

CMO REPORT

FROM THE DESK OF

Amy Tucker, MD, MHCM, Chief Medical Officer, Upstate University Hospital
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, College of Medicine
Vice President, Ambulatory Services and Population Health, Upstate Medical University

UPSTATE

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

April 23, 2021

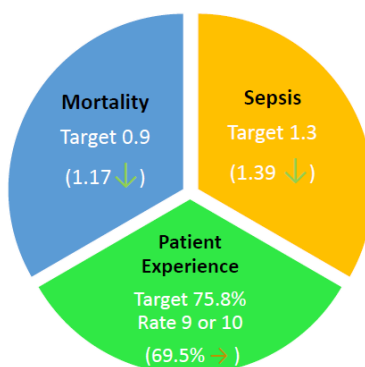
2W/4W Employee Testing by Dr. Jeremy Joslin

Effective May 1, 2021, the process for employee COVID testing on 2W and 4W will discontinue. After May 1, 2021, employees who need a COVID test may call 315-464-THEN (4-THEN) to be directed to the Emergency Department (ED), NYS Fairgrounds, Suite 1K at Community Hospital or the asymptomatic pooled testing, as appropriate.

2021 Quality Goals by Dr. Dinesh John



Upstate's Quality Goal for 2021 is to work toward our 2022 goal of 3 stars in quality* based on the Vizient scorecard. This can be largely achieved by improving sepsis care, overall hospital mortality and patient experience scores.



*Current Data in Parenthesis, and arrows indicate how the data is trending

How can you contribute to Upstate's Quality Mission?

- A. By providing patients with the best possible care and experience.
- B. Clear and regular communication with the patient and the healthcare team is essential. If at any time you are concerned about a patient's health or safety...SPEAK UP and tell a nurse or doctor.
- C. Consider the staff experience – i.e., happy and empowered staff typically make for happier patients.
- D. Perform Hand Hygiene – that is the best way to prevent the spread of infection and keep yourself and our patients safe. Please remember to 'Gel In, Gel Out' of patient rooms/care areas for safety.



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Inpatient Vaccination by Dr. Jeremy Joslin

As you may know, an executive order has been put in place that states all Article 28 hospitals are required to offer the COVID-19 vaccine to medically eligible patients being discharged to a nursing home or other long-term care facility. We have worked across disciplines to put a process in place to comply with the executive order. This process will be implemented as soon as the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is un-paused, as we have 100 doses of vaccine on hand.

Case managers will guide providers in how to place orders for eligible patients that providers have approved as medically appropriate.

Please contact Dr. Jeremy Joslin (joslinj@upstate.edu or 315-464-2139) or Stacey Keefe (keefes@upstate.edu or 315-464-9673) for assistance or questions regarding the inpatient COVID vaccination process.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Issues Health Alert on Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine

Please see attached health alert from the CDC regarding cases of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis with thrombocytopenia after receipt of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.

Advisories from the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH)

➤ PEP for HIV Should be Administered Immediately.

This is an important reminder that exposure to HIV is an emergency. If you are exposed to HIV at work, please modify your schedule so that you can seek treatment promptly. **The first dose of PEP medication should be administered immediately ideally within two hours and no later than 72 hours post-exposure.** Because the efficacy of PEP in preventing an established HIV infection diminishes rapidly, initiation as soon as possible after exposure is best. The full course of PEP medications should be provided whenever possible. If the full course of medications cannot be provided, then at least a 7-day starter pack should be provided to all patients in need of PEP.

Please note: effective on June 15, 2020, New York State Law mandates that clinicians provide a 7-day starter pack of PEP medications to sexual assault patients who are 18 years old and the full, 28-day course of PEP medications to those who are <18 years old.

Please see this letter from the AIDS Institute's Medical Director and Deputy Director of the Office of the Medical Director for further information:

https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/general/pep/docs/dear_colleague_1020.pdf

*** Attached Link: https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/general/pep/docs/dear_colleague_1020.pdf ***

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➤ **FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Assistance**

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will provide financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020. For the latest information on the *FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Assistance* and for any updates or changes, please visit:

<https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

What You Need to Know

Medical Certifiers:

- You may see an increase in individuals requesting death certificate corrections to reflect COVID-19 in the *Cause of Death* portion of the death certificate.
- The New York State Department of Health does not make determinations of the *Cause of Death* on the death certificate. We rely on the medical judgment of the certifier to determine if an amendment to the *Cause of Death* is needed.
- For information about making medical corrections:
https://health.ny.gov/vital_records/edrs/docs/edrs_quick_guide_amendments_medcert.pdf

Local Registrars:

- You may see an increase in individuals requesting the *Cause of Death* portion with their death certificates and corrections to death certificates.

