

## Clinician Update

*April 3, 2025*



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## Measles Outbreak Readiness

The infection prevention team is working with its partners across Virtua to prepare for possible cases of measles presenting to our emergency departments, urgent cares, and VMG practices. The team also is communicating with Virtua's over 15,000 colleagues to be aware of steps to ensure we all stay safe.

"We unfortunately expect measles will likely become an issue in our local community," said Martin Topiel, MD, Virtua's chief infection control officer. "This may occur from unsuspecting persons with international travel exposures or from areas with outbreaks elsewhere in the U.S. that get transmitted and passed on to others, ultimately spreading to our community."

Dr. Topiel stressed awareness and readiness. "While patients with rashes may trigger suspicion in our medical patient encounters in provider offices, urgent cares, and EDs, it may be the patients otherwise ill with respiratory symptoms occurring after an unknown measles exposure that may provide the greatest risk to our colleagues."

As for protection, and the importance of sharing that with the public, Dr. Topiel noted that the greatest protection for individuals and their families and patients is to be aware of their personal immune status. "If that is unknown, it can be determined with a blood test or just receive at least one measles vaccine from your health provider as long as you are not pregnant or immunocompromised," he said., "One vaccine should provide adequate immunity and is protective to at least 93%."

For more information see the [Infectious Disease of an Employee policy](#) in the Infection Prevention policy manual on Colleague Corner.

## **Clinician Alert: Preparations Under Way to Achieve Joint Accreditation for Rowan-Virtua SOM**

The Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine (SOM) and Virtua Health are collaboratively working to obtain Joint Accreditation (JA) .JA is a designation awarded to organizations that provide Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) programs. This designation accredits institutions that promote collaboration, teamwork, and interprofessional continuing education for health professionals.

### **What Is Needed From Our Clinicians?**

The partnership between Rowan-Virtua SOM and Virtua Health must successfully demonstrate how we address the educational needs of our learners through delivering IPCE activities. These activities address the individual learner's knowledge, skills/strategy, or performance as a health care team. To report these outcomes, it is imperative that we have adequate data. Virtua's Clinical Learning & Research Department asks that following participating in an educational activity, please complete the end of program survey that will allow you to claim the *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Your responses will also contribute to the evidence that Virtua can use to address educational needs and IPCE outcomes. At the end of each accredited continuing medical education session, a link or QR should be shared that you can use to complete the survey. If you have not received this information, please contact [CME-CNE@virtua.org](mailto:CME-CNE@virtua.org).

## **Celebrating Our Doctors**

Doctors' Day 2025 presented a special opportunity to show appreciation. Virtua held a buffet lunch celebration at each campus on Monday. Additionally, VMG practices celebrated with catered lunches at all their sites.

"It was rewarding to get together with everyone in a welcoming way," said Erik DeLue, MD, chief medical officer of Virtua Voorhees and Marlton hospitals.

"We're all in this profession for the same reason, and that is to make a positive difference in the community we serve. It's nice to acknowledge and be grateful for each other."

“While Doctors’ Day is but one day a year, we celebrate and recognize your efforts throughout the year,” said Jennifer Khelil, DO, Virtua’s EVP and chief clinical officer. “We could not be *Here for Good* if it were not for you. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your service.”

## 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:

“My doctor saved my life. She is awesome, an excellent doctor, and a fantastic person. Very compassionate and kind. I thank God I found her for my treatment.” **(Emily Gleimer, DO)**

“Dr. Ropiak is skilled and knowledgeable. He was concerned about my outcome, explaining all subjects and procedures expected for my health and continued life. I totally trust him with my care and outcome.” **(Raymond Ropiak, MD)**

“Every visit, she treats me as an individual, not an assembly line part. She listens to me as my primary care giver. I appreciate all she does for me. That is why I followed her to Rowan Family Medicine and will continue to stay a patient of hers. Thank you for having such an amazing person on the staff.” **(Dianna Shinkarow, APN)**

“From the time I check in, to seeing the provider, my time at this office has always been nothing but a good experience. She really listens to me. I’m thankful for providers who listen and care.” **(Haley Duncan, PA)**

“Dr. Mariani showed professional interaction. He thoroughly discussed what would need to be done surgically. He also listened to what I was saying. Thank you.” **(John Mariani, DO)**

## Clinical Decision Unit Opens at Virtua Mount Holly Hospital

Congratulations to the team at Virtua Mount Holly Hospital for opening the Clinical Decision Unit (CDU) within that campus’s emergency department. This is Virtua’s second CDU—the first opened at Virtua Voorhees about one year ago—and more are in development.

A CDU is an extension of the emergency department that allows clinicians to further monitor and evaluate patients without necessarily admitting them to the hospital as inpatients. Most people who receive care in the CDU return home in 20 hours or fewer.

## **Six Virtua-Affiliated ASCs Earn Spot on 2025 *U.S. News & World Report* List**

*U.S. News & World Report* recently released its second annual list of Best Ambulatory Surgery Centers(ASCs) 2025 in four specialty areas: colonoscopy and endoscopy, orthopedics and spine, ophthalmology, and urology.

