

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

June 7, 2022

COVID Update

# Positive	# ICU	# Vent
16	4	2

Daily COVID Screening

By Paul Suits

Screening healthcare employees for symptoms of and exposure to COVID-19 is a requirement of the New York State Department of Health Public Health Law and required of DNV and CMS for healthcare facilities.

Daily compliance for staff screening is down to 67% from about 82% in the past six months. Chatbot use is down to 400 per day and staff badge scans are down to 2,500 per day.

The COVID-19 screening process is as follows:

- All employees/students entering the Upstate facilities will use the following:
 - The self-assessment COVID screening Chatbot: <https://www.upstate.edu/coronavirus/self-screen.php>, or
 - Scan their Upstate ID badge at the kiosk at the hospital main entrances, or
 - Ambulatory – use sign in sheet for your department

For more information about the COVID-19 screening process, please refer to policy [COV M-02](#).

Be Upstate Strong and help us improve our compliance to this important public health initiative.

NYS DOH Guidance Re: Diagnostic Screening for G6PD Deficiency for Infants at Increased Risk

Please read the attached letter from the NYS Department of Health reminding providers that they are required to order diagnostic testing for glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency for infants at increased risk for this condition.

NYS DOH Guidance Re: NYS Public Health Law Related to Abortion Care

Please read the attached letter from the NYS Department of Health clarifying language in the NYS Public Health Law related to the provision of abortion care in New York State.

ALERT —
ADVISORY —
UPDATE —

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

June 7, 2022

Free Suicide Prevention Training

By Dr. Holly Vanderhoff

Many of you have expressed a wish to learn more about suicide and its prevention. The NYS Office of Mental Health, in collaboration with the Suicide Prevention Center of NYS and the QPR Institute, is offering this free “gatekeeper” training to assist everyone to recognize the signs of suicidal crisis and intervene to help the individual to access appropriate help. For more information or to register, please see the attached flyer.

New EPIC Ordering Process for Specialty Beds, Mattresses, & Mattress Pumps

By Jolene Putney

Please review the attached PowerPoint presentation outlining the new EPIC ordering process for specialty beds, mattresses, and mattress pumps.

- A summary of changes includes:
- Mattresses, beds, and mattresses pumps are all located in one panel for ease of ordering.
- Each order defaults for 60 days. If the patient is discharged before then, the orders discontinue. The goal is to keep the 60 day default when ordering.
- When ordering, all hard stops must be completed prior to signing to ensure the correct mattress, bed, and/or pump are ordered for the patient.

Revised / Archived COVID-19 Policies of Special Interest for Clinicians

Revised

- [Pediatric Behavioral Stoplight Program During COVID-19 \(COV S-10\)](#): No wire safety mask added. Removed phone procedure and 1 patient in hallway at a time. Title and policy verbiage revised to reflect change of PROC CM S-09B becoming CM S-48.

Archived

- Pulmonary Function Testing During the Prevalence of COVID-19 (COV P-10): incorporated into unit specific policy [RSP P-08](#).

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Welcome New Clinicians!

Please join me in offering a warm welcome to the following new clinicians at Upstate Medical University as of March 10, 2022

Anesthesiology

Courtney Ford, CRNA
Joshua LaBarge, CRNA

Dental Surgery

Michael Mattiaccio, DDS

Emergency Medicine

Jessica Donaldson, NP
Kelsey Nolan, NP

Medicine

Elsa Capria, NP
Christopher Felter, NP
Jacqueline Fletcher, PA
Emily Gaffney, PA

Medicine (cont.)

Anil George, MD
Alyssa Hurtado, PA
Nicole Insel, NP
Jacqueline Kelly, NP
Katherine McPhee, NP
Julia Munteanu, PA
Ian Pinto, MD
Corinne Schiff, NP
Lisa Wolniak, PA

Neurology

Alem Djukic, NP

Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences

Alexander Harris, MD

Orthopedics

Allyson Zakrzewski, MD

Pediatrics

Christopher Justinich, MD
Tanya Pelletiere, PhD
Taylor Tuttle, PhD

Psychiatry

Jane Valetchikov, PSYD

Radiology

Jesus Reyes Pereyra, MD

Surgery

Kathleen Tindall, NP

Outstanding Physician Comments

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



Adult Medicine: I can't picture life without **Dr. Lynn Cleary** who clearly knows what's wrong or else sends me to someone who can help. She's the best.

Boarders: **Dr. Allison Roy** was kind and conscious. She explained everything and did a great job!