Please note:

- Corrections to the *Cause of Death* portion, must be initiated by the medical certifier who completed the death certificate.
- Only eligible applicants may be provided the *Cause of Death* portion on the death certificate. (This is the *Registered Death Certificate with Cause of Death* copy in EDRS or the long form in your local files.)

An applicant may qualify if they are able to provide the following:

- Court order of competent jurisdiction on a showing of necessity, or
- Specific request for such information by the surviving spouse, children, or parents of the deceased or the lawful representative of such persons, or
- A documented need for such information for the purpose of establishing a legal right or claim has been demonstrated.

(Applicant, establishing a legal right or claim, must submit proof of funeral expenses incurred within the timeframe of coverage and must include the decedent's name, the applicant's name, and the dates of related expenses.)

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New York State (NYS) Electronic Death Registry System (EDRS) Changes Coming June 2, 2021 – Training Sessions Available!

As the final phase of the statewide Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) *Amendment* functionality rollout, the remaining medical EDRS users, including all non-medically licensed coroners, will be granted permission to electronically submit amendments for EDRS. This functionality allows you to **submit medical changes through EDRS for *electronically registered death cases, directly to the State***, as was rolled out to Medical Examiners/Licensed Coroners and Funeral Firms during 2020.

Using the EDRS to submit amendments reduces the need to send correction forms to the local registration offices, generates automated notifications, prints changes on amended certificates, and expedites amendment processing.

As of June 2, 2021, **acceptance of medical corrections to local filing offices for any cases that were filed electronically will be limited**, so register now!

Amendment Training for Coroners and Medical Certifiers: Live registration links to all available training sessions are listed on pages 9 and 10 of the CMO Report. Click on the registration link of the session you want to attend and add your information. Group participation through one registration is acceptable. You'll receive an email from WebEx with your personal link to join the class. For questions, please contact Laurie Kropkowski, Sr. Implementation and Training Specialist, at laurie.kropkowski@health.ny.gov.

Revised COVID-19 Policies of Special Interest for Clinicians

Revised Policies

- [Infection Control for Aerosol Generating Procedures During COVID-19 \(COV A-02\)](#): added a table to clarify transporting a patient on CPAP/BIPAP (COV A-02).
- [COVID-19 Testing at Upstate University Hospital Locations \(COV T-08\)](#): updated testing requirements for high risk patients, rapid testing for patients requiring transport on CPAP/BIPAP, and appropriate saliva COVID test ordering due to turnaround time.
- [Travel Advisory and Return Procedure During COVID-19 \(COV T-09\)](#): quarantine and testing changes for international travelers.
- [Visitor Restriction During Prevalence of COVID-19 \(COV V-08\)](#): reinforces policy applies to hospital employees as visitors and visitors who are external. Provides cafeteria access for Cancer Center visitors as needed, visitors from >60 miles away awaiting a patient for peri op/procedural services to be completed and support persons in the Community Family Birth Center.

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Clinical Documentation Improvement (CDI)

by Dr. Emily Albert and Dr. Ali Khan, Co-Directors, CDI

MEET OUR MEDICAL DIRECTORS!

Upstate's Clinical Documentation Improvement (CDI) program is here to support Upstate providers. The CDI team's efforts are important because they support evidence-based medicine by capturing patient care from admission (often before admission) to discharge, including diagnoses, treatment and response to treatment. When the documentation is complete, detailed and accurate it prevents ambiguity and improves data capture; optimizing quality scores and improving financial integrity. Perhaps even more importantly, documentation integrity ensures quality communication between healthcare providers, which leads to better care of our patients. We are very thankful for our team of physician advisors and it is our pleasure, throughout the month of April to introduce each of them to you!

