

CMO REPORT

FROM THE DESK OF

Amy Tucker, MD, MHCM, Chief Medical Officer, Upstate University Hospital
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, College of Medicine

UPSTATE
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

December 22, 2023

Thank You, Dr. Melissa Schafer!

By Dr. Gregory Conners

Dr. Melissa Schafer has served as the Pediatric Quality Officer since 2015. She has done a great job and we would not be where we are without her. She is now handing over the reins to Dr. Andrew Osten who will be transitioning into the role over the next month. Dr. Osten joined the Department of Pediatrics, Inpatient Medicine Division, in August 2019. We are happy to have him serve as the new Pediatric Quality Officer.



Exceptional Teacher Recipient for December 2023

By Dr. Lawrence Chin



James Distin, DO, a clinical assistant professor of Emergency Medicine at Upstate Medical University in Binghamton, is the December 2023 recipient of the Exceptional Moments in Teaching recognition.

The Norton College of Medicine recognizes exceptional teachers with the monthly “Exceptional Moments in Teaching” program. Honorees are selected via student assessments from courses and clerkships. Recognized teachers – including medical faculty, residents, nurses and other educators – are those who challenge students and provide an exceptional learning experience.



Comments from Dr. Distin’s students:

“Dr. Distin has exceptional skills both as a clinician and a teacher. Despite heavy patient loads and numerous interruptions, he always took time to listen to a patient presentation and give detailed teaching about the case. His teaching style of questioning really solidified knowledge and he revisited the same questions on later shifts, which made me feel like he even took the time to remember me as a student and what we had talked about previously. In addition to the basics of history and exam skills, he challenged me in more nitty gritty details such as medication dosing, IV fluid management, and electrolyte imbalances. That is the type of knowledge base I am hoping to get out of rotations, and I am thankful for him investing in me becoming a more excellent physician!”

“Dr. Distin was a fantastic teacher who spent extensive time teaching students about thought processes and critical thinking in the Emergency Department. Dr. Distin expected students to see patients on their own, present them to the team, and come up with a workup and treatment plan. He allowed the student the opportunity to make decisions on what tests/imaging/medications to order before discussing the choices

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together. I am grateful I had the opportunity to learn from Dr. Distin, as it is clear he places a strong emphasis on teaching and helping medical students learn.

Health Commerce System Account Inactivation

By Beth Erwin

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) plans to disable any Health Commerce System (HCS) account that has not been logged into within the past three years (1096 days).

Please be sure that you have recently logged into the HCS (<https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/>), and verified and updated your contact information. The HCS is meant to communicate important health care information to practitioners and is used to access the New York Immunization Information System (NYSIIS), the Electronic Death Registry System (EDRS), as well as to maintain physician profiles as required by NY State.

If you have issues logging into the HCS, you can contact the Commerce Accounts Management Unit (CAMU) at 866-529-1890 or camu@health.ny.gov for assistance.

National Shortage of Injectable Lorazepam

By Christopher Miller

Unfortunately, both campuses at Upstate are dealing with a national shortage of injectable lorazepam. While we continue to have and sometimes receive limited supply, we are unable to ensure sufficient supply to meet normal use until the national shortage starts to resolve. We wanted to inform you of this shortage and encourage prescribing of oral therapy and/or alternative injectable therapies whenever possible.

We have added the below functionality into EPIC that will remind prescribers of this shortage and consideration for alternative therapy at the point of prescribing. An example screen shot of that EPIC functionality can be found below.

The screenshot shows the 'Alternative Selection' window in the EPIC system. It displays the currently selected medication, 'LORazepam (ATIVAN) injection: Intravenous, Every 4 hours PRN, Starting today at 1020, For 3 days'. A blue warning message states: 'The medication you are trying to order is currently either in short supply or is unavailable (shortage/backorder). Please consider ordering an alternative below.' Below this, a section titled 'Alternatives' lists three options: 'midazolam (VERSED) injection', 'diazepam (VALIUM) injection', and 'LORazepam (ATIVAN) tablet'. At the bottom, there is a 'Continue with:' section showing the original 'LORazepam (ATIVAN) injection' order. At the very bottom of the window are two buttons: 'Accept Alternative' and 'Remove Order'.