Virtua Health proudly congratulates the staff of the six Virtua joint-venture ASCs rated as high-performing:

- Limestone Medical Center, Wilmington (Colonoscopy & Endoscopy and Ophthalmology)
- Morris County Surgical Center, Parsippany (Colonoscopy & Endoscopy)
- Surgical Center of South Jersey, Mount Laurel (Colonoscopy & Endoscopy)
- Vantage Surgery Center, Moorestown (Orthopedics & Spine)
- Advanced Surgical Center, Sewell (Orthopedics & Spine)
- Ramapo Valley Surgical Center, Ramsey (Ophthalmology)

“There are more than 6,000 ambulatory surgical centers nationwide,” said Monte Goldstein, MD, chief medical officer of Virtua ASC Joint Ventures. “Having our ASCs make this list speaks to our commitment to quality care and outcomes, the bedrock of what we strive to accomplish together. So, we are proud to see this national designation.”

Last fall, 18 of Virtua’s joint-venture ASCs were also listed among [\*Newsweek’s\* list of the best ASCs in the nation for 2025](#).

Click [here](#) for a full list of Virtua’s 42 ambulatory surgery centers.

## ***Modern Healthcare* Best Place to Work Survey**

Virtua Health is participating in Modern Healthcare’s “Best Places to Work” survey. Not everyone will get the email, which is why it’s critical that everyone look for it. If you are chosen, please share your honest feedback. The email would have come from [Surveys@WorkforceRG.com](mailto:Surveys@WorkforceRG.com) with the subject line “Employee Survey - Best Places to Work.”

## Vote for Virtua's Mobile Programs

Virtua's Mobile Acceleration Program has been selected as a finalist for the 2025 New Jersey Social Innovation Awards, which celebrate the changemakers, disruptors, and visionaries across the region who are making a meaningful difference. Virtua's mobile program includes the Mobile Grocery Store, Farmers Market, Pediatric Mobile Services, and Mobile Health & Cancer Screening Unit. Help Virtua win this prestigious award by voting. Click to vote: [newjerseyinnovationawards.com/vote](https://newjerseyinnovationawards.com/vote).

## Virtua & Camden County Partner on Safety Program for Drivers With Autism

Officials from Camden County, Virtua, and other area organizations launched an initiative this week to make traffic stops safer for people with autism and related conditions and police officers.

The Blue Envelope Program provides such motorists with documentation they can present to officers, which notes their condition and provides instructions to both officers and the driver. The pale blue envelope also provides a place to keep one's license, insurance card, and other necessary documents.

In the weeks ahead, Virtua will build awareness of the program and distribute the special envelopes to select Virtua locations.

Read in the [Courier-Post](#) and [WHYY](#) and watch on [NBC 10](#).

## From Teacher to Nurse Leader: Jen Hyland's Journey

From the classroom to the cardiac unit, Jen Hyland's story is a testament to the power of family legacy. Inspired by her mother and grandmother (both nurses), she traded teaching for patient care, now leading a bustling 48-bed unit and championing neurodiversity within Virtua. Virtua President and CEO Dennis Pullin discusses with Jen how her journey underscores Virtua's commitment to providing exceptional care and personal connection.

View the full episode [here](#).

## Practicing Excellence

Stay tuned for a new series to commence in the coming weeks. Until then, if you missed a tip or two, take a moment to catch up. Visit the [Practicing Excellence page on the Colleague Corner](#).

## Upcoming Calendar

### 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.

Mark the date and share the word. For more information and to RSVP, [click here](#).

### Emergency Medicine CME Event, May 8

The Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine will host the 2nd Annual South Jersey Emergency Medicine Symposium on **Thursday, May 8**, 8a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Top Golf in Mount Laurel. The CME event will provide updates in emergency medicine on topics required to practice the specialty. This is the only CME event in South Jersey focusing on emergency medicine.

Learning Objectives:

- Demonstrate knowledge of updates in stroke care
- Differentiate the presentations of cardiotoxic medications and the treatment of these toxidromes
- Apply the knowledge of emergent stabilization and interventions in acute gastrointestinal bleeding
- Explain the various and recommended treatments for status epilepticus
- Define the knowledge of transfer laws and EMTALA
- Perform a resuscitation with limited resources

The event will include lunch/golf. For CME credit details and to register, click [here](#).

### Spread the Word — Camp Oasis, June 1

Presented by the Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Cancer Program, Camp Oasis is a free, spirit-lifting one-day getaway camp for children who have a parent or loved one with cancer.

Registration is already open for the summer session on **Sunday, June 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Please help spread the word by sharing the [Camp Oasis Brochure](#) with your teams, patients, and anyone who may be interested in participating.

For more information and online registration, visit [GiveToVirtua.org/CampOasis](https://GiveToVirtua.org/CampOasis).



Virtua Health

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