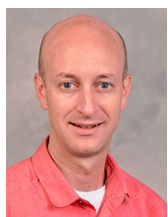
DR. JEFF ALBRIGHT – ADULT SURGICAL



Dr. Jeff Albright has been working as a colorectal and general surgeon at Upstate since 2017. He completed medical school in 2000 at the University of Iowa College of Medicine, general surgery residency in 2005 at Iowa Methodist Medical Center, and colorectal surgery fellowship at the University of Texas—Houston in 2007. After a year of clinical and bench research at the Mayo Clinic—Florida, Dr. Albright worked in private surgical practice from 2007-2017 in Los Angeles, San Diego, and Birmingham, AL. During that time, he also obtained a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Alabama in Birmingham. He has been engaged as a CDI medical director since 2019. He is married to Karen Albright, Ph.D., D.O., M.P.H., a stroke neurologist and clinical researcher at Upstate Medical University.

Dr. Albright has been involved with the CDI program since July, 2019. He views his role in CDI as an educator for colleagues and contact person for input in the surgical realm of clinical documentation. Recognizing that Upstate's reputation in the community and region and the ability to provide state of the art facilities are impacted by how clinical documentation relates to publicly reported quality metrics and facility reimbursement, Dr. Albright works to share the value of good documentation to accurately reflect the efforts all providers make.

Dr. ANDREW OSTEN – PEDIATRICS



Dr. Andrew Osten has been a pediatric hospitalist at Upstate since Aug 2019. He completed his medical school at Tufts University School of Medicine in 2012 and his pediatric residency training in 2015 at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, HI. He served in the Army as a pediatrician for 7 years including residency, a chief resident year, an academic medicine fellowship (at the University of Hawaii), a combat deployment, and time as both a general pediatrician and a pediatric hospitalist.

After leaving the Army, he and his family settled down in Upstate NY. He is married to Kerry Biggs - another pediatric hospitalist at Upstate - and the two of them have 4 young children. Dr. Osten joined the CDI team this spring and is excited to help strengthen the impact of the CDI program for pediatrics!

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Outstanding Physician Comments

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



Breast Care Center: Dr. Jayne Charlamb – excellent! Dr. Lisa Lai always takes time to listen and explain things. Once I had a scare with my heart and had to have a scan done and she made sure she stopped by before going home. Dr. Ranjna Sharma is amazing! She really took time to talk to me.

Family Medicine at Community Hospital: Dr. R Eugene Bailey walked me through every step of the procedure that I had and before going into the next step would explain it to me again. He let me know the details of what I should expect, how I should feel, and took his time when I felt overwhelmed or too much pain. He treats you like a human being and puts himself in your shoes so you don't feel alone or like you are the only one going through something. Thank you for taking the time to listen, hear me, and always being there! Dr. R Eugene Bailey is supportive and helpful. Dr. R Eugene Bailey is a very compassionate doctor. Dr. R Eugene Bailey is the best! That is why we have been with him for almost 18 years! Dr. R Eugene Bailey is an excellent doctor. I have been going to him for 25 years. Dr. Joseph Cincotta had my BP under control in three visits. Dr. Heather Finn has helped my family with depression, anxiety, alcohol use, weight loss and exercise, in addition to standard care. Dr. Heather Finn – the best! Dr. Heather Finn is outstanding. Dr. Igor Kraev is the best. Dr. Igor Kraev is a very caring doctor and he asks lots of questions about my health. Dr. Igor Kraev impresses me by his outstanding concern for my health and well-being! Dr. Igor Kraev's listening skills are very good. I forgot to ask Dr. Igor Kraev a question, so as soon as I got home I used MyChart, and the very next day I had an answer – fantastic! Dr. Igor Kraev called me to check up on me! This shows me how genuinely concerned he is about my health! Dr. Igor Kraev is thorough when he goes over my meds and with my current ongoing anxiety. He makes sure to give instructions to eliminate stress. He is the best doctor I have ever had! I like that Dr. Sana Zekri explains what's going on and let's me know that I have options.

Family Medicine at University Hospital: Dr. Rupali Singla – very thorough. Thankful for having a doctor like Dr. Clyde Satterly. Dr. Clyde Satterly was thorough, professional, yet our communication was easy enjoyable. Dr. Clyde Satterly always takes as much time as I need and will answer every question down to the last detail if needed. Dr. Clyde Satterly – wonderful and caring!