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Additionally, prescribers may be contacted by the pharmacy to consider alternatives when injectable lorazepam is ordered. We understand that injectable lorazepam will still need to be used in certain patients based upon the clinical situation and patient condition. We intend to meet those needs based upon existing supply.

The pharmacy will continue to monitor supply and provide an update as/if supply improves in the coming weeks. If you could please share with your colleagues and departments, we would greatly appreciate it!

New York State Department of Health Advisory

The New York State Department of Health Commissioner declares influenza to be prevalent in the State. Please see the attached Department of Health Advisory regarding mask regulations.

Clinical Documentation Improvement (CDI) Tip for December 2023

By the CDI Physician Advisory Group



CDI Tip of the Month: Minding Malnutrition - In hospitalized patients, malnutrition and undernourished states are leading contributors to increased morbidity and mortality, making early identification and intervention priority. There is no standard definition and medical judgement is top priority in establishing diagnosis and condition severity. See this month's CDI Tip for malnutrition take aways! Thank you for your current efforts in documentation improvement! Please contact the CDI Hotline at CDI@upstate.edu with questions.

Welcome New Clinicians!

Please join me in offering a warm welcome to the following new clinicians at Upstate Medical University:



ANESTHESIOLOGY

Diego Villamizar, MD

MEDICINE

Ali Al Ali, PA
Kathy Levitskiy, PA
Cara Miller, PA

NEUROLOGY

Eldin Mehanovic, NP
Taylor Weber, NP

PEDIATRICS

Doreen Arinaitwe, MD
Emma Donnelly, NP

PSYCHIATRY

Donna Formica, LMSW

RADIOLOGY

Samuel Bone, MD

RADIOLOGY (cont.)

Amy Federico, DO
Gary Leavitt, MD
Juno Lee, MD
Brenda Logiurato, MD
Heather Rose, MD

SURGERY

Donato Sisto, MD

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Outstanding Physician Comments

Comments from grateful patients receiving care on the units and clinics at Upstate:



Breast Care Center: Dr. Daniel Thomas was very informative and courteous.

Dental Service: Dr. Patrick Smith is very patient and kind with my autistic son.

Family Medicine: Dr. Rahila Iftikhar was thorough, not rushing to keep a schedule, felt important and that she was sincere in our communications. Dr. Rahila Iftikhar was extremely thorough and addressed every concern I expressed with interest and care. I was very impressed. Dr. Rupali Singla – excellent! Dr. Rupali Singla had a student with her and was very thorough in walking student and myself through everything that was happening. Dr. Rupali Singla is very professional, kind, and makes me feel like all my concerns are addressed.

Family Medicine at Community: Dr. Igor Kraev listened to all my concerns and addressed them all. Amazing! Dr. Igor Kraev was exceptional. Dr. Igor Kraev was great.

Gamma: Dr. Walter Hall and Dr. Amar Suryadevara were outstanding, knowledgeable, professional, helpful, skilled and compassionate. Dr. Walter Hall and Dr. Amar Suryadevara were very clear. Dr. Jonathan Miller and Dr. Michael Mix showed extreme professionalism, concern and care for my well-being, keeping me informed throughout. Care of the highest caliber. Dr. Michael Mix – a very dedicated physician with extremely good manners.

GEM: Dr. Dana Finch – wonderful!

GYNONC MI: Dr. W Douglas Bunn – easy to work with, always willing to answer my questions or concerns. Dr. W. Douglas Bunn – excellent visit, always puts me at ease.

Heart and Vascular Center: Dr. Debanik Chaudhuri was phenomenal! Kept me calm and comfortable, and explained everything. Very caring doctor. Dr. Michael Fischl was exceptional! Shout out to Dr. Michael Fischl for his expertise and time to correct my problem. Dr. Palma Shaw seems very competent, has great bedside manner, and huge respect from her colleagues.

HEMONC CC: Dr. Komal Akhtar was running behind but it was worth the wait!! She is wonderful!! Dr. Komal Akhtar was super nice and I didn't feel rushed even though she was running behind. She answered all my questions and was very thorough. Top notch!!

