



## Clinician Update

April 17, 2025



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



## Dr. Khelil Shares Launch of New Practicing Excellence Program

As previewed in last week's communications, all of Virtua this week is officially embarking on our latest Practicing Excellence program that will run throughout most of 2025. Our new program is all about our refreshed [Guiding Principles](#).

We begin with the Guiding Principle "**WE Care Compassionately.**" Consult the Practicing Excellence app or website to watch [this kick-off video](#) from our own chief clinical officer, Jennifer Khelil, DO.

Next week, we will watch Practicing Excellence tips that examine one of the simple actions that support this Guiding Principle. Specifically, we will review the notion of *Practicing Empathy*. As Dr. Khelil says, "Empathy transforms a routine procedure into a moment of meaningful connection. This is true for patients and for how we engage with one another as colleagues."

Moving forward, the specific tip presented weekly to colleagues may vary based on job location/type, but the overall themes are the same for everyone. For instance, everyone will focus on empathy for the next few weeks. We look forward to your feedback.

## Virtua Health Introduces New Mobile Grocery Store

This week, Virtua rolled out a new Mobile Grocery Store to help reduce food insecurity and improve access to fresh, healthy food. The custom-built, 40-foot

vehicle is part of a new \$1.5 million, state-funded investment in Virtua's "[Eat Well](#)" food access programs. The initiative will also include our first Mobile Food Farmacy, scheduled to launch this summer.

The new Eat Well Mobile Grocery Store replaces the original vehicle—a refurbished NJ Transit bus— which launched in 2021. The new, custom-designed vehicle offers more space for customers and staff, among other improvements.

To learn more, read the [press release](#). Media coverage includes [New Jersey Business Magazine](#), [NBC10](#), [CBS Philadelphia](#), [Fox 29](#), [ROI-NJ](#), [Tap Into Camden](#), [70](#) and [73](#).

## **Important Safety/Security Update for Virtua Hospitals**

At Virtua, the safety of our colleagues, patients, and visitors is paramount. As a high-reliability organization, we are committed to zero harm, and that extends beyond clinical care. To address the growing rates of violence against health care workers, we will soon add round-the-clock armed security personnel at our hospitals. This decision, the latest measure in our ongoing and evolving security strategy, is based on careful planning, risk assessments, and industry best practices.

Armed security personnel serve as a significant deterrent to potential violence, de-escalating potentially volatile situations and responding quickly to security threats. These security officers undergo rigorous and specialized training, including de-escalation techniques, crisis intervention, emergency response procedures, and mental health awareness. They also maintain certifications and participate in ongoing training and education.

Our goal is to create a safe and secure environment for everyone. These new team members will reflect our values of empathy, accountability, and open communication and will be collaborative additions to our hospital communities.

## **Research Opportunity in Treatment of Peripheral Artery Disease**

Virtua Research periodically shares trials for your consideration. Principal investigator Luai Tabaza, MD, interventional cardiologist, will collect observational data under a local standard of care and evaluate the safety and

performance of the Serranator® in the treatment of peripheral artery disease (PAD) or dysfunctional native or synthetic arteriovenous dialysis fistulae in a real-world scenario. This is a post-market clinical follow-up study on the angioplasty serration balloon catheter, which aims to achieve optimal lumen expansion at lower pressures for predictable results, mitigation of recoil, and minimal dissection.

The study population will consist of patients with claudication or ischemic rest pain, with de novo or restenotic lesions in the iliac, femoral, iliofemoral, popliteal, infrapopliteal, and pedal arteries, or dysfunctional native or synthetic arteriovenous dialysis fistulae.

A brief synopsis of the eligibility criteria is listed below.

**Inclusion:**

Patients intended to be treated with the Serranator for de novo or restenotic lesions of the iliac, femoral, iliofemoral, popliteal, infrapopliteal, and pedal arteries or dysfunctional native or synthetic arteriovenous dialysis fistulae.

Patients presenting with claudication or critical limb-threatening ischemia by Rutherford Clinical Category 3, 4, 5, or 6 of the target limb.