Immune Health Services: Dr. Elizabeth Asiago-Reddy is always personable, caring and professional. Dr. Elizabeth Asiago-Reddy is so fast at connecting with other providers to ensure that I am getting the best treatment. Dr. Elizabeth Asiago-Reddy is excellent and responds quickly to MyChart emails. Dr. Elizabeth Asiago-Reddy always explains things clearly so I will understand. She answers all questions, good or bad. Dr. Elizabeth Asiago-Reddy is the best care provider I've ever had. She spent the time it took to go over everything. She's so knowledgeable and thorough. Dr. Elizabeth Asiago-Reddy is fabulous! Dr. Elizabeth Asiago-Reddy is a star!!! Dr. Elizabeth Asiago-Reddy is terrific. She always answers all questions and concerns. I wish I had other doctors with the same kind and courtesy. I feel she respects and understands me. Dr. Angana Mahapatra was very polite and respectful. She took the time to explain my options and listened to my concerns. Dr. Angana Mahapatra is charming, knowledgeable, and empathetic. I knew I was in the right place, with the right doctor. Couldn't ask for better! I am very happy with the care provided by Dr. Angana Mahapatra. She is approachable and friendly, listens to concerns and works out solutions focusing on the patient. Dr. Angana Mahapatra was incredibly receptive to my needs and experiences during an appointment that is typically a terrible experience for me. She knew what she was doing and offered many options to suit my needs. I was very confident in her knowledge and skill. Dr. Angana Mahapatra is always friendly and caring. She is an excellent provider.

Joslin Center for Diabetes: Dr. Robert Izquierdo is terrific. He listens and shows concern for any problems I may have.

Multidisciplinary Programs Cancer Center: Dr. Mashaal Dhir was very attentive and included my husband by phone in my visit. I like Dr. Mashaal Dhir very much. He has always answered any questions I might have. I have complete trust in any decisions he makes and includes me in the decision. He was my surgeon when I had cancer. I was very pleased with his care. That made my

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recovery better. I would recommend **Dr. Mashaal Dhir** to anyone looking for a doctor for any reason. I was most comfortable with **Dr. Kaushal Nanavati**. **Dr. Jesse Ryan** – professional! **Dr. Jesse Ryan** is great! He saved my life. **Dr. Jesse Ryan** – efficient and caring. **Dr. Jesse Ryan** – wonderful and very professional.

Pediatric Cancer Center: **Dr. Gloria Kennedy** – provides us with the best experience and care and is always willing to treat my child.

Pediatric Multispecialty Clinic: **Dr. Zafer Soutan** is a great resource – understands wants and needs. **Dr. Zafer Soutan** – awesome! If there is any problem I can call him and he will explain what is going on.

Radiology: **Dr. Ravi Adhikary** is always informative in procedures and he answers all questions. I don't want anyone but him to do my biopsies.

Rheumatology Clinic: **Dr. Jihad Ben Gabr** is an excellent doctor and was very thorough with her examination, tests, and diagnosis. **Dr. Jihad Ben Gabr** impressed me with her patience, concern, knowledge and professionalism.

Univ Pediatric & Adolescent Center: **Dr. Joseph Nimeh** was very sweet to our daughter. He made her laugh and was gentle and honest with her care. **Dr. Andrea Shaw** – very good! **Dr. Karen Teelin** is straight forward and honest while showing compassion.

