



[Listen](#) to an abbreviated audio version of Clinician Update.



New Guidance on How to Appropriately Triage Combative Patients and AMA

As a high-reliability organization, Virtua prioritizes everyone's safety. And our colleagues must first feel safe to deliver the best possible care.

To support a safe environment, a multidisciplinary team has amended the “AMA (Against Medical Advice) & Elopement” policy to include an algorithm for de-escalation decision-making. Specifically, the algorithm provides scenario-specific guidance to reduce opportunities for aggressive or combative patients to potentially harm colleagues or themselves.

The updated policy is effective today. [Click to review it](#), discuss it with your department, and ensure general awareness. You may also want to save the link or bookmark the policy for future use.

For FAQs about the revised policy, [click here](#).

All In on Excellence 2025: Raising Teamwork for Safety

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the All In on Excellence 2025 Program. This week, we invite you to focus on the invaluable insights provided in the tip, [Everyone Leading Safety at the Local Level Tip #5: Learning Safety Across Teams](#) featuring Lisa Ferraro, president of Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes and SVP of Virtua.

We extend our appreciation to Lisa for leading us through the “Everybody, Always in an HRO” section of our series. Next week begins the second section of the series: “Gratitude in Action.”

Virtua Remains at the Ready Should There Be a Measles Outbreak

A measles [outbreak in a rural Texas county](#) is raising alarm among those in the public health community who warn that the largely conquered disease could be making a resurgence.

There are at least 58 confirmed cases of measles and 13 hospitalizations in rural West Texas, as of [Tuesday](#), with another eight cases in neighboring New Mexico.

The New Jersey Department of Health warned residents [last week](#) that a person with measles recently visited the emergency department at Englewood Hospital in Bergen County.

“At Virtua, we’ve been preparing since the summer for potential measles cases,” said Martin Topiel, MD, chief infection control officer. “The pediatric and adult emergency departments along with urgent care centers have had team planning meetings including approaches for early recognition on entry of suspected measles patients to Virtua campuses so to minimize potential exposures of colleagues and ‘waiting room’ patients.”

Dr. Topiel also noted that early recognition, along with appropriate communication and signage in the departments will be key, along with ongoing education of our colleagues. “Measles vaccine is still an extremely effective prevention approach in our toolbox, and it is safe,” he said.

Virtua Medical Director of Research Addresses Access to CDC Data

Federal health agencies last week restored several webpages and datasets, following [a judge’s order](#) to bring back public access to information that had been removed to comply with a presidential executive order. While the temporary restraining order is now in effect, the research community is [working to find alternative ways](#) to host important government health data and guidance online.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last week restored nine webpages and datasets, but not all that were taken down, including data on transgender health.

“The CDC is essentially being censored for political reasons,” said Robert E. Post, MD, medical director of research at Virtua Health, as well as chair of the Department of Family Medicine and vice president of Virtua Medical Staff (South Division). “This is dangerous, and there is no role for politics in science. Having easy access to what is supposed to be freely available CDC data allows researchers to find important associations that can impact health for all Americans. Research is what moves the practice of medicine forward. Impediments to that only work to slow progress in patient care.”

ARTEMIS Trial Examines Heart Attack Treatment

Virtua Research periodically shares trials for your consideration. The ARTEMIS study is seeking to demonstrate the efficacy and safety of ziltivekimab (an IL-6 inhibitor) versus placebo in reducing the risk of major adverse cardiovascular events when initiated as early as possible in adult patients with ST-elevation and non-ST-elevation myocardial infarction. A brief synopsis of the eligibility criteria is listed below.

Inclusion/exclusion criteria include:

- **Inclusion:** Hospitalization for acute myocardial infarction with evidence of type 1 MI by invasive angiography performed at a site with PCI capabilities
- **Exclusion:** CABG or use of fibrinolytic therapy for treatment of the current AMI
 - Chronic heart failure is classified as being in New York Heart Association (NYHA) Class IV

The remaining inclusion/exclusion criteria are extensive and can be shared by reaching out to our research team. If you have a patient who meets the criteria above, please contact the Virtua Research team at research@virtua.org or [856-355-1202](tel:856-355-1202) and a research coordinator will review the eligibility with you.

Radiation Oncology Upgrade Complete at Washington Twp

The newly remodeled radiation oncology suite at the Virtua Health & Wellness Center — Washington Township is now open. Starting this week, patients will

receive precision cancer treatments with the newest Varian TrueBeam Linear Accelerator.

The Penn Medicine | Virtua Health radiation oncology team recently welcomed visitors to tour the updated suite, which provides a comfortable and welcoming environment for patients and their families.

“Our office will continue to deliver quality care close to home now with the highest level of precision available,” said radiation oncologist Alexis Harvey, MD.