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Joslin Center for Diabetes: I love **Dr. Barbara Feuerstein** and her team. **Dr. Rachel Hopkins** gave me full and complete answers to all my questions. **Dr. Roberto Izquierdo** was, as always, kind, helpful, respectful, and supportive. He explained how my current health issues are evolving. I feel very confident that he is extremely knowledgeable and experienced. He is wonderful! **Dr. Roberto Izquierdo** is one of the finest health care providers I have ever encountered. I followed **Dr. Jason Sloane** from his previous practice. Extremely satisfied. I love **Dr. Jason Sloane**. His care for his patients is very evident. It's why I never mind if I have to wait because he is running behind. I traveled from the Utica area, that's how much I love **Dr. Jason Sloane**. Was seeing him here in Utica and knew I would follow him to Syracuse. He's excellent at what he does and very compassionate. **Dr. Jason Sloane** is so kind and caring. I always leave appointments with him feeling like he really listens to me and cares about helping me as best he can. **Dr. Jason Sloane** because of the quality and caring nature of this doctor. He spends the time with patient, explaining all options of care. I was a patient of **Dr. Jason Sloane** when he was in New Hartford. I chose to follow him to Joslin Center because of the quality of care. I followed **Dr. Jason Sloane** from his previous office specifically because he provides an environment to discuss options. He provides his input with options and allows me to make a decision knowing if I am not happy with initial results from decision I can make changes with a good amount of ease and understanding. He is an active listener which is invaluable in a physician and often not demonstrated. **Dr. Jason Sloane** is the best, so glad able to find him at Upstate. Was a patient when he was at Slocum Dickson. **Dr. Jason Sloane** is amazing.

Multidisciplinary Programs Cancer Center: **Dr. Michael Archer** communicates well, explains the procedures in great detail, which is comforting and reassuring. I feel good with him. **Dr. Kristin Kelly** – willing to work with my religious beliefs. **Dr. Kaushal Nanavati** was excellent and I was impressed with **Dr. Daniel Thomas**. **Dr. Daniel Thomas** was very nice and gave me a plan for me to understand. **Dr. Daniel Thomas** was excellent in providing me with a plan I could understand. It has always been a good experience with **Dr. Joseph Valentino**. He and his staff keep me at ease and explain everything in a clear and concise manner that I can understand. **Dr. Joseph Valentino** makes me feel that he wants to be there for me.

Nephrology Clinic: **Dr. Kriti Devkota** really takes the time to listen to my concerns and explains everything to me so that I can understand.

Pediatric After Hours at Community: This was our first-time having **Dr. Phillip Mackewicz** see our son and I just want to mention how much we appreciate his kindness, knowledge, and proficiency in taking care of our son.

Pediatric Gastroenterology: **Dr. Prateek Wali** is always energetic, friendly, and brings a sense of calm to the exam room. This is especially helpful as my son has anxiety and special needs. At this appointment, my son definitely invaded **Dr. Prateek Wali's** personal space by touching his hair and **Dr. Prateek Wali** did not flinch but instead engaged and talked with him. He was very concerned for my son's comfort.

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Pulmonology Clinic: Lengthy clinical visit (2 hours) to **Dr. Mitra Ghasemi's** findings. Thorough, explained all inch need for more testing. I rate her an excellent MD to date. No delays. No real wait time. Really fortunate to be seeing **Dr. Mitra Ghasemi**. No rushing thru appointment either (rare these days!) **Dr. Mitra Ghasemi** and from her interpersonal approach, active listening, she asked appropriate questions as she was formulating next steps to clarify clinic S/S. My first consult with **Dr. Markus Gutsche** was stellar. He listened carefully to my concerns, made an action plan, and explained the answers to my questions thoroughly.

Radiation Oncology: Words cannot express how much I respect and trust **Dr. Michael Mix**.

Surgery – UH LL022: **Dr. Moustafa Hassan** – wonderful, prepared, attentive, clear, gave me great confidence.