SUNY Upstate – Virtual: **Dr. Timothy Byler** has a very warm, caring and humanistic approach to practicing medicine, much like the European paradigm. **Dr. Timothy Byler** was very caring and even arrived 10 minutes early for the video call! That is my kind of on time performance! **Dr. Timothy Byler** is my kind of doctor. We agreed 100% regarding the subject of the consultation. We discussed several approaches and he listened as intently to me as I did to him. I have always received excellent care by **Dr. Mark Crye**. I find **Dr. Barbara Feuerstein** to be a very understanding, compassionate, knowledgeable, and down to earth individual who really listens to you and is concerned with all aspects of your care. I love **Dr. Barbara Feuerstein** and get the best care from her. **Dr. George Gluz** explains everything very clearly. **Dr. Roberto Izquierdo** is very professional, caring, and a great doctor. **Dr. Hiroshi Kato** has always been excellent answering my questions and concerns. **Dr. Shahram Izadyar** is always great. **Dr. Leslie Kohman** is a good doctor who cares about me. **Dr. Leslie Kohman** is my health advocate at Upstate University Hospital. Excellent visit with **Dr. Hom Neupane** – very professional! **Dr. Hom Neupane** is always fantastic! **Dr. Dmitriy Nikolavsky** quickly called me on my phone when video conferencing did not work out. I always have a good experience at **Dr. Sheetal Rayancha's** checkups, virtual or clinical. I am the spouse and caregiver of the patient and whenever I need to contact or discuss any situation concerning my husband, **Dr. Clyde Satterly** has always been very patient and gives me an informed answer that I can understand. I feel that he has a genuine concern for all his patients and I wish all doctors were as compassionate and knowledgeable. **Dr. Oleg Shapiro** is a very caring doctor. Always takes his time and answers all your questions. **Dr. Oleg Shapiro** conducted himself in a professional manner and was helpful. **Dr. Caitlin Sgarlat Deluca** is amazing with my son. We always enjoy our visits and feel very prepared for what is going to happen or what we can expect. **Dr. Kim Wallenstein** is always very professional and thorough. I've been more than satisfied with the care that **Dr. Awss Zidan** has provided me. I would recommend him to anyone.

Surgery – UH: **Dr. David Pinter** is a great doctor.

Surgery – UH LL022: **Dr. Jeffrey Albright** is a gem.

The Surgery Center – CG: **Dr. Elizabeth Ferry** – magnificent! **Dr. Mary Ellen Greco** was awesome – thank you! **Dr. Prashant Upadhyaya** – excellent care!

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University Cardiology: Dr. Robert Carhart is always very professional, explains his plan for me and why. He also has a great bedside/caring manner. Dr. Robert Carhart talked with me about a lot of options for moving forward and eased my fears. Dr. Robert Carhart is an excellent doctor and provides first class care. Dr. Robert Carhart – wonderful!

University Center for Vision Care: I just love Dr. Robert Fechtner – always treats me with respect and I love his sense of humor. Dr. Robert Fechtner – listens to me and explains. Dr. Preethi Ganapathy is an excellent listener, always discusses my test results with me, and we plan together for whatever needs to be done next. I really appreciate her respect for the knowledge I have about my condition. Dr. Preethi Ganapathy has given me consistently excellent medical treatment. Dr. Robert Swan – amazing! Dr. Robert Swan – very attentive and thorough. I am very happy I was referred to Dr. Robert Swan for my care. Dr. Robert Swan is very concerned about my unusual vision problem and I feel he will help maintain vision.

University Internists: Dr. George Gluz has always been informative and recommends options available that will make improvements on my health based on my concerns. Dr. George Gluz for his listening, caring, professional knowledge. Dr. George Gluz is very thorough. Dr. George Gluz – always professional and helpful in answering questions and scheduling.

Upstate Pediatrics: Dr. Yekaterina Okhman, Dr. Ellen Schurman, and Dr. Jaclyn Sisskind are all standout providers and we are so thankful our daughters can see them. Dr. Yekaterina Okhman – makes us feel comfortable, like! Dr. Yekaterina Okhman – wonderful, kind, attentive, and informative!

Upstate Urology: Dr. Joseph Jacob – explains everything that needs to be done right and with compassion. Dr. Joseph Jacob is a very nice doctor. I would recommend him to my friends and family. He makes me feel so good about myself and my health. Dr. Oleg Shapiro took the time to explain my condition and assured me the team would be available in time of need.

Wound Care Center: Dr. William Santiago knew what he was doing and he explained to me what to do before I was to come back, very good, and I understood everything he did.

06B: Dr. Zaher Oueida was really fantastic! Took the time to fully explain everything and answered any questions that I had. Great doctor.

06E: Dr. Deborah Mann – excellent clinical care.

07A: Dr. Brian Changlai – very good at explaining problems.