**Exclusion:**

Patients with any medical condition that would make them an inappropriate candidate for treatment with the Serranator as per instructions for use or the investigator's opinion.

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](mailto:research@virtua.org) and a research coordinator will review their eligibility with you.

## **Top Physicians 2025 - South Jersey Magazine**

Later this year, *South Jersey Magazine* will highlight those physicians as voted by the public who have made an impact on the lives of people in our area. Each person can vote one time per day [here](#). Entries must be received by **May 7**.

To view *South Jersey Magazine* Top Physicians of 2024, click [here](#).

## **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 was nervous upon arriving to my appointment, but once my name was called, I felt at ease. The staff members were polite, helpful, and very easy to talk to. Dr. Udoh explained things to me step by step. She was extremely helpful getting me on the exam table. I was truly thankful and blessed that Dr. Udoh took these extra steps to help me. Thank you will never say enough.” **(Adaora Udoh, MD)**

“She definitely cares about her patients. She listens to patients. She treats her patients like they are family. She is an excellent doctor, and I appreciate her.” **(Elizabeth Revesz, MD)**

“I love Dr. Spusta. He's very kind, patient, and friendly, and he genuinely makes me feel wholeheartedly that he cares about me.” **(Jordan Spusta, DO)**

“She is very attentive and very kind. She gives you a lot of guidance on health and gives you a lot of good advice. She is very professional and very caring. I really adore her. Although my English is not very good, she helps me a lot. I understand her very well as she speaks slowly.” **(Janet Osayamwen, APN)**

“As always, the doctor is always understanding and concerned about my well-being. I have some anxiety issues going to a doctor. He knows this and is always understanding of my condition. He makes me feel very comfortable. I recommend him to all my family and friends when anybody is in need of a cardiologist to see.” **(Jeffrey Namey MD)**

## **Dr. Adeliyi Discusses Maternal Health Equity**

Black Maternal Health Week is recognized nationally from April 11 to April 17, calling attention to racial disparities in maternal health outcomes. Black mothers in New Jersey face a pregnancy-related mortality rate 6.6 times higher than that of white, non-Hispanic women. Virtua is committed to providing care solutions to address this critical health equity matter.

Theresa Adeliyi, MD, medical director of Virtua Center for Women and OB/GYN Residency, is helping to lead the way. In [this video](#), she discusses her passion for maternal health equity. She also reviews how Virtua is addressing equitable care, including Team Birth as a shared decision-making tool, prenatal care for uninsured and underinsured patients, addressing food insecurity, and more.

# The Passion, Purpose, and Perseverance of Dr. Angela Bess

Angela Bess, MD, OB-GYN, is a force for change—delivering access, advocacy, and hope to a community that needs it most. In this episode of *Inside Edition*, she shares with President and CEO Dennis Pullin what it means for patients to finally receive long-overdue care—and how she's confronting the maternal health crisis head-on with urgency and heart. But Dr. Bess' impact extends far beyond the clinic. When she's not advocating for women's health—locally and globally, she chases adventure, from running marathons and completing triathlons to climbing Mount Kilimanjaro.

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

## HeartTalk Arrives in Homes This Week

*HeartTalk* is a quarterly magazine mailed to 127,000 households in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester counties. It aims to guide readers to follow a healthy lifestyle with expert advice on preventing and managing cardiovascular disease, weight management, and improving lung, digestive, reproductive, and emotional health—and much more.

Special thanks to the following clinicians participating in the spring 2025 issue: Marc Harwood, DO; Robin Figliola, DO; Tolulope Agunbiade, MD; Kintur Sanghvi, MD; Darius Sholevar, MD; Heath Saltzman, MD; Graeme Williams, MD; Tyler Veterano, DO; Raul Berio-Dorta, MD; Zubair Malik, MD; Matthew Puc, MD; Omar Choudhri, MD; and Ericca Palma, MSN.

The spring issue arrives in homes this week. Click [here](#) to read the digital version of the magazine. To view past issues, visit [here](#).

