Virtua Health

Clinician Update

August 28, 2025

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Forbes Names Virtua a Best Employer for Seventh Year

For the seventh consecutive year, *Forbes* magazine has named Virtua one of America's Best Employers in New Jersey. This prestigious recognition is presented by *Forbes* and Statista Inc., a statistics portal and industry ranking provider.

The recognition is a testament to Virtua's "Culture of WE," a framework instituted by President and CEO Dennis Pullin, to guide the organization's people-first philosophy. This culture, which emphasizes understanding, respect, and empowerment, is credited with attracting and retaining dedicated, compassionate professionals who are committed to serving the South Jersey community.

"Our colleagues are the heart of Virtua Health, and this consistent recognition from Forbes is a powerful validation of their passion and our shared commitment to creating an exceptional workplace," said Rhonda Jordan, EVP and chief human resources officer. "We are immensely proud of our colleagues and will continue to invest in their growth and well-being, ensuring Virtua remains an employer of choice for years to come."

Read more in *Forbes*, *NJ Biz*, and *Becker's Hospital Review*. For more details, see Virtua's press release.

Practicing Excellence

This week marks our transition to our third Guiding Principle, **WE Invite Belonging**. Click here to view Rhonda Jordan's introduction to the new set of tips.

Dr. Harwood Scores National Reputation

Congratulations to Virtua Reconstructive Orthopedics sports medicine physician Marc I. Harwood, MD. Dr. Harwood has been named to *Newsweek*'s list of “America's Leading Doctors 2025,” adding to the list of Virtua doctors topping our news in last week's *Clinician Update*.

Dr. Harwood's expertise includes 20 years in Major League Baseball (MLB). In 2021, he was appointed as a medical consultant for MLB and Minor League Baseball umpires. In his role, Dr. Harwood works closely with the MLB and its umpire medical personnel to promote the health, safety, and wellness of over 300 umpires. Prior to his appointment, he served as the team physician for the Philadelphia Phillies for 16 seasons—from 2005 through 2021. He is a past president of the Major League Baseball Team Physicians Association and is an active member of the Medical Advisory Committee and Research Committee for MLB. In his spare time, Dr. Harwood is a rhythm guitarist for a cover band named Huge in Europe

To consult the full list of names and discover *Newsweek*'s methodology, click here .

What Patients Are Saying About Our Clinicians

Positive feedback continues to come in from our patients. Note the following recent examples and how the patient felt about the experience, and the clinician referenced:

“She is always kind, helpful, and understanding with her patients. She provides straight talk with information and care.” (**Hafeza Shaikh, DO** – Women's Cardiovascular Disease, Cardiology)

“Best doctor ever. Friendly, and explains everything so you understand.” (**Kanad Mukherjee, DO** – Family Medicine)

“Best gynecologist I have ever been to. She cares about the patient's needs. Clean office and room. Friendly and professional service and staff.” (**Satinderpal Sandhu, MD** – Obstetrics and Gynecology)

"Dr. Garg is an excellent doctor. He's very pleasant, attentive, and informative. He listens to your concerns, which means a lot. I would definitely recommend him to family and friends." (**Aatish Garg, MD** – Electrophysiology)

"From the moment I walked into her office, I felt truly cared for. The front desk staff was very friendly and welcoming, which set the tone for a great visit. She is kind, compassionate, and truly cares about her patients. She makes me feel confident in my care and actually makes me look forward to coming back, which is something I never thought I'd say about a doctor's office!" (**Anne Jones, DO** – Family Medicine)

"Just love when it's time to go see her. She listens to me, advises me on any plan or issue I have. Thank you so much. Five stars are not enough." (**Janet Osayamwen, APN** – Family Medicine)

"Dr. Michel is knowledgeable, caring, and professional. He allows for our many questions and answers them clearly. He spends time with you and doesn't rush." (**Brian Michel, MD** – Nephrology)

"I absolutely love Dr. Ibay! I have been with her since she started, probably about 25 years ago. She is so patient and understanding. She really cares about her patients and actually listens when you talk." (**Annamarie Ibay, MD** – Family Medicine)

Sharing a Letter From a Grateful Patient

The following is an excerpt from a letter sent by a grateful patient this week:

"I am writing to share my sincere gratitude for the exceptional care I received during my recent hospitalization at Virtua Voorhees. I was hospitalized with a serious bacterial infection that quickly spread from my leg to my lungs. Throughout that frightening and challenging experience, your staff demonstrated not only clinical excellence but also compassion and humanity that went far beyond my expectations.