08F: I wanted the best care for my condition and Dr. G Randall Green was it! I really think that Dr. G Randall Green sets the positive tone in 8F – nothing but praise for him. Dr. G Randall Green was nothing but the best. His approach and bedside manners were awesome and the best I have ever seen. I would recommend Dr. G Randall Green to anyone in a heartbeat.

08G: Dr. Michael Archer is wonderful! I could not speak more highly of Dr. G Randall Green, his professionalism, caring and skill. I feel fortunate that I had the benefit of his services.

09F: Dr. Debanik Chaudhuri is a very special soul!

09G: Dr. Satish Krishnamurthy was wonderful.

Thank you for all you do!
Amy

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New York State (NYS) Electronic Death Registry System (EDRS) Amendment Training for Coroners and Medical Certifiers

April

Date: Monday, April 26, 2021 Time: 10:00 am

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=ta70692cddb6af4352e7a42590a5200c0>

Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 Time: 1:00 pm

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t1fe05c6cb6794849ebbf91f3fd8d6f6d>

Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 Time: 8:00 am

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=tae7017d222d9b86b04c6d47e24e9c51a>

Date: Thursday, April 29, 2021 Time: 10:00 am

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t5982711ee9ea593bda95394f71a348d5>

Date: Friday, April 30, 2021 Time: 1:00 pm

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t8338d6d61c2883cece5f2242be8d262a>

May

Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 Time: 1:00 pm

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=tbc670dbade2f8aa53aa682886d1fb173>

Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 Time: 8:00 am

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t3bfe291b67837d19b1965e6e80a26787>

Date: Friday, May 7, 2021 Time: 8:00 am

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=tf00e6465e66f17d759255fa739fd908d>

Date: Monday, May 10, 2021 Time: 10:00 am

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=tff7145a56fb5ebbb603f012072bd89a>

Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 Time: 5:00 pm

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=tc22ef61fe4f8d11a1478adc9f11e4417>

Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 Time: 8:00 am

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=tc24d14b0f85c66cbadc8b11b11a2a193>

Date: Thursday, May 13, 2021 Time: 1:00 pm

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=tc5fe7af3005d555fbaec8b8b8c845879>

Date: Friday, May 14, 2021 Time: 10:00 am

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t00bf93c7e44f533f4f7feb3d07a5049d>

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Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 Time: 1:00 pm

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t6a0c2fe72a5c9fef3f31e593c660aede>

Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 Time: 1:00 pm

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t95e6a0ae3e43486c477b9f2a9ad8b5f0>

Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021 Time: 8:00 am

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=tc4119d95833897fe7cc86d93cd0defa6>

Date: Friday, May 21, 2021 Time: 1:00 pm

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t68158e6b9429a5bf34f388ad811f15a9>

Date: Monday, May 24, 2021 Time: 10:00 am

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=ta5e32bee82b979cd47d5d13a86837251>

Date: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 Time: 5:00 pm

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=tfed23177f79fa33f9b725574684274e9>

Date: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 Time: 8:00 am

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t906da36488db549ca22cf7af207b10d3>

Date: Thursday, May 27, 2021 Time: 1:00 pm

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t35e81b72aa8f556ef3b3009505534952>

Date: Friday, May 28, 2021 Time: 2:00 pm

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t5191de38c3f014e79e660f0fd07a8ca5>

June

Date: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 Time: 8:00 am

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=tc581039d56bf07f73aafef3d0cf9f7bf>

Date: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 Time: 1:00 pm

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t44860f3d3b4f98af24074493b37192f5>

ALERT —
ADVISORY —
UPDATE —

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED
PRIORITY BUT NOT FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION
FOR INFORMATION; UNLIKELY TO REQUIRE ACTION



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

LISA J. PINO, M.A., J.D.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

DATE: April 4, 2021
TO: Hospitals
FROM: New York State Department of Health

Guidance for Hospitals Vaccinating Long-Term Care Patients Before Discharge to a Long-Term Care Facility

Background

All providers enrolled in the New York State COVID-19 vaccination administration program are required to report into the Vaccine Tracker on Mondays and Thursdays. The information collected is used by the State to analyze throughput to determine future vaccine allocations. All enrolled providers, including hospitals, are required to submit weekly planning requests ("pre-book") prior to receiving a vaccine allocation.

All Article 28 general hospitals are required to offer to medically eligible consenting patients COVID-19 vaccine to such patient prior to discharging a patient to a nursing home or other long-term care facility.