## Virtua Crohn's & Colitis Center's Dr. Sanket Patel Talks Up IBD Awareness

For over a year now, the Virtua Crohn's & Colitis Center in Moorestown has been providing expert care and support for individuals with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), including Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. The center's multidisciplinary team is led by IBD fellowship-trained gastroenterologist, Sanket B. Patel, DO, and includes a registered dietitian who develops personalized nutrition plans, our experienced colorectal surgeons who specialize in minimally invasive techniques, and a dedicated clinical support team to expedite scheduling and care coordination.

The center has been garnering regional attention. [Here is a podcast interview this week with Dr. Patel](#) on *Focus on the Delaware Valley*. The topic is IBD.

Virtua is also a sponsor of Take Steps on May 9 at Citizens Bank Park, a walk for the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation. Dr. Patel invites all to join Virtua's Bowel Brigade. To learn more about the event and the team, click [here](#).

To learn more about the Virtua Crohn's & Colitis Center, or to connect with its care coordinator, call 856-291-8680.

## More of Virtua in the News

### Rowan/Virtua Partnership Prepares Students for Success

Educational institutions and industry leaders are increasingly joining forces to ensure students' future success and a well-prepared workforce. This story cites the Rowan-Virtua partnership, including a new four-year nursing program, as an example of this synergy. Read in [Jersey's Best](#).

### Media Spotlights CEO's Book

A new book on leadership by President and CEO Dennis Pullin is drawing media attention across the country. Titled *Suited for Leadership: How to Show Up with Purpose to Have Lasting Impact*, the volume features inspiring and insightful guidance based on Dennis' extensive experience. All proceeds from book sales will directly support Virtua's Eat Well food access programs. Read in [ROI-NJ](#) and [SNJ Today](#).

### Virtua Leader a 'Women in Business' Influencer

A statewide business publication has named Stephanie Fendrick, EVP and chief strategy officer, to its 2025 list of leading women in business. They're the "ones who don't just show up—they change the game," wrote [ROI-NJ](#). View Stephanie's page [here](#).

## Upcoming Events

### Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Community Day, May 3

This year, Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital turns 75! Come out for our Community Day on Saturday, May 3, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to celebrate our rich history, participate in our healthy, family-friendly activities, and get a sneak peek of our future as we share plans for our campus transformation.

For more information and to register [click here](#).

### **Hospital Week, May 11-17, Colleague Appreciation Gatherings**

Hospital Week is May 11 to 17. Enjoy the festivities, connect with colleagues, and share a meal. To view the schedule and locations for this year's Colleague Appreciation Gatherings, [click here](#). Virtua Medical Group colleagues and those based in other locations are encouraged to attend a celebration at the nearest Virtua hospital. Additional details will be forthcoming via an email invitation.

## **Recognition Weeks**

### **Focusing on Safety: Recognizing Health Information Professionals, April 18 to 24**

The work of clinicians is so often at the bedside and patient-facing. But there is so much we rely upon to make informed clinical decisions.

Virtua is celebrating Health Information Professionals Week, April 18 to 24. Health information professionals are highly trained in management technology applications and understanding workflow processes in health care organizations. Virtua's Health Information Management departments play a key role in optimizing health information to improve patient quality and safety every day of the year.

"Safety will always involve all of us in all that we do, and now more than ever, our advancements in technology broadly contribute enormous capabilities to all areas of health care," said Jennifer Khelil, DO, Virtua's EVP and chief clinical officer. "I can't say enough about the work that health information professionals accomplish to help ensure patient information is accurate, complete, secure, and accessible, which impacts patient care and safety."

### **Medical Lab Professionals Week, April 20 to 26**

Medical lab scientists, phlebotomists, and other lab professionals are always busy providing vital information that is ever so critical in the diagnosis, treatment, and care of our patients.

"They are champions of blood bank, chemistry, hematology, histology, microbiology, and phlebotomy, all fortified with a tireless dedication to detail," said Ahmed Salahuddin, AVP of laboratory services at Virtua. "I thank these colleagues for their steadfast professionalism as they support our clinicians and ultimately our patients."

[Click here](#) to watch a video that features the activities at the labs and the talented individuals who work there.



Virtua Health

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