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[**Weekly Relays User Guide**](https://ispace.utmb.edu/xythoswfs/webview/_xy-12470404_1)

**TOPICS LEGEND**

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| C:\Users\krhensle\Desktop\SMALL LOGO (2).jpg | WEEKLY RELAYS | **September 9, 2021** |
| **YOUR DEPARTMENT NEWS** | **UTMB NEWS** |
|  | **COVID-19 UPDATES**Due to the Delta variant, COVID-19 cases continue to rise significantly throughout Texas, straining clinics, emergency departments and hospitals statewide. All faculty, staff and students throughout the state must continue to remain vigilant and practice safety protocols to protect self and others. To read the latest Incident Command Update, visit <https://utmb.us/603>.**Updated Guidance:** * **Hospital visitation policy modified to comply with state legislation:** Per Texas HB 2211, hospitals are prohibited from restricting in-person visitation for a patient receiving care or treatment at the hospital during the COVID pandemic, unless certain exceptions apply. Read more in the Sept. 7 COVID-19 Clinical Task Force message at <https://utmb.us/602>. See our updated visitation policy at <https://www.utmbhealth.com/support-pages/visitation>.
* **Employee testing**: COVID testing volumes are currently extremely high, and we want to ensure timely and convenient testing for employees, both for their health and safety and for the safety of those we serve. The quickest and most efficient way for an EMPLOYEE to get tested is to [schedule an appointment](http://intranet.utmb.edu/covid-19-internal/employee-covid-19-testing). MyChart is preferred for scheduling and to receive results. [Special times are set aside for employee testing](http://intranet.utmb.edu/covid-19-internal/employee-covid-19-testing).

**Quick Links and Reminders:*** View coverage of our [Post-COVID Clinic in the Houston Chronicle](https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/health/article/They-survived-COVID-but-unseen-brain-damage-is-16433754.php)
* [Travel requirements and guidelines](https://www.utmb.edu/covid-19/employees-students/travel)
* [View previous Q&A sessions](http://intranet.utmb.edu/covid-19-internal/q-and-a) featuring Dr. Gulshan Sharma and other UTMB experts (UTMB login required)
* [Safety Requirements](https://www.utmb.edu/covid-19/employees-students#info), including masking, social distancing/meeting room capacity, travel, visitation
* Requirements if you are [Sick or Exposed](https://www.utmb.edu/covid-19/employees-students/safety#sick)
* Emergency Leave [summary](https://liveutmb.sharepoint.com/%3Ab%3A/s/collaboration/HumanResources/Efkgbrq4LxhIqTeGMFa6SakBuVHfUbXycemth1cDpW5LRQ) and [FAQs](https://liveutmb.sharepoint.com/%3Ab%3A/s/collaboration/HumanResources/EQZLHoO3BD9Fh7oN1S4uTKkBXmoKRp65__AV1KW2eHemEg)
* [Schedule a vaccine online](https://www.utmb.edu/covid-19/vaccine/) or get the vaccine through Employee Health clinics in Galveston and League City
* [Information on authorized booster shots](http://intranet.utmb.edu/iutmb/article/2021/08/16/covid-19-vaccine-booster-shots-available-for-eligible-immunocompromised-individuals)
* [Information on monoclonal antibody treatment](https://www.utmb.edu/covid-19/patients/covid-treatment)

