Letter from the Chief Clinical Officer

Dear Colleagues,

We continue to move forward along two general tracks – one where we continue to care for patients with COVID-19, and the other where we work to restart the spectrum of non-COVID related clinical services in a safe and effective way.

We have started to increase the number of urgent procedures, and the teams charged with coordinating the various infrastructure elements to scale up our clinical services are coming together. In that context, we will modify the content and of the communications in the coming weeks to reflect the evolving nature of our collective work.

With regards to COVID-19 case volume, we have experienced a slight increase in case numbers at GH, BH, LMH, but stability in the numbers of cases at YNHH. ICU numbers have increased in the past few days, as have those requiring ventilators, but remain well below our peak numbers.

Thank you all for your ongoing flexibility as we recalibrate, and your commitment to providing exceptional care to our patients despite our constantly shifting operating environment.

Warmly,

Thomas Balcezak, MD
Chief Clinical Officer
Yale New Haven Health
New Updates for May 15

Ambulatory prescribing of hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin
Attached is an updated SBAR regarding ambulatory prescribing of specific medications. Epic optimizations, which include changes to the Epic ordering screens, went live yesterday, March 14. These changes are aligned with the current recommendations.

YNHHS Adult Nursing COVID-19 Inpatient Care consolidation guidelines for medically stable patients
Many patients are experiencing very long lengths of stay in the inpatient setting, despite medical stability, due to disposition logistical issues. The attached guidelines provide considerations for primary teams and nursing staff to review in these circumstances, to ensure appropriate care is delivered, while potential staff exposures are minimized.

eWishes

Operational Snapshot (Source: JDAT)
COVID-19 patients have been **discharged** back to their lives after being treated by our **healthcare heroes**.
PPE reuse and collection
- Please do not wear makeup such as foundation or lipstick as they soil the facemasks and respirators making them ineligible for reprocessing. Makeup is the #1 cause of being unable to reprocess.
- PPE reuse policy and other information can be found on the Clinical Resources page at: https://www.ynhhs.org/patient-care/covid-19/for-employees.aspx

Clinical Care/Operations

Infection prevention contact email
Please utilize the below email address for your inquiries about COVID-19 - they will be triaged with a goal of replying within 48 hours, please indicate in the subject if urgent. Please do not use this email for patient consults that are urgent in nature.

COVID_InfectionPrevention@ynhh.org

Resources:
Attachments to this message can also be found here. Previous All Staff updates are archived and can be accessed here.