Appropriate Selection of Vaccine for Long Term Care Patients

To ensure residents of long-term care facilities are vaccinated prior to discharge from a hospital, hospitals must offer vaccine to all such patients prior to discharge to a long-term care facility. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require a second dose, while the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine requires only a single dose.

If available and provided that a patient consents and is determined to be clinically appropriate for such vaccine, hospitals should offer the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine to such patients. Offering the Janssen vaccine will allow patients to receive the benefit of vaccination, enable hospitals to appropriately allocate and administer vaccine for this priority population, and eliminate the need for a second dose in the long-term care facility by offering the one dose shot for these circumstances.

Hospitals should provide clear documentation to nursing homes of the patients' vaccination status as applicable – including, but not limited to, the specific vaccine administered, on what date, whether a second dose needs to be administered by the nursing home, and time frame for the second dose.

Please clearly communicate this requirement to all staff who are administering or distributing vaccines and to discharge planners.

For questions, please contact the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization at COVID19vaccine@health.ny.gov.

Cases of Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia after Receipt of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine

Distributed via the CDC Health Alert Network

April 13, 2021, 1:00 PM

ET CDCHAN-00442

Summary

As of April 12, 2021, approximately 6.85 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine (Janssen) have been administered in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are reviewing data involving six U.S. cases of a rare type of blood clot in individuals after receiving the J&J COVID-19 vaccine that were reported to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS). In these cases, a type of blood clot called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) was seen in combination with low levels of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia). All six cases occurred among women aged 18–48 years. The interval from vaccine receipt to symptom onset ranged from 6–13 days. One patient died. Providers should maintain a high index of suspicion for symptoms that might represent serious thrombotic events or thrombocytopenia in patients who have recently received the J&J COVID-19 vaccine. When these specific type of blood clots are observed following J&J COVID-19 vaccination, treatment is different from the treatment that might typically be administered for blood clots. Based on studies conducted among the patients diagnosed with immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia after the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in Europe, the pathogenesis of these rare and unusual adverse events after vaccination may be associated with platelet-activating antibodies against platelet factor-4 (PF4), a type of protein. Usually, the anticoagulant drug called heparin is used to treat blood clots. In this setting, the use of heparin may be harmful, and alternative treatments need to be given.

CDC will convene an emergency meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) on Wednesday, April 14, 2021, to further review these cases and assess potential implications on vaccine policy. FDA will review that analysis as it also investigates these cases. Until that process is complete, CDC and FDA are recommending a pause in the use of the J&J COVID-19 vaccine out of an abundance of caution. The purpose of this Health Alert is, in part, to ensure that the healthcare provider community is aware of the potential for these adverse events and can provide proper management due to the unique treatment required with this type of blood clot.

Background

VAERS is a national passive surveillance system jointly managed by CDC and FDA that monitors adverse events after vaccinations. The six patients (after 6.85 million vaccine doses administered) described in these VAERS reports came to attention in the latter half of March and early April of 2021 and developed symptoms a median of 9 days (range = 6–13 days) after receiving the J&J COVID-19 vaccine. Initial presenting symptoms were notable for headache in five of six patients, and back pain in the sixth who subsequently developed a headache. One patient also had abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting. Four developed focal neurological symptoms (focal weakness, aphasia, visual disturbance) prompting presentation for emergency care. The median days from vaccination to hospital admission was 15 days (range = 10–17 days). All were eventually diagnosed with CVST by intracranial imaging; two patients were also diagnosed with splanchnic* and portal vein thrombosis. Unusual for patients presenting with thrombotic events, all six patients showed evidence of thrombocytopenia (<150,000 platelets per microliter of blood), consistent with a condition known as thrombotic thrombocytopenia, with platelet nadir counts ranging from 10,000 to 127,000 during their hospitalizations. Four patients developed intraparenchymal brain hemorrhage and one subsequently died. All data presented in this HAN are preliminary and investigations of these VAERS reports are ongoing. The Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) project which includes experts in infectious disease and hematology are also reviewing these cases. To date, VAERS has received no reports of CVST with thrombocytopenia among persons who received either of the two mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccines.