UHCC – Neurology: **Dr. Deborah Bradshaw** and her Resident were excellent during my office visit. They were very thorough in administering a neurological exam and shared the results with me so that I understood the findings. **Dr. Deborah Bradshaw** is one of the most caring physicians I have worked with over the last ten years since diagnosed with my diseases. I have recommended her services many times during our doctor/patient relationship. **Dr. Anuradha Duleep** – wonderful bedside manner! **Dr. Anuradha Duleep** was outstanding in explaining my condition and treatment. **Dr. Anuradha Duleep** is my favorite doc because she always listens and provides potential solutions for any new concerns I have. I love **Dr. Anuradha Duleep**. She is so caring and I don't find many doctors that listen and want to get to the bottom of an issues like she does. I wish she could be my primary care physician as well since mine retired and I highly doubt I will find another that is actually there for the care patients instead of money. **Dr. Sherif Elwan** made us feel very comfortable and at ease. He explained the diagnosis well and answered our questions. **Dr. Sherif Elwan** is the best! The care I receive from **Dr. Kimberly Laxton** is always first rate. I have total confidence in **Dr. Kimberly Laxton**. She is very patient and thorough and I know I'm in good hands. **Dr. Luis Mejico** was very pleasant, down to earth, doctor. He was so concerned to not only my immediate problem, but recommended changes to discuss with my primary care physician. **Dr. Dragos Mihaila** is great. He completes the exam, leaving the patient feeling they are in the best of hands. **Dr. Michael Vertino** listens to me, asks questions concerning my problems, has an open mind, let's me express my concerns, helps me understand his treatment, is willing to try a new idea, does not make me feel that he's running off to his next patient, and has a sense of humor. **Dr. Eufrosina Young** is a very compassionate and caring doctor. We are fortunate to have her. **Dr. Eufrosina Young** is the best!

University Cardiology: **Dr. Robert Carhart** is wonderful. He is kind and empathetic and so knowledgeable. He really cares about me as a patient and he has spent the past seven years working in conjunction with my advanced heart failure team in New York City, and I could not be more thankful for having such amazing doctors all working together to provide care to me. I always appreciate the care that I receive from **Dr. Robert Carhart**. He takes his time to discuss my care with me. He answers all the questions I have properly. I'm very pleased with him. His staff is also wonderful.

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University Center for Vision Care: Dr. Samuel Alpert – confident, inspiring, and dedicated to the treatment of my disease. I feel beyond fortunate to have Dr. Samuel Alpert and his staff to treat my disease. Dr. Robert Fechtner is an excellent doctor. He is caring and responsive to a patient's concerns. Dr. Robert Fechtner is a very good doctor. Dr. Preethi Ganapathy – we are VERY happy with her care. Dr. Preethi Ganapathy is great. She so carefully explains my choices and her concerns. She is very knowledgeable and comforting. Dr. Katherine Liegel is professional, attentive, very personable and caring. She is an excellent provider of knowledge and patient with concerns and questions. Always an excellent appointment with Dr. Katherine Liegel. Dr. Katherine Liegel – amazing! Dr. Katherine Liegel provides excellent pro-active care and testing to stay on top of my eye issues. Dr. Stephen Merriam was as always amazing. Dr. Stephen Merriam has always been great with my son. Considering my son has autism, it isn't always easy to get through to him by they managed and made him happy which makes me happy. We were impressed by Dr. Robert Swan and Dr. Kevin Rosenberg. Their level of care and attention was excellent.

University Geriatricians: Dr. Andrea Berg was incredible with giving our family very hard news. She really explained everything to us in great detail. She was extremely empathetic and kind. Dr. Andrea Berg established her empathetic attitude openly. I didn't feel rushed to conform to any schedule. Very confident with Dr. Andrea Berg!! Dr. Andrea Berg – what an amazing physician, deeply caring, dedicated person, and a pleasure to be with. Myself, and my wife, are truly grateful for her compassion and kindness as well as her care and support! Dr. Andrea Berg and her staff talk at a level I can understand and do it in a manner they are not talking down to you. Thank you for that. Dr. Jeanne Bishop was caring and listened to what I had to say. My experience has been most helpful.

University Internists: Dr. Tingyin Chee – very good communicator, listened to concerns, personable and caring. Dr. Tingyin Chee is so professional, kind, smart, and a really terrific doctor. Dr. Vincent Frechette approaches his patients in a kind, professional manner. Dr. Vincent Frechette always takes the time to listen to my concerns and gives thoughtful responses to my questions. Dr. Vincent Frechette is a good listener and very good at explaining possible problems and potential treatments. Dr. Vincent Frechette always listens to what I have to say. Dr. Vincent Frechette always welcomes me genuinely and with great concern with my health. Dr. Vincent Frechette is always good spirited, straight forward, and honest. Dr. George Gluz always takes the time to LISTEN and talk to me, providing outstanding care. Dr. George Gluz washed his hands before the physical exam portion of the visit. Dr. George Gluz consistently helps me feel at ease, and I feel like my healthcare is a collaborative effort, not just what he says. I always look forward to seeing him. I have already referred him to other people, including my husband! I like Dr. George Gluz. Dr. Kaushik Govindaraju listens and explains and is so professional and knowledgeable about my concerns. Dr. Danielle Kochen was very accommodating and approachable. She was very detailed in my physical check-up. Dr. Sarah Lappin is amazing. Really appreciate having Dr. Sarah Lappin as my doctor. Dr. Catherine White listened to all my concerns and really helped me make wise decisions about my care.