Breast Care Center: **Dr. Lisa Lai** – very caring, compassionate and informative. **Dr. Ranjna Sharma** was extraordinary, an amazing, compassionate doctor. I am so grateful for her care. She went above and beyond! **Dr. Prashant Upadhyaya** was amazing, took the time to explain to myself and my daughter the procedure he will be doing and any risk or possible complications.

Community Campus – Virtual: I am extremely fortunate to have **Dr. Ali Hazama** as my doctor.

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ED at Community Hospital: Dr. Dana Finch was very kind and explained everything thoroughly. Dr. William Linsky was great.

Family Medicine at Community Hospital: Dr. Sana Zekri is excellent.

Gamma Knife: Dr. Harish Babu and Dr. Michael Mix – kind and professional, goes beyond to make you feel at ease! Dr. Sam Woods and Dr. Karna Sura – extremely kind and compassionate.

Heart and Vascular Center: Dr. Jamal Ahmed is a very experienced, competent, and caring doctor. I feel I am in the very best hands. The surgery went well under Dr. Dana Aiello's care. Thank you, Dr. Debanik Chaudhuri, for his expertise and care. Dr. Debanik Chaudhuri did cath of heart. I really liked after my procedure he took my wife over and showed her what they were looking at. I also liked his patience with the fellow learning from him. I feel better already. Dr. Debanik Chaudhuri – appointment for heart cath and stints only took three days. Amazing and so thankful. Dr. Andrew Weinberg – an 11 out of 10! The best.

Joslin Center for Diabetes: Dr. Barbara Feuerstein always impresses me. She is attentive to my needs and questions that I have for her. Dr. Roberto Izquierdo is an excellent doctor. He listens and is patient. He is definitely one of the best!

Joslin Pediatric Center: Dr. David Hansen is excellent with my young teenager. He was very sensitive to making sure she understood everything and that she was comfortable in an uncomfortable situation.

Multidisciplinary Programs Cancer Center: Dr. Michael Archer is great. He listens carefully when I share my concerns and the surgical care is second to none. Dr. Mark Crye was very thorough in discussing my case and his concern for my overall health and well-being. Dr. Lisa Lai took the time to show me my last mammogram and explain what was seen on it. Her explanations allayed any fears that I had prior to our discussions. Dr. Gloria Morris made it a point to first ask me how my sister was doing. Her concern almost brought me to tears. It was unexpected, but very comforting. She listened intently to me and made direct eye contact with me the entire visit. Wonderful! Dr. Ruham Alshiekh Nasany was excellent especially since I had a 20 year history and I was a new patient. She had a high degree of knowledge of my situation.

Nephrology Clinic: Dr. William Elliott asked many questions and explained what needed to be done. He was friendly and professional. He put me at ease.

Orthopedic Surgery: Dr. Richard Tallarico did an amazing job with explaining what he needs to do. He treated me like a patient and not a number. He spent a lot of quality time with me addressing all my concerns and explaining everything well.

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Peds Neph, Rheum, Integrative Med: We love **Dr. Caitlin Sgarlat Deluca!** She's always so happy and kind. She listened to our concerns and alleviated our fears.

Pulmonology Clinic: **Dr. Mitra Ghasemi** seemed to care. **Dr. Angela Love** is totally outstanding, concerned, positive attitude.

Radiation Oncology: **Dr. Jeffrey Bogart** explained the treatments concisely and executed procedures as planned, answered my questions and gave me peace of mind that all was going to plan. Always encouraging.

Rheumatology Clinic: **Dr. Jianghong Yu** always listens to my concerns, she is very thorough and knowledgeable, I'm grateful to have her overseeing my care. I would never want to go to anyone other than her. She helps me understand the autoimmune disease I have and makes me feel safe about the treatment she gives me. I trust her completely.

SUNY Upstate – Virtual: I would recommend **Dr. Abha Harish** and her team. It was an excellent experience. Even though it was not in person, she makes it feel like I am sitting next to her. She gave me the information and care I needed. **Dr. Abha Harish** cares about me. **Dr. Joseph Jacob** was very patient, he listened and addressed all of my questions and concerns. I did not feel rushed at all, and I appreciate that. I have the utmost confidence and respect for **Dr. Joseph Jacob** and his team. The conversation with **Dr. Lisa Lai** was very informative and her affect was very warm and supportive. **Dr. Hom Neupane** has always been polite and concerned about my health. I have always felt comfortable asking any questions I had with him. **Dr. Ruth Weinstock** is great.

Surgery – General: The surgical team, including **Dr. Thomas Vandermeer**, were quick to attend to my medical needs and provide me relief.

Surgery – UH: **Dr. Jason Wallen** and his assistant took the time to make us comfortable and explain everything so that we could understand. **Dr. Crystal Whitney** was so kind and compassionate and committed to help me in any way she could.