"What will stay with me forever is how your team made it possible for me to witness the birth of my son, who was delivered at the same hospital during my stay. This was a moment I could not imagine missing. The staff showed patience, empathy, and determination to ensure I could be there safely. Thanks to their extraordinary efforts, I was able to experience one of the most meaningful events of my life without compromising my care.

"That combination of skill, compassion, and commitment is what defines outstanding health care. The employees who cared for me did more than treat an illness—they gave me and my family a priceless gift."

The grateful patient finished the letter by listing every nurse and caretaker who helped him during his stay, including Roman Krol, MD, and George Kargul, MD.

"Please extend my deepest appreciation to them, as well as to the entire care team who supported me during my stay. They represent the very best of Virtua Voorhees Hospital."

New NICU Infant Nutrition Room Will Serve the Needs of Our Tiniest Patients

Virtua Voorhees Hospital's NICU has expanded with the addition of a dedicated Infant Nutrition Room designed to help our tiniest patients thrive. The room provides a state-of-the-art environment for breast milk storage, processing, and preparation, with nutritionists and specially trained technicians tailoring milk to meet each baby's unique needs. This new addition greatly enhances our NICU team's ability to deliver optimal nutrition to every infant, as well as increases support to breastfeeding mothers. Virtua is grateful to all the donors who supported this initiative.

Important: Update Your Apple Device Security

Virtua IT requires everyone using an Apple device, personal or Virtua-issued, to apply the latest update released by Apple. 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.

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 will be 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.

Virtua in the News

Virtua Recognized for Cardiac Innovations

A statewide magazine featured Virtua among several New Jersey hospitals that are transforming cardiac care. Dr. Dan Choi, MD, VP of clinical operations for the cardiovascular service line, discussed renal denervation — a groundbreaking treatment for high blood pressure—and tiny, drug-coated balloons that help treat coronary artery disease.

"Along with saving more lives, these and other minimally invasive treatments are often less expensive than previous treatments," reported NJ *Biz.*

Spotlight on Virtua's Leading-Edge Robotic Surgery Program

A statewide business publication named Virtua among New Jersey health systems that are early adopters of medical advances. In Virtua's case, it is the first organization on the East Coast—and second in the country—to offer the da Vinci 5 robotic surgery platform across its entire health system. This advanced system offers enhanced views inside the body, new force-sensing technology that may reduce trauma to tissue, and better positioning options for surgeons.

Read in *New Jersey Business Magazine*.

Virtua Sites Nominated for 'Best of the Press'

Three Virtua entities are in the running for *The Press of Atlantic City*'s 2025 Best of the Press list. Make sure to vote for these nominees, starting Sept. 3:

- Virtua Primary Care – Linwood (nominated in four categories)
- Virtua Voorhees Hospital (best hospital category)
- Virtua Recon Ortho at Virtua Medical Group (best neuropathy, spine, and joint rehabilitation clinic)

Read in *The Press of Atlantic City*.

Fatal Overdoses Down 67% in Gloucester County

Multiple initiatives have led to a dramatic decline in overdose deaths in Gloucester County during the first half of 2025. Director of the Gloucester County Board of Commissioners Frank DiMarco credited the county's strong partnerships, including its collaboration with Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine. For example, Rowan-Virtua SOM students lead Narcan training sessions and provide Narcan supplies at a local recovery center.

Read in *The Sentinel of Gloucester County*.

Virtua CEO to Speak at *Modern Healthcare* Leadership Summit

Virtua President and CEO Dennis Pullin is scheduled to speak next month at *Modern Healthcare*'s Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. The conference "offers decision-makers the opportunity to learn from and connect with other executives driving transformation in uncertain times," the publication noted.

Other speakers include leaders from GE HealthCare, Mayo Clinic, Microsoft, and Aetna. Read in *Modern Healthcare*.