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Upstate Brain and Spine Center: Dr. Ali Hazama brought us hope that maybe finally after all these years I might get some relief. Dr. Ali Hazama has the kindest manner, listens attentively to questions and concerns and explains things thoroughly. He has the skilled hands of an excellent surgeon.

3West at Community Hospital: Dr. Mark Emerick was fantastic, great bedside manners, comforting, and appeared concerned. Admitted that his knowledge concerning my problem was limited but did bring in specialists to examine me. Appreciate his honesty.

6thFloor at Community Hospital: Dr. Sumera Ahmed was caring and knowledgeable. Dr. Justin Bertrand and Dr. Edgardo Arrazola spent extra time explaining medication interactions and reviewing my med profile.

11E: Dr. Olamide Ajagbe was very direct and answered all of our questions. My husband is bilingual so she even brought a translator to a screen. She was amazing. Dr. Ian Dargon recognized the severity of child's issue, was kind, listened, and was solution oriented. Dr. Gregory Goldstein was wonderful. I felt very relieved when he took over. Very clear and good balance of confidence and caution.

12E: Dr. David Hansen was wonderful with both my son and I. Dr. Elizabeth Paulsen (and her med student) did such a great job explaining things to us and answering questions! Dr. Jennifer Zuccaro was amazing!

12F: Dr. Zulma Tovar-Spinoza and her team that she led were amazing. We are so thankful for her. She saved our daughter's life. Dr. Zulma Tovar-Spinoza was outstanding. Dr. Zulma Tovar-Spinoza was a life-saving person. She took her job very seriously and treated her aggressively because it truly was an emergency. Dr. Neal Seidberg was extremely helpful once she was out of surgery and in the PICU.

Best,
Amy



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CDI Tip of the Month – Minding Malnutrition

Malnutrition is associated with significant increase in both in-hospital morbidity and mortality:

Increase in risk of hospital complications by 10%
Increase hospital length of stay by 2-3 days
Increased risk of readmission by 14%
Higher risk of infection and death from infection
Higher risk of skin failure by two times

**Early identification is important to improve quality of care and patient outcomes.
Malnutrition should be evaluated in all patients and diagnosed when both phenotypic and etiologic evidence is present.**

Phenotypic Criteria	Etiologic Criteria
Involuntary weight or subcutaneous fat loss	Acute illness
Cachexia or Muscle Wasting	Acute injury
Abnormal BMI	Chronic illness hypermetabolism
Inflammatory indicators & nutritional deficiency	Social or Environmental Circumstance
Diminished functional status	Reduced nutritional intake
Anasarca	Malabsorption

***Both local and generalized fluid accumulation may mask weight loss, so utilizing medical judgement is important in identifying and treating malnutrition.*

Malnutrition severity is based on severity of phenotypic criteria, individualized to the patient's etiologic criteria.

According to the World Health Organization, malnutrition, in all forms, includes undernutrition, inadequate vitamins or minerals, overweight, obesity, and resulting diet-related noncommunicable diseases.

Undernutrition	Includes wasting (low weight-for-height), stunting (low height-for-age) and underweight (low weight-for-age)
Micronutrient-related	Includes micronutrient deficiencies or micronutrient excess (ie: Vitamin K deficiency can be malnutrition related coagulopathy)
Overweight & Obesity Diet Related Disease	Includes heart disease, stroke, diabetes and some cancers

Albumin & pre-albumin are not mentioned in criteria; however, they are considered markers of disease burden and inflammation, along with CRP. This is especially important to consider in burns, acute, and chronic disease process.

Exercising professional medical judgement is highly valued and required in the diagnosis of malnutrition, including documentation of etiology and treatment.

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CDI Tip of the Month – Minding Malnutrition

Malnutrition is associated with significant increase in both in-hospital morbidity and mortality.