Virtua and Penn Medicine are partners in providing advanced radiation therapy at our three cancer program locations in Moorestown, Voorhees, and Washington Township.

What Patients Are Saying About Our Clinicians

Confidence in care is a common reference among our clinician reviews. Note the following recent examples and how the patient felt about the experience, and the clinician referenced:

“Dr. Pigott is an amazing doctor. Since day one, he’s made me feel comfortable. I’m extremely satisfied. I love everything that he’s ever done for me as a patient, and I cannot wait until my next appointment. Thank you again, Dr. Pigott.” **(Tyler J. Pigott, DO)**

“She was very personable and professional during my exam. I appreciate her expertise and compassion with my concerns.” **(Laura Roth, PA)**

“Dr. Diawara really cares about her patients. She takes her time. She listens and helps find the problem, as well as a solution for any concern I have.” **(Aissata Diawara, MD)**

“Dr. Alami is an awesome podiatrist and surgeon. I had multiple broken bones in my foot that required plates and screws. She followed me throughout the surgery and healing process. And now my broken foot is just a memory.” **(Ghadeer Alami, DPM)**

“I liked the fact that he spoke directly to me (the patient) instead of my daughter. Which sometimes happens with some doctors. He did include her, which is why I like her to accompany me. I was very satisfied with my visit.” **(Michael Hodde, DO)**

Virtua in the News

Flu Season Is Worst in 15 Years

New Jersey has one of the highest flu levels nationwide, as the illness has surged in recent weeks. Martin Topiel, MD, chief infection control officer, discussed possible reasons for the high flu rates and how people can protect themselves and others. Watch on [CBS 3](#).

Virtua Executive Honored for Leadership

A local business magazine has named Stephanie Fendrick, EVP and chief strategy officer, among its 16 “Women to Watch” for 2025. She leads the development and growth of Virtua’s programs, its clinical partnerships with other organizations, and the health system’s digital transformation. Read in [South Jersey Biz](#).

Real Talk! Women’s Health Chat, Feb. 27 *Vascular Webinar for Patients*

When Veins Talk: What Your Legs Are Telling You

Thursday, February 27 | 7p.m. to 8 p.m., virtual

Veins have a story to share—whether it’s subtle hints about cosmetic concerns or loud warnings about more serious health issues. Join Virtua’s experts as they explore risk factors, treatment options, and when varicose veins might signal something beyond the surface.

Panelists:

Alissa Brotman O’Neill, DO, vascular surgeon

Venkata Meka, DO, women’s primary care physician

[Register today.](#)

Jersey Choice Top Doctors Ballots Due Feb. 23

New Jersey Monthly surveys the state’s physicians each year to determine its list of “Jersey Choice Top Doctors.” **Online voting will remain open through Feb. 23.** Use your state license number at <http://topdoctors.point2survey.net>.

The results of the survey will be published in the November 2025 issue of *New Jersey Monthly*.

[Click here](#) to consult the 2024 list. To learn more about the methodology, [click here](#).

Vote in the Best Hospitals Ranking

It's time to vote in the *U.S. News and World Report* "Best Hospitals" ranking. So, if you are a registered Doximity member, watch for an email sometime this month or next about the annual member survey. Even if you don't receive the email, you can still vote by logging in to [Doximity](#).

All in the Family at Virtua Health

What's it like to work alongside your family? In this episode of *Here for Good: Inside Edition*, President and CEO Dennis Pullin sat down with Reggie and Naomi Riggs, a father-daughter duo at the Virtua Access Center, to find out. Reggie, who began scheduling primary care appointments, now works in training and development. Naomi navigates the complexities of patient care with a "high-touch" approach. Both believe in the power of compassionate connection—with patients, their own family, and fellow colleagues who they consider extended family. The conversation takes a touching turn when Naomi recounts the very personal story of Reggie's role in her home birth.

Click to [watch the video](#) and learn more about the Riggs Family.

IDEA – Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity for All

This Black History Month, we focus on Black and African American trailblazers in health care, transforming and surpassing obstacles to ensure health equity and access. From creating a nursing program and innovative cancer research to establishing the first Black-owned pharmacy and community ophthalmology, discover the stories of these extraordinary physicians:

- [Eight Black Pioneers in Medicine and Health Care You Should Know](#)
- [Changing the Face of Medicine](#)

Today, **Feb. 20**, is World Day of Social Justice, with this year's focus being *Strengthening a Just Transition for a Sustainable Future*, recognizing the need to reimagine economic and environmental factors for all. To learn more, click [World Day of Social Justice | United Nations](#).



Virtua Health

303 Lippincott Drive, Marlton, NJ 08053

You received this email because you are subscribed to Marketing Information from Virtua.

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Digital Services Privacy Statement](#)