



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

Rowan Medicine Pediatrician Outlines the Case for Vaccines

New Jersey health officials [have confirmed two additional cases of measles](#) in the state this year linked to a Bergen County resident who recently traveled internationally. This news is in the wake of [the measles outbreak](#) in a rural Texas county that has claimed the life of an unvaccinated school-age child—the first reported U.S. death since 2015. The number of confirmed cases has more than doubled since we first reported on the outbreak in [last week's Clinician Update](#). As it stands, more than 130 individuals, most under age 18, have contracted the disease across two states (Texas and New Mexico).

Vaccine hesitancy has been a concern for physicians across the country, and this week, [PBS Newshour addressed the issue with a feature story on the impact it has on pediatricians](#) who must balance the care of patients with the need to educate parents.

Pediatrician Tanya Iannuzzi, DO, of Rowan Medicine Pediatrics, an affiliate of Virtua Medical Group, spoke to this important issue in [this video](#), outlining the safety and efficacy of vaccines and the approach she and her colleagues take when speaking to parents about their concerns.

“We believe strongly in the power of vaccines, no doubt, but we maintain a *partnership role* so that parents feel comfortable and supportive in the plan of care,” said Dr. Iannuzzi, who is also a clinical assistant professor at the Virtua Health College of Medicine and Life Sciences. “We know that vaccination has become a hot topic. Some parents have questioned their safety and value. In

our practice, we understand that concern. That's why we take the approach that we *work together* with parents for the health of all children.”

If you have any questions about vaccines, please don't hesitate to contact Virtua Infection Prevention at ICP@virtua.org. To view Dr. Iannuzzi's video, click [here](#).

Important Notice Regarding Woebot

Last year, Virtua Health launched a partnership with Woebot Health to deliver adjunctive mental health to patients via an evidence-based AI-driven app called Woebot. The goal was to provide Woebot to 500 patients with an eight-week subscription. The pilot was initiated through primary care practices and involved colleagues working across several service lines to introduce the tool to patients with mild-to-moderate anxiety or depression.

In the pilot thus far, 494 users were supported for 35,207 minutes across 5,272 sessions. While Virtua is excited to share these results, **Woebot Health has informed us that they will be retiring the current Woebot for Adults v2.0 app and will pivot to a direct-to-consumer app this summer.**

"Woebot Health shared that they are already hard at work on a new emotional well-being app that is being built from the ground up, with plans to release it later this year," said Tarun Kapoor, MD, Virtua SVP and chief digital transformation officer. "Unfortunately, they cannot gracefully migrate users. For regulatory reasons, they'll have to retire the Woebot fully first before they can bring their new product to market. However, we are hopeful that both organizations will continue to collaborate."

To help transition this service, Virtua is providing the following timeline:

February 28: Officially, the last day to enroll patients in Woebot. It is recommended that clinicians discontinue referring to the app. To manage patient expectations, it is also recommended that practice managers remove any Woebot collateral material, such as tent cards, flyers, postcards, and signage.

March 31: Patients who have recently received an access code will have until this date to activate their accounts.

June 30: For patients enrolled in Woebot for Adults v2.0, this will be the last day to use the app. Patients will receive in-app notifications to alert them that the program will be ending. In addition, Virtua will send a separate notification to all patients who received a Woebot referral.

“We wish to extend our sincere gratitude for your support as we explored this novel approach to adjunctive mental health care,” said Angela Skrzynski, DO, lead clinician of Virtua Telehealth in Virtua Medical Group. “As an organization, we learned a lot in this journey that will help guide us in developing resources and digital therapeutics for the benefit of our patients.”

Heart Event Demonstrates the Power of Innovation and Compassionate Care

In honor of Heart Month, the Advanced Heart Failure team held an informational session on Feb. 19 called “Advancing Heart Function, One Pump at a Time.” The event was designed to educate clinicians about the left ventricular assist device (LVAD) procedure and when to refer patients to the Advanced Heart Failure Program.

Attendees also had the opportunity to reunite with three of our LVAD patients, whom they cared for and bonded with during their hospital stay.

“We want to help our patients live longer, better lives, so they can do all the things they want to do,” said Tolulope Agunbiade, MD, director of Advanced Heart Failure. “This is an advancement in cardiac care that will help people do that.”

To learn more about Virtua Heart Failure Services, call 856-325-4261.