Dennis Pullin Named to New 'Best of' List

A new business publication has included President and CEO Dennis Pullin on its inaugural "Best Health Care 2025: Hospitals" list. Read in *BINJE*.

Rowan-Virtua Dean Offers Advice to Pre-Med Students

Millicent Channell, DO, vice dean of academic affairs and student services at Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine, discussed issues to consider when planning to attend medical school. For instance, some students may benefit from a gap year after college, while others may prefer to avoid such a break in their education. Read in *U.S. News & World Report*.

Upcoming Calendar

Sept. 3 to Sept. 18, Colleague Appreciation Gatherings

This year's Colleague Culture Survey theme is *Lock in Excellence: Your Engagement is Key*. As a token of our respect and appreciation, Virtua is honored to host *Colleague Appreciation Gatherings* at selected locations throughout September. This is a wonderful opportunity for colleagues to come together, connect, and enjoy a complimentary meal.

Click here to view the schedule of the gatherings. For colleagues based in locations not listed, you are invited to attend the gathering at the nearest campus.

Sept. 13, Virtua at the Walk to End Alzheimer's

When: Sept. 13, Registration at 8:30 a.m., ceremony at 10 a.m., walk at 10:30 a.m.
Where: Cooper River Park, Pennsauken

Registration is free, and no donation is required (though always appreciated).

The first pre-registered colleagues to check in at Virtua's table on the morning of the walk will receive a Virtua "We Thrive" hat on a first-come, first-served basis, while supplies last.

Luke Dreisbach, population health RN, shared:

"I walk because with more awareness, more patients and their families can understand and utilize the resources that are available."

Tammye Ross, manager of practice transformation, shared:

"I have seen its devastating effects on patients, residents, and families over the years. I walk for them."

Maryann Graham, AVP of practice education & clinical outcomes, shared:

"I'm walking for the silent heroes, the caregivers, who give their hearts daily without asking for anything in return. Their strength, love, and sacrifice do not go unnoticed."

Register today by clicking here .

Sept. 20, Annual Haddon Avenue Street Festival

Virtua is once again proud to support the Haddon Avenue Street Festival, which will take place on Saturday, Sept. 20. Presented by Parkside Business & Community in Partnership (PBCIP), the free annual event celebrates the intersection of family, community, entrepreneurship, and the arts. With over 75 vendors, small business expo, main-stage performances, a children's zone, health screenings, and food access resources, this event draws more than 10,000 attendees from Camden and the region, spotlighting the city's cultural and economic vitality.

The street festival lines Haddon Avenue just a few blocks north of Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital between Kaighn Avenue and Mechanic Streets. Virtua's Community Health Engagement, Heart Failure, Eat Well, and Dental Center teams will be on hand at the event. To learn more, click here .

Oct. 4, Annual Cardiology for Primary Care Symposium

Join us for this year's Cardiology for Primary Care Symposium, part of the Key Essentials for Optimizing Patient Care five-block CME series presented by the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine and offering up to 5.5 AOA Category 1-A and 5.5 AMA PRA Category 1 credits™.

The event will take place virtually on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This year's agenda includes the following topics and speakers:

- Geriatric Medicine - Kevin Overbeck, DO
- Advances in Hypertension Treatment - Kimberly Hagen, PA
- Aortic Disease: What PCPs Should Know - Eden Payabyab, MD
- Evaluation and Treatment of the Female Cardiac Patient - Nikhita Kothari, DO
- Achieving Health Equity in the Cardiovascular Population - Troy Randle, DO
- Cardiac Manifestations of Rheumatologic Conditions - Humaira Khan, MD
- The Cardiac - Pulmonary Interface - Jonathan Galli, MD

The registration fee for the individual Cardiology for Primary Care program is $149. (VMG clinicians: This event—and the series—is reimbursable through your annual CME allotment.) These events are free to residents, fellows, and medical students. Go here to register for this event.

Note: The full five-block series includes (in addition to cardiology) content featuring psychiatry, geriatrics, pediatrics, and women's health. Registration for the full series is $695. Go here to review the full brochure and for more details. For questions about the series, email at cme@rowan.edu.

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