These reports following the J&J COVID-19 vaccine are similar to reports of thrombotic events with thrombocytopenia after receipt of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in Europe. Both vaccines contain replication-incompetent adenoviral vectors (human [Ad26.COV2.S] for J&J and chimpanzee [ChAdOx1] for AstraZeneca) that encode the spike glycoprotein of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Based on studies conducted among the patients diagnosed with immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia after the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in Europe, the pathogenesis of these rare and unusual adverse events may be associated with platelet-activating antibodies against platelet factor 4 (PF4). Anti-PF4, also known as heparin- PF4 antibody, can induce thrombotic thrombocytopenia in a small percentage of persons exposed to heparin. However, none of the cases reported from Europe had recent heparin exposure. As with heparin-induced thrombocytopenia, the administration of the anticoagulant heparin should be avoided in patients with potential vaccine-associated immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT), unless heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT) testing is negative. Non-heparin anticoagulants and high-dose intravenous immune globulin should be considered in treatment of patients who present with immune-mediated thrombotic events with thrombocytopenia after J&J COVID-19 vaccination. Consultation with hematology specialists is strongly recommended.

* The term 'splanchnic circulation' describes the blood flow to the abdominal gastrointestinal organs including the stomach, liver, spleen, pancreas, small intestine, and large intestine.

Recommendations

For Clinicians

1. Pause the use of the J&J COVID-19 vaccine until the ACIP is able to further review these CVST cases in the context of thrombocytopenia and assess their potential significance.
2. Maintain a high index of suspicion for symptoms that might represent serious thrombotic events or thrombocytopenia in patients who have recently received the J&J COVID-19 vaccine, including severe headache, backache, new neurologic symptoms, severe abdominal pain, shortness of breath, leg swelling, petechiae (tiny red spots on the skin), or new or easy bruising. Obtain platelet counts and screen for evidence of immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia.
3. In patients with a thrombotic event and thrombocytopenia after the J&J COVID-19 vaccine, evaluate initially with a screening PF4 enzyme-linked immunosorbent (ELISA) assay as would be performed for autoimmune HIT. Consultation with a hematologist is strongly recommended.
4. Do not treat patients with thrombotic events and thrombocytopenia following receipt of J&J COVID-19 vaccine with heparin, unless HIT testing is negative.
5. If HIT testing is positive or unable to be performed in patient with thrombotic events and thrombocytopenia following receipt of J&J COVID-19 vaccine, non-heparin anticoagulants and high-dose intravenous immune globulin should be strongly considered.
6. Report adverse events to VAERS, including serious and life-threatening adverse events and deaths in patients following receipt of COVID-19 vaccines as required under the Emergency Use Authorizations for COVID-19 vaccines.

For Public Health

1. Pause the use of the J&J COVID-19 vaccine in public health clinics until the ACIP is able to further review these CVST cases in the context of thrombocytopenia and assess their potential significance.
2. Encourage healthcare providers and the public to report all serious and life-threatening adverse events and deaths following receipt of COVID-19 vaccines to VAERS as required under the EUAs for COVID-19 vaccines.
3. Disseminate this alert to healthcare providers in your jurisdictions.

For the Public

1. If you have received the J&J COVID-19 vaccine and develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination, contact your healthcare provider, or seek medical care.
2. Report adverse events following receipt of any COVID-19 vaccine to VAERS.
3. If you are scheduled to receive the J&J vaccine, please contact your healthcare provider, vaccination location, or clinic to learn about additional vaccine availability.

For More Information

- Resources on thrombotic thrombocytopenia after AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine
<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2104840>
<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2104882>
- Frequently asked questions about VAERS reporting for COVID-19 vaccines [VAERS – FAQs \(hhs.gov\)](#)
- How to report to [VAERS](#)
- CDC materials on [stroke](#) and NIH materials on [thrombocytopenia](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protects people's health and safety by preventing and controlling diseases and injuries; enhances health decisions by providing credible information on critical health issues; and promotes healthy living through strong partnerships with local, national and international organizations.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HAN Message Types

- **Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
- **Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
- **Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
- **Info Service:** Provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.

This message was distributed to state and local health officers, state and local epidemiologists, state and local laboratory directors, public information officers, HAN coordinators, and clinician organizations.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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