From the Heart

Thirty-eight-year-old Justin Fisher of Pennsauken visited his primary care physician, Denne Thomas-Patterson, MD, for a routine check-up. Given his family history of heart issues, he was referred to cardiologist Troy Randle, DO, who scheduled him for a cardiac catheterization at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. It was revealed that he had three significant blockages in his arteries that needed immediate intervention.

Justin’s positive outcome reflects the power of routine primary care visits and what can happen when there is trust and open communication between providers and patients.

Click to [view the video](#) and [story in *HealthTalk*](#).

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 begin the second section of the series: “Gratitude in Action,” beginning with [Gratitude Tip #1: Gratitude Mindset](#).

Celebrating Our Lasting Impact Project Honorees

Together, we create a lasting impact on the lives of others. Each year, we are deeply touched by the patients and community members who make generous gifts to Virtua Health to express their gratitude. In 2024, more than 100 clinicians, colleagues, and care teams were honored with a heartfelt gift of gratitude through [The Lasting Impact Project](#)!

When a patient or their loved one gives back to express their gratitude—whether for exceptional care or the countless “little things” that make a difference—it serves as a powerful reminder of the impact we make every day. Their generosity is inspiring, and it powers our mission forward.

Congratulations to the following clinicians, colleagues and teams who were honored in 2024.

[View Full List of Honorees](#)

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:

“I’ve seen doctors from coast to coast. Without question, Dr. Plasner is one of the best doctors that treated me. What separates her from the others is the ability to listen. It only takes a few extra minutes to listen to a patient’s concerns. Those extra minutes are what separates marginal doctors from superior doctors.” **(Samantha M. Plasner, DO)**

“Excellent, prompt, sincere, makes you feel he is your personal cardiologist.” **(Raghunandan Dudda Subramanya, MD)**

“She always spends a lot of time with me, is personable, and makes awkward topics feel not as awkward. All her recommendations for my symptoms have

been helpful. I'm happy she is so close to home, but would follow her wherever she goes!" (**Elizabeth Kusturiss, APN**)

"Cannot say enough about Dr. Kader. His diagnosis of my issues was spot on. The process was deliberate and careful, with conclusions reached only after analysis of the bloodwork combined with considerate conversation with me. The road to recovery seems very doable at this stage." (**Richard Kader, DO**)

"I was actually pretty nervous because I didn't know if he was a doctor that I was going to like or I was going to feel comfortable with. But immediately when I met him, all of that went out the window, and I am very excited about my upcoming appointments with him." (**Louis Balsama, DO**)

***SJ Mag Media* Top Docs Polling Starts March 1**

SJ Mag Media's top doctor balloting opens for physicians and patients on **Saturday, March 1.**

The links below will not be live until 12 a.m. on Saturday:

- [Click here as a physician to vote.](#)
- Share this [Top Doc Patient Poll](#) with your patients, friends, and family.

The deadline for voting for both is March 31 at 5 p.m.

To view the physicians who were chosen by their peers and patients as a *SJ Mag Media* 2024 Top Doc, click [here](#).

Meet Telemedicine Physician Dr. Angela Skrzynski

As the lead physician for telehealth services at Virtua, [Angela A. Skrzynski, DO](#) is making connections with patients by meeting them where they are. Dr. Skrzynski was inspired to pursue medicine by her parents, who were both physicians. She states, "The most rewarding part of my job by far is making connections with patients and seeing them come out the other side of a health care obstacle."

To learn more about Dr. Skrzynski, view the [video](#).

Virtua ED Doctor Has Seen Her Childhood Dream Become a Lifesaving Reality

Ever wondered what drives someone to run toward emergencies, to be calm in the face of chaos? Lea Rowson, DO, emergency medicine physician at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, shares with Virtua President and CEO Dennis Pullin how her childhood dreams of caring for others became a reality. From trying to sneak onto her EMT parents' ambulance as a 10-year-old, Dr. Rowson now helps patients get through their most challenging moments. For Dr. Rowson, being Here for Good is a way of life.

Click to [view the full episode](#).

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](#).

Virtua in the News

Dr. Topiel Discusses Difficult Flu Season

Martin Topiel, MD, chief infection control officer, discussed possible reasons for the current flu surge, which has led to the deaths of 68 children nationwide.

He noted that flu can be transmitted 24 hours before symptoms start, and people can spread the illness even when they start feeling better. "You still have to be cautious," he said. Read in [The Courier-Post](#).

