Trista Pennington, Ineliz Santana).



New MRI at Bridgeport Hospital Milford Campus is providing state-of-the-art care

Leaders from Bridgeport Hospital celebrated an exciting milestone for the Milford Campus with a ribbon cutting recently for the new magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) suite. The Siemens Sola 1.5 MRI with Boost Technology was put into operation earlier this fall, and techs have already scanned nearly 750 patients. It has expanded access to top-tier medical imaging for patients, including new clinical capabilities in breast and prostate imaging. Patients are already seeing faster, more accurate and patient-friendly MRI scans.

The setup of the MRI suite is also unique to the Milford Campus and the most efficient in the health system. The area was designed for more productive workflows, which allows the Radiology team to care for more patients each day.

BH Burn Center joins Bridgeport Fire Department to raise awareness about Fire Prevention



The Connecticut Burn Center at Bridgeport Hospital and the Bridgeport Fire Department joined forces to educate the community during Fire Prevention Month, which is observed each October. Pictured, Alisa Savetamal, MD, director of The Connecticut Burn Center at Bridgeport Hospital, spoke about the importance of educating community members on fire safety at a Fire Prevention Month event with the Bridgeport Fire Department.

Severe IV fluid shortage continues

The IV fluid shortage (250mL, 500mL and 1000mL) announced earlier this fall 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?

See the latest information on the Supply Chain and Utilization dashboards. The dashboards are updated daily and help with the assessment of the strength of our System supplies.

Have additional ideas on how to reduce IV fluid use? Submit your ideas at the IV Fluid Reduction Ideas survey.

The time is NOW. Conserve and preserve.

New features added to Epic

The recent Epic upgrade offers several enhancements and new features including:

- The Search feature is now prominently placed on the front door of Epic, at the top center of the screen, for quicker navigation.
- New, more intuitive Epic downtime tool icons and enhanced training for improved user adoption during downtime.
- Ability to send messages to patients without an active MyChart account, providing a quick way to reach patients for tasks like scheduling appointments and filling out questionnaires.
- Diagnosis Aware Notes which provide the ability for a clinician to document the assessment and plan for each diagnosis.
- For providers with outpatient scheduled visits, Abridge (Ambient Listening) is now available inside Haiku and Canto mobile devices.
- Enhanced scanning of insurance cards reduces time at registration by pulling information directly from the card into Epic.

All Epic users are strongly encouraged to review the resources available to prepare for the coming changes.

- Take a moment to visit **the Epic Upgrade Page** at <https://epic.ynhh.org> and review documents outlining these key changes and access upgrade training slides, tip sheets, webinar information.
- Keep an eye on your **Epic Learning Home Dashboard** by clicking the **Tip Sheet** button in your Hyperspace Toolbar.

Some of the most popular upgrade content may be found here:

- Epic Upgrade Training Portal
- Epic Upgrade for All Hyperspace Users – Universal Changes
- Physician and Provider Upgrade Resources
- Epic Moments-60 Second or Less Videos for Physicians and Providers
- Nursing Upgrade Resources
- Changes Coming to Epic Downtime Icons

YNHHS, HHC celebrate Connecticut Proton groundbreaking



Yale New Haven Health and Hartford HealthCare recently broke ground on a facility that will offer the most advanced form of radiation treatment for cancer patients in Connecticut.

The Connecticut Proton Center will deliver proton beam therapy at a leading-edge facility under construction in Wallingford, representing a significant milestone in cancer care.

Using highly targeted radiological proton therapy rather than X-rays to treat cancer, this therapy is currently only available at a handful of facilities in the Northeast. The 25,000-square-foot center will be the first in Connecticut.

Connecticut Proton is a collaborative effort between two of the state's leading health systems, Hartford HealthCare and Yale New Haven Health, with Proton International, a global leader in proton therapy, providing expertise in facility development and operations.

The chief advantage of proton therapy, which is a type of radiation therapy that uses a high energy beam of protons to irradiate cancer, is the provider's ability to finely control the dose. With a proton beam, providers can safely deliver higher doses of it directly to tumors, which also means fewer side effects and improved outcomes from the treatment.

Construction of the Connecticut Proton Center is expected to be completed by mid-2026, with the first patients receiving treatment in December 2026. This facility is poised to serve not only Connecticut residents but also patients from neighboring states, ensuring them access to the most advanced cancer care in the region.

The facility will include a treatment room, control room, exam rooms and other clinical space. It will be run by physicians and clinical colleagues from YNHHS and HHC.

YNHHS and the Department of Consumer Protection share toy safety tips

Magna Dias, MD, chair of Pediatrics at Bridgeport Hospital, and professor of Pediatrics, YSM, offered remarks at a recent press conference where experts shared information for parents and caregivers about what to look out for regarding counterfeit toys and toys that can pose a danger to children. "Parents should look at age recommendations, warnings and instructions provided on toy packaging," said Dr. Dias. "These guidelines are put in place to ensure safety. If a toy does not have these types of guidelines, it's another red flag that this could be a counterfeit product."



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.

Interlibrary loan

Interlibrary loan can provide an article that is not in your library's collection at no cost to you. Request forms are built into several databases. It can also be as simple as emailing your librarian.

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

Safety Matters

Communicate Clearly – Repeat Backs and Read Backs

In healthcare Repeat Backs/Read Backs are used as a part of a closed-loop communication strategy to validate and verify that information exchanged is correct. These practices help prevent errors in high-risk workflows such as patient identification, communication of critical lab values, initiation of blood transfusions, high-alert medication administrations and emergent medication administration. These techniques are also essential with all patient communication, particularly when there are limitations with language and health literacy.

A review of data collected in SAFER tells that on average, Care Coordination events make up approximately 22 percent of patient safety events with Inadequate Communication being one of five subcategories within that domain. We can work towards significantly reducing the number of patient safety events just by utilizing our CHAMP techniques of Communicate Clearly.

Take away: When communicating with patients and other personnel, attempt to find a quiet place to reduce distractions and disruptions. Incorporate the use of repeat backs and read backs to prevent communication failures which could, in turn, reduce a significant number of patient safety events.

Digestive Health Virtual CME Series 2024: Trust Your Gut – Dec. 19

Yale New Haven Health and Yale Medicine 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 Dec. 19, presenters Veronica Arceri, PharmD, and Alvin Imaeda, MD, will provide an update on Pharmacotherapy for Weight Loss.

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.

Bridgeport Scholar welcomes submissions

The Bridgeport Hospital community is invited to contribute completed scholarship for preservation and electronic distribution. The Bridgeport Scholar institutional repository (IR) is an archive for collecting, preserving, and disseminating scholarly material created by the hospital and its community members. The objective is to promote discovery by collecting and preserving research conducted by members of the Bridgeport Hospital community.

Objectives:

1. Provide centralized access to research conducted by members of the hospital community.
2. Preserve research conducted by members of the hospital community.

The repository is a service at the Bridgeport Hospital's Reeves Health Sciences Library. Research and scholarly output included here has been selected and deposited by individual authors and hospital departments.

Link to repository: Bridgeport Scholar | Bridgeport Hospital Research or <https://scholar.bridgeporthospital.org>.

All material contributed to the repository should be scholarly in nature. Examples include published articles, abstracts, protocols, books, book chapters, academic posters, and proceedings. For more information, contact Todd Lane, MAT, MLS, Podium 4 at 203-384-3615 or todd.lane@bpthosp.org.

Newsletter submissions

Deadline for submission of content for the January 2025 issue of *Medical Staff News* is Friday, Dec. 27, 2024.

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