Primary Malnutrition	Results from insufficient intake due to feeding difficulties poor appetite related to medication, illness, or eating disorders (anorexia, bulimia, etc.)
Secondary Malnutrition or Undernutrition	Results from gastrointestinal dysfunction, conditions increasing metabolic demands (infection, trauma, hyperthyroidism, burns, critical illness) and wasting disorders
Failure to Thrive	Weight consistently below 3-5 th percentile for age and gender, <i>or</i> progressive decrease in weight below 3-5 th percentile, <i>or</i> decrease in 2 major growth percentiles in a short period

Early identification is important to improve quality of care and patient outcomes. Malnutrition should be evaluated in all patients and diagnosed when both anthropomorphic and etiologic evidence is present.

Anthromorphic	Weight, height/length, skin folds, mid upper arm circumference. Age <2 years, use WHO growth charts. Age 2-20 years, use CDC growth charts. Height & weight are converted to Z-scores to measure how many standard deviations from the mean values for a specific age range.
Etiology	Illness or non-illness related. Illness related causes can be acute (infection, trauma, burns < 3 months, etc.) or chronic (cystic fibrosis, chronic lung disease, cancer for > 3 months, etc.)
Mechanism	Starvation, intestinal malabsorption, nutrient loss, hypermetabolism, altered utilization of nutrients
Nutrient Imbalance	Intake less than required, protein energy imbalance, micronutrient deficiencies
Outcomes	Loss of lean body mass, muscle weakness, immune response, infection, developmental or intellectual delay, delayed wound healing

Malnutrition severity is based on severity of anthropomorphic criteria, individualized to the patient's etiologic criteria.

Exercising professional medical judgement is highly valued and required in the diagnosis of malnutrition, including documentation of etiology and treatment.

EXCEPTIONAL MOMENTS IN TEACHING



James Distin, DO, a clinical assistant professor of Emergency Medicine at Upstate Medical University in Binghamton, is the **December 2023** recipient of the **Exceptional Moments in Teaching** recognition.

COMMENTS FROM DR. DISTIN'S STUDENTS:

"Dr. Distin has exceptional skills both as a clinician and a teacher. Despite heavy patient loads and numerous interruptions, he always took time to listen to a patient presentation and give detailed teaching about the case. His teaching style of questioning really solidified knowledge and he revisited the same questions on later shifts, which made me feel like he even took the time to remember me as a student and what we had talked about previously. In addition to the basics of history and exam skills, he challenged me in more nitty gritty details such as medication dosing, IV fluid management, and electrolyte imbalances. That is the type of knowledge base I am hoping to get out of rotations, and I am thankful for him investing in me becoming a more excellent physician!"

"Dr. Distin was a fantastic teacher who spent extensive time teaching students about thought processes and critical thinking in the Emergency Department. Dr. Distin expected students to see patients on their own, present them to the team, and come up with a workup and treatment plan. He allowed the student the opportunity to make decisions on what tests/imaging/medications to order before discussing the choices together. I am grateful I had the opportunity to learn from Dr. Distin, as it is clear he places a strong emphasis on teaching and helping medical students learn."

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Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

JAMES V. McDONALD, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

JOHANNE E. MORNE, M.S.
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

DATE: December 6, 2023

TO: All Article 28, 36, and 40 Healthcare and Residential Facilities and Agencies

FROM: Office of the Commissioner

Health Advisory:
NYS Department of Health Commissioner Declares Influenza Prevalent in the State

**Please distribute immediately to: Administration, Medical Director, Infection
Prevention, Nursing Administration, Risk Management**

The New York State Department of Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald declares influenza to be prevalent in New York State for the 2023-24 influenza season, as of the date of this announcement. In accordance with Section 2.59 of the New York State Sanitary Code (10 NYCRR § 2.59), all healthcare and residential facilities and agencies regulated pursuant to Article 28, 36, or 40 of the Public Health Law, shall ensure that all personnel, as defined in the regulation, not vaccinated against influenza for the current influenza season wear a surgical or procedure mask while in areas where patients or residents are typically present. This declaration shall remain in effect until the Commissioner declares influenza no longer prevalent in New York State.

At this time, please activate your facility's or agency's policy and procedure to ensure compliance with 10 NYCRR § 2.59.

Frequently Asked Questions regarding the regulation and other resources are available at <http://health.ny.gov/FluMaskReg>

For more information please direct questions to FluMaskReg@health.ny.gov