Cardiac Care in the Spotlight

Virtua provides an array of advanced cardiovascular services at each of its five hospitals. A statewide business magazine has published an overview, including capabilities in clinical cardiology, cardiovascular surgery, electrophysiology, heart failure, interventional cardiology, structural heart, and vascular medicine. Read in [ROI-NJ](#).

Dr. Mazza Offers Insights on Pope's Health

Pope Francis is facing an array of medical conditions, including a complex respiratory infection, pneumonia, and mild kidney failure, according to the Vatican.

Emilio Mazza, MD, medical director of the ICU at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, discussed the implications for the 88-year-old pontiff. “We've seen patients in his situation recover, but it’s an uphill battle,” said the pulmonologist and critical care doctor. Watch on [CBS 3](#).

Artificial Intelligence Making Hospitals ‘Smarter’ and Safer

Virtua hospitals are among several in the Philadelphia area that are using artificial intelligence to advance care. For example, Virtua is creating “smart” patient rooms across its five hospitals, featuring sensors and two-way cameras that enhance connections between patients and their care teams.

Read in [Philadelphia Business Journal](#).

Virtua HR Chief Honored as CHRO to Know

Becker's Hospital Review has named Rhonda Jordan, EVP and chief human resources officer, among its 2025 “CHROs to Know.” The story cites Rhonda’s many accomplishments, including her role in Virtua’s strategic and operational leadership, talent management, organizational culture, and her support of DEI across Virtua. Read in [Becker's Hospital Review](#).

Clinician Alert: MUSE Upgrade and Scheduled Downtime

Due to scheduled maintenance, MUSE access will be unavailable for all colleagues beginning Tuesday, March 4 at 11:30 a.m. Please note that there will be a lengthy downtime during this maintenance period, and we anticipate that MUSENx access will return by approximately 7 a.m. on Wednesday, March 5. During this time, downtime procedures will need to be used when performing EKGs and any GE CASE-based stress testing. Please make sure to refer to the EKG printout during this downtime as EKGs will not be available in Epic for reference.

Cardiologists must read any EKG before the downtime begins at 11 a.m. on Tuesday. Any stress tests done during the downtime can be read in Epic, but paper strips from the exam must be referenced. Strips will be reconciled in Epic as part of the cleanup after the MUSE system is restored.

Additionally, please note any cardiologist reading from the MUSENx web application in Epic, this functionality may be delayed in working as it has to be fixed after IT brings the MUSE system back online. Please log into MUSE via

Citrix to complete EKG readings. IT will send out a notification when this has been reconfigured.

Finally, please note that due to the downtime, a cleanup must be completed, so viewing EKGs and stress tests in Epic may be delayed. Clinicians will need to reference the paper strips performed.

Thank you for your cooperation as we continue to enhance our applications to better patient care. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding and cooperation. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the IT Service Desk at 856-355-1234 or x51234.

Important: Update Your Apple Device Security

Keeping your software updated is essential for maintaining the security, performance, and compatibility of your devices. Virtua IT is requiring everyone using an Apple device, personal or Virtua-issued, to apply the latest update released from Apple.

Please refer to this [link](#) to see the Apple devices and their latest software version. If your device software version is less than the version shown, then **YOUR DEVICE IS AT RISK FOR COMPROMISE.**

What Does This Mean?

The latest update addresses vulnerabilities that Apple has identified as being actively exploited. Attackers can steal data or install malware onto your device. This puts your personal information, as well as confidential Virtua information, at risk.

What Do I Need to Do?

Apply the latest software update to your personal device.

How Do I Check What Version I Have?

Refer to this article: [Find the software version on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod \(service-now.com\)](#).

How Do I Update My Device?

Refer to this article: [Update your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch \(service-now.com\)](#).

What If My Device Is an Older Model and Cannot Update To The Required Versions?

Acquire a device that is compatible with the required versions for iOS and macOS. Certain older devices will not support the latest iOS upgrade and are unable to patch. Certain older devices will not support the most current critical security updates.

Why Can't I Continue to Use My Current/Older Device Without the Upgrade?

Any device without the required security updates will be restricted from synchronizing Virtua email for security protection reasons.

A Few Tips to Keep in Mind:

Do not download, accept, or execute files from untrusted and unknown sources. Do not visit untrusted websites or follow links provided by untrusted or unknown sources.

Thank you in advance for protecting your device and Virtua.



Virtua Health

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