Surgery – UH LL022: **Dr. Kristina Go** is a great doctor. I would recommend her to everyone.

Surgical Specialties at Community Hospital: I was nervous about meeting **Dr. Timothy Shope**, but he put me at ease and that really helped me.

The Surgery Center – CG: **Dr. Prashant Upadhyaya** and his amazing staff that worked with him through my surgery. I just want to give a huge thank you and everything you did, didn't go unnoticed. **Dr. Prashant Upadhyaya** deserves recognition. He took the time with explanations not only with me but with my daughter when he called her after surgery.

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Transplant Center: Dr. Matthew Hanlon was knowledgeable and down to earth.

UHCC – Neurology: Dr. Anuradha Duleep is a very caring doctor who takes her time to explain things to you and is not rushing to go to the next patient. Dr. Sherif Elwan was very thorough and asked several times if we had any questions and he always listened to us. Dr. Ioana Medrea does a great job of listening and asking questions based on the conversation and she reacts to the pain I am in with questions to help her understand it better. Dr. Ioana Medrea was professional, asked questions, listened well. She looked at all the tests, and MRI before making any diagnosis. Although it was not in her area of expertise, she was still happy to listen and try to help me. Everyone was great, but Dr. Corey McGraw in particular was very thorough and helpful. Very thankful for Dr. Jenny Meyer's knowledge and understanding of my health concerns. Dr. Carlos Muniz was very thorough and considered all possibilities as to the source of the symptoms. The tests he ordered are appropriate to determine the cause of the symptoms.

Univ Pediatric & Adolescent Center: Dr. Karen Teelin is amazing!

University Cardiology: Dr. Robert Carhart always listens. Dr. Robert Carhart was very thorough and explained that we should call if there are ever any questions or concerns. Dr. Robert Carhart is always a great doctor and caring person. I was impressed at every point of contact from the gentleman that checked me in, nurse interviewer, and Dr. Hani Kozman's thorough responses to my questions. Well done! Dr. Sakti Pada Mookherjee is always very thorough, kind, and understanding.

University Center for Vision Care: Dr. Samuel Alpert always arrives in my exam room with a positive attitude and prepared to discuss my medical situation in detail. If I have any questions, I ask. He listens closely and always provides confident and easily understood explanations. If there are options, he involves me in making choices. Most important, I feel he is honest – whether my situation is getting better, or worse, or unchanged, he does not “sugar coat” the facts. At the end of the appointment, I always feel that he gave me his undivided attention and has my best health as his priority. A+! Dr. Samuel Alpert took interest in my need for a second opinion and to make certain he gathered additional information during my visits including computer photos of my eyes. I was impressed with his engagement and his candor about the concerns raised by my primary ophthalmologist. Dr. Robert Fechtner is the best!

University Geriatricians: Dr. Andrea Berg is an excellent physician. My appointments have always been exactly as I expected. She is brilliant and knowledgeable, listens to me, and addresses all my questions. I leave my appointments and know I can contact her whenever I have problems and that I will get an answer quickly. I would recommend her to anyone who needed a physician. Dr. Vikrant Tambe stopped in the exam room to tell us he would be with us in five minutes and he was! He is so caring, listens, and answers all questions. His pleasant demeanor is amazing. We are extremely pleased and we sing his praises to family and friends.

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University Internists: Loved **Dr. Tingyin Chee**. This was my first visit with her and she is a fantastic listener and explained everything to me in an understanding way. **Dr. Vincent Frechette** is a compassionate and intelligent man. **Dr. Vincent Frechette** is always a pleasure to interact with. A great listener. **Dr. Vincent Frechette** is awesome! He explains everything so thorough in layman's terms, it's easy to understand what is transpiring! Excellent doctor! He takes the cake! He is so knowledgeable and he truly cares about his patients. **Dr. Vincent Frechette** listens and also picks up on nonverbal cues. He provides several treatment or medication options for a problem and explains each. He lets patients make decisions about which options to try. He is very caring. **Dr. Vincent Frechette** is a god. **Dr. Vincent Frechette** is a great and attentive listener and provider of care and answers all questions concerning my health issues. **Dr. Vincent Frechette** is the best! He truly cares about his patients and has the best demeanor. **Dr. George Gluz** listened very well and he answered all my questions thoughtfully and completely. **Dr. Sriharsha Gowtham** is an exceptionally compassionate doctor. **Dr. Sriharsha Gowtham** is bright, calm, and very interested in doing the right thing for a patient. I like him and the office a lot. **Dr. Sriharsha Gowtham** was excellent. He took the time to explain CT scan results, what they meant, and what was concerning. **Dr. Catherine White** listened to my concerns and gave me options and information to help me.