**Vice president for Information Services and chief information officer named:** Effective immediately, George Gaddie has been named vice president for Information Services and chief information officer. In addition to prior leadership positions in corporate IT, George has a combined 17 years of service with UTMB, including his role as associate vice president and deputy chief information officer prior to assuming the interim VP/CIO role earlier this year. To read more about his appointment, visit <https://utmb.us/604> .  |
| OPICSLEGEND |  PATIENT CARE EDUCATION & RESEARCH INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT CMC |
| **AROUND UTMB** (Use the legend above to quickly find items of interest to your team) |
| **New assistant chief of UTMB Police named**: Congrats to Captain David DeOre, who was recently promoted to assistant chief of police at UTMB after an extensive nationwide competitive search. A certified protection professional (CPP), he has served UTMB Police for 24 years, has an M.A. in Justice Administration, and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy**Annual employee evaluations:** UTMB has entered the evaluation phase of the FY21 performance review cycle, and the institutional deadline for completing employee evaluations is Oct. 29. An evaluation is required by the University of Texas System for all full-time, part-time and casual employees hired on or before Feb. 28, 2021. Employees are encouraged to speak with their leadership regarding any entity- or department-specific requirements and deadlines. For more employee evaluation information, see <https://www.utmb.edu/hr/employees/employee-development-and-training>.**SAVE THE DATE****Next Health Care Unmasked set for Sept. 15**: Dr. Giulio Taglialatela, the Lawrence J. Del Papa Distinguished Chair inNeurodegenerative Disease Research*,* professor and vice chair for Research in the Department of Neurology and director for the Mitchell Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases, will appear with Dr. Rafael Samper Ternent, assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine’s Division of Geriatrics, on the Sept. 15 edition of Health Care Unmasked. The pair will discuss Alzheimer’s Disease research and clinical care with host TJ Aulds. The full episode will air online at noon, Sept. 15 at [www.facebook.com/i45now](http://www.facebook.com/i45now).**Weekly Wellness Recap:**This month's theme is all about self-care.* Be willing to share how you feel and ask for help when needed.
* Aim to be good enough, rather than perfect.
* When you find things are hard, remember it's OK not to be OK.
* Make time to do something you really enjoy.
* Get active outside and give your mind and body a natural boost.
* Be as kind to yourself as you would be to a loved one.
* If you’re busy, allow yourself to pause and take a break.

 **Associate dean named for innovation and commercialization for the School of Health Professions**: Blake Rasmussen, PhD, has been appointed associate dean for innovation and commercialization for the School of Health Professions. Dr. Rasmussen currently serves as the chair of the Department of Nutrition, Metabolism and Rehabilitation Sciences, and has been continuously funded by the NIH for the past 17 years at UTMB. The purpose of the Office for Innovation and Commercialization will be to provide support and guidance for SHP faculty interested in developing and commercializing innovative products, submitting patents, forming start-up companies and working with the UTMB Office of Technology Transfer and the Technology Commercialization Program. |  **The Joint Commission Questions of the Week**: Medication Orders **What happens if a written medication order is illegible, is missing required elements, or is unclear for any other reason, such as confusion surrounding the use of an unapproved abbreviation?** * If there are difficulties entering a written order into the EMR on behalf of a practitioner, the prescriber of the order is contacted, the order is clarified or rewritten, and the order is then entered appropriately in the EMR.
* Any questions regarding medication orders will be resolved immediately with the prescribing physician or the physician on­-call.
* The order must be clarified and rewritten before nursing will carry out the order.

**What do I need to know about therapeutic duplication?** * Therapeutic duplication is defined as giving two or more drugs from the same therapeutic class such that the combined daily dose puts the beneficiary at risk of an adverse medical result or incurs additional program costs without additional therapeutic benefit.
* Medication orders that could result in therapeutic duplications are not permitted without accompanying clarification, including when each medication is to be administered, such as priority, sequence and/or patient condition for use. If duplicate orders are written, the provider will be contacted for clarification.

 **Epic Upgrade set for Sept. 12**: The Epic system is scheduled to be unavailable from 2 to 4 p.m., Sept. 12. During the Epic Upgrade timeframe, clicking on the UTMB EMR icon will redirect users to a Read-Only version of Epic. Visit the [Epic Upgrade web page](http://intranet.utmb.edu/emr/epic-upgrade-march-2021/epic-upgrade-overview) to review enhancements and changes for each application by user role. Available online at <https://utmb.us/4pn>.  |
| **DID YOU KNOW?**Launched in early 2021 to raise awareness of our clinical teams, services and relevant health and science topics, UTMB’s Health Blog is filled with dozens of articles, videos and more. Available online at <https://www.utmbhealth.com/health-blog>, the blog has content that is curated by Marketing and Communications and represents a collaboration with the Academic Enterprise, Health System and Institutional Support areas. Check the page regularly for new posts and information, and submit content suggestions and inquiries to social@utmb.edu. |