Upstate Brain and Spine Center: I was happy with **Dr. Harish Babu**. **Dr. Ali Hazama** was very concerned as to my condition and explained everything well. I feel very comfortable talking to **Dr. Ali Hazama** and I believe that he has a great treatment plan for me.

Upstate Pediatrics: **Dr. Travis Hobart** is the best, we drive 45-minutes to see him. **Dr. Travis Hobart** – always listens. **Dr. Tobey Kresel** is always wonderful and I would recommend her to others. We love **Dr. Jaclyn Sisskind**. She is so wonderful to our entire family! **Dr. Jaclyn Sisskind** did amazing with my daughter. She made her comfortable and relaxed so she was able to exam her with ease. You can tell she does great with children!

Wound Care Center: **Dr. Marvin Heyboer** - extremely helpful, knowledgeable, and caring. Really cared and listened to me and my husband. Never rushed me and always answered all of my questions. **Dr. Deepali Sharma** – informative and patient answering my questions. I never felt rushed and am impressed by her knowledge, experience, and commitment to my care during my recent appointment and my likely time in the unit.

3W at Community Hospital: **Dr. Matthew Hess** - very caring and communicated well.



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Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

MARY T. BASSETT, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

KRISTIN M. PROUD
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

May 6, 2022

Dear Provider:

This letter seeks to clarify language in New York State (NYS) Public Health Law (PHL) related to the provision of abortion care in New York State.

Under New York State [Public Health Law § 2599-BB](#), abortion is legal in the State of New York when the patient, “is within twenty-four weeks from the commencement of pregnancy, or there is an absence of fetal viability, or the abortion is necessary to protect the patient’s life or health.” To ensure that New York State-based providers are offering abortion care in alignment with current standards of practice, the Department now defines “commencement of pregnancy” to begin with the implantation of a blastocyst(s).

Previously, a 1993 letter from New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) General Counsel Peter Millock defined the commencement of pregnancy to be at the time of conception, which is typically two weeks after the last menstrual period. Since that letter was issued, medical and scientific understanding has evolved and that definition is no longer regarded as clinically accurate. The new definition stated above aligns with the definition of pregnancy as stated by the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ACOG) in its [revitalized: Gynecology Data Definitions](#) released in 2018. Per ACOG, pregnancy is defined as “a *physiologic state of a woman that follows implantation of a blastocyst(s).*” This definition was developed by ACOG and is formally endorsed by an additional 12 professional medical organizations, including the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Nurse-Midwives, and the National Association of Nurse-Practitioners in Women’s Health.

Pursuant to the PHL, for an abortion needed after twenty-four weeks from the commencement of pregnancy there must be “an absence of fetal viability, or the abortion is necessary to protect the patient’s life or health.” For determining whether an abortion is necessary to protect the health of a patient, the Department has identified the following categories of factors which should be considered: physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and age of the patient. Any factor within these categories may be considered relevant to the well-being or health of the patient and should be taken into consideration by healthcare providers when making abortion determinations related to protecting patient health. This understanding of health as it relates to abortion care aligns with current and longstanding NYSDOH guidance outlined in the [“New York State Medicaid Program: Policy Guidelines Manual for Article 28 Certified Clinics.”](#)

Please keep in mind that pursuant to Article 25-A of the PHL (the Reproductive Health Act) and PHL § 2504, any pregnant person, regardless of age, may consent to an abortion without parental consent.

Healthcare providers offering abortion care should continue to exercise their clinical judgment within the parameters of the PHL, as outlined above. Providers offering abortion care are encouraged to ensure that clinical policies align with public health law and the definitions outlined above. Additional questions related to public health law may be directed to the Department for further consideration as necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary T. Bassett". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Mary T. Bassett, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner of Health



Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

MARY T. BASSETT, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

KRISTIN M. PROUD
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

May 11, 2022

DHDTC DAL 22-03

Dear Chief Executive Officer:

The purpose of this letter is to remind providers and hospitals that they are required to order diagnostic testing for glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency for infants at increased risk for this condition.

Newborn screening is mandated in NYS Public Health Law §2500-a and 2500-f. In 2022 the statute was amended to add G6PD deficiency to the list of newborn screening conditions in New York. G6PD deficiency was not added to the panel of conditions screened by the Newborn Screening Program through testing of dried blood spots, instead the law requires newborns be given a diagnostic test for G6PD deficiency if they:

- Present with hemolytic anemia
- Present with hemolytic jaundice
- Present with early onset increasing neonatal jaundice persisting beyond the first week of life (bilirubin level greater than the 40th percentile for age in hours)
- Are admitted to the hospital for jaundice following discharge
- Have a familial, racial, or ethnic risk of G6PD deficiency (African, Asian, Mediterranean, or Middle Eastern ancestry)

Newborns and infants who meet any one of the above criteria must be tested for G6PD deficiency using a quantitative test.

Hospital Requirements

Hospitals should put systems in place to ensure that infants meeting any of the above criteria be administered a quantitative test for G6PD deficiency.

Thank you for continuing to ensure New York's newborns get the healthiest start possible. If you have any questions, please call our main phone line at 518-473-7552 or email the Program at: nbsinfo@health.ny.gov.

Michele Caggana, ScD, FACMG
Director, NYS Newborn Screening Program
Division of Genetics
Wadsworth Center

Sincerely,

Stephanie Shulman, DrPH, MS
Director, Division of Hospitals and
Diagnostic & Treatment Centers



NEW ORDERING PROCESS THROUGH EPIC FOR SPECIALTY BEDS, MATTRESSES, AND MATTRESS PUMPS

April 2022

IMPORTANT CHANGES

- Mattresses, beds, and mattress pumps are all located in one panel for ease of ordering.
- Each order defaults for 60 days. If the patient is discharged before then, the orders discontinue.
 - The goal is to keep the 60 day default when ordering
- When ordering, all hard stops must be completed prior to signing to ensure the correct mattress, bed, and/or pump are ordered for the patient.

Equipment Request System ✓ Accept

☐ Mattress Selection
☐ Specialty Beds
☐ Mattress Pump (replacement)

ⓘ Next Required ✓ Accept

ORDER SCREENS

Mattress Selection ✓ Accept ✗ Cancel

Priority: Routine

Frequency: Continuous

Starting: Today Tomorrow For: Hours Days Weeks

At:

Starting: **Today 0940** Ending: **Sun 6/19**

Process Instructions: The Specialty Beds and Support Surfaces policy includes mattress selection recommendations according to the Braden Scale risk assessment and Bed Frame and Mattress selection guide. Please refer to Policy CM B-04 for more information on specialty mattresses.

Support Surface(All Pressure Redistribution) Standard Size(35") Bariatric Size Low Air Loss/Pump

Comments: + Add Comments

Reference Links:

- Specialty Beds and Support Surfaces Policy CM B-04

Default set for 60 days

Hard stop for support surface

Specialty Beds ✓ Accept ✗ Cancel

Priority: Routine Routine

Frequency: CONTINUOUS Continuous

Starting: 4/20/2022 Today Tomorrow For: 60 Hours Days Weeks

At: 0940

Starting: **Today 0940** Ending: **Sun 6/19**

Bed Type ! Bariatric Bed Low-Low Bed with Alarm Posey Bed

Comments: + Add Comments

Reference Links:

- Specialty Beds and Support Surfaces Policy CM B-04

✓ Accept ✗ Cancel

Default set for 60 days

Hard Stop for Bed Type

Mattress Pump (replacement) ✓ Accept ✗ Cancel

Priority: Routine Routine

Frequency: CONTINUOUS Continuous

Starting: 4/20/2022 Today Tomorrow For: 60 Hours Days Weeks

At: 0941

Starting: **Today 0941** Ending: **Sun 6/19**

Pump Type ! Platinum 6000 Pulsate Immerse Pump Mighty Air pump

Comments: + Add Comments

Reference Links:

- Specialty Beds and Support Surfaces Policy CM B-04

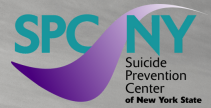
✓ Accept ✗ Cancel

Default set for 60 days

Hard Stop for Pump Type



Office of
Mental Health



QPR Training

QUESTION, PERSUADE, & REFER

Thursday, June 9th
5:00pm – 6:30pm

REGISTER FOR THE
THURS, JUNE 9TH
SESSION HERE

Tuesday, June 14th
10:00am – 11:30am

REGISTER FOR THE
TUES, JUNE 14TH
SESSION HERE

This training is for the
NYS Garrett Lee Smith
(GLS) Grant Partners

QPR is a one-hour training that instructs participants to recognize the signs of a suicidal crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone for help. Similar to CPR, an emergency medical intervention, QPR is an emergency mental health intervention.

Key Components Covered in Training:

- How to Question, Persuade and Refer someone who may be suicidal
- How to get help for yourself or learn more about preventing suicide
- The common causes of suicidal behavior
- The warning signs of suicide
- How to get help for someone in crisis

Trainings will be held virtually via Zoom.