



## Clinician Update

May 8, 2025



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## Virtua Expands Use of DrFirst Software

On Tuesday, May 6, Virtua Health went live with the DrFirst software for SmartRenewal in Epic. This new integration is set to significantly enhance the reordering process for medication renewal by intuitively transforming the free-text sig data into a structured discrete data field. The artificial intelligence (AI) used to transform data prioritizes clinical relevance, ensuring unconverted data is preferred over incorrect conversions.

The addition of DrFirst aims to streamline the Virtua workflow, helping to deliver even better care to patients through an improved medication reordering process, improving accuracy and efficiency. It is hoped this tool will enhance Virtua's daily operations and reduce the time spent on manual tasks.

A DrFirst tip sheet on SmartRenewal can be found on the Learning Home Dashboard in Epic. Thank you for your cooperation and support as we work together to make this enhancement go as smoothly as possible.

## Virtua Among First in State to Provide Whole Blood via EMS Units

This week, Virtua became one of the first health systems in New Jersey to carry and administer whole blood products through its emergency medical services (EMS) division. Specially trained paramedics can now provide whole blood at the scene of a traumatic incident and during transport to the hospital—potentially saving lives.

“Empowering paramedics to administer blood at the scene, when they previously could only administer fluids, represents a major advancement for the EMS industry,” said James Newman, VP of patient logistics.

Click to read more in [New Jersey Business Magazine](#) and watch on [NBC 10](#).

## Advanced Stroke, Neurovascular Care to Meet the Need

May is Stroke Awareness Month. As one of many complex neurovascular conditions treated at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, we recognize the importance of educating the public about not only the signs and symptoms of stroke and the need for timely treatment, but also the advanced treatment options needed for optimal outcomes, including thrombectomy.

“The more we educate the public about the signs and symptoms of stroke, the more likely they are to know when to seek care,” said Mikel Shea Ehntholt, MD, neurointensivist. “Once they are with us, we have the encompassing capabilities to best treat them at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes.”

Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, in strategic alliance with Penn Medicine, is designated as a Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Center. The team received The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval® and the American Stroke Association’s Heart-Check Mark for Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center Certification. The neuroscience team at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes also includes around-the-clock neurosurgery capabilities and neurocritical care providers to care for the most complex stroke patients.

## Dr. Rita Butler Is Nationally Recognized for Clinical Excellence

Virtua interventional cardiologist and vascular specialist [Rita M. Butler, MD, FSCAI](#), was recently recognized by the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography & Interventions (SCAI) as a “30 in Their 30s Award” recipient. SCAI presented the awards at the SCAI Scientific Sessions 2025 in Washington, DC.

“I’m humbled and honored by this recognition,” said Dr. Butler. “I’d like to add that the national recognition also says much about all that we are doing here at Virtua for our community.”

This award celebrates early-career interventionalists who demonstrate exceptional leadership, clinical excellence, and a commitment to teamwork and service. Award recipients are selected based on their embodiment of SCAI's core values and their clear potential to shape the future of the profession.

"The 30 in Their 30s award is one of the most energizing moments of our year," said James B. Hermiller, MD, MSCAI, president of SCAI. "These exceptional early-career physicians are not just practicing medicine—they are shaping its future. They lead by example in their hospitals, labs, and communities, and they reflect the best of what interventional cardiology stands for: excellence, compassion, innovation, and collaboration."

To learn more, click [here](#).

## **Proton Therapy Coordinator Receives National Award**

The Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Radiation Oncology team was well represented at the National Association for Proton Therapy Conference in Philadelphia last week. Bill Oresick, MHA, CMD, radiation oncology director, and Pamela Lee, proton therapy coordinator, presented on the impact of the patient coordinator role.

In addition, Pamela Lee, RN, BSN, received the 2025 Patient Care Award in recognition of outstanding commitment to patient-centered care. Pam ensures that patients at the Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Proton Therapy Center receive personalized guidance in preparation for proton therapy. She is often the first point of contact for patients who are considering this cancer treatment option.

## ***Behavioral Health Today* Now Posted to Digital 411**

Our most recent issue of the *Today* series of physician education newsletters, [\*Behavioral Health Today\*](#), centers on interventional psychiatry advancements at Virtua, such as vastly refined electroconvulsive therapy (ECT). It features a case study on a medical professional who regained a high level of functionality and quality of life. This therapy is helping patients whose mood disorders have been debilitating.

“Our goal is to help patients reclaim their lives again and empower them to monitor themselves and their need for more therapy,” said Virtua psychiatrist Tyler Veterano, DO. “Misconceptions have been widespread about ECT, but this therapy is actually neuronal proliferative, and even contributes to the patient's life expectancy.”

To learn more, click here to view [Behavioral Health Today](#). Note that our library of publications has a home base on [Digital 411](#), found under “Additional Resources/Clinician Publications.” There, you can find archived copies of *Clinician Update*, as well as the growing resource of the *Today* series.

## We Care Compassionately by Practicing Empathy

This week, we continue focusing on the Guiding Principle *WE Care Compassionately*, specifically the simple action of *Practicing Empathy*. [Click to view the tip of the week by track.](#)

## 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. Dulak and her team were incredible. They went above and beyond to schedule my appointment. My experience from start to finish far exceeded my expectations. I was made to feel completely relaxed and comfortable in an uncomfortable medical situation. The procedure was as painless as it could be, and so far, appears to have been completely successful. Dr. Dulak set very clear expectations of how the days following the procedure would unfold. I am so grateful to her and her team for the exceptional care they provided me.”

**(Deirdre Dulak, MD)**

“It was a very positive experience. He listened carefully and he repeated a lot of what I said to make sure that he understood what I was saying. And he offered good care.” **(Hassan Tahir, DO)**

“Dr. Dorfner is one of the best physicians I have ever had. I consider myself fortunate to have found him.” **(Scott Dorfner, DO)**

“She listened carefully, gave helpful suggestions and recommendations, and appeared to know my history and medications well. Overall, she CARED.”

**(Taiwo Gbadebo, APN)**

“The staff, Dr. Holaday, the nurses, the front desk, everyone treats me just like family. So caring. I have told everyone about my experience and where to go if they need any further care for themselves. I'm actually referred everyone that I know that has cancer to this team. I love you all. Thank you so much for taking good care of me.” **(William Holaday, MD)**

## Celebrating Our Virtua Family

As we celebrate Nurses Week, we recognize the incredible professionals who show every day what it truly means to be here for good. [Click here](#) to share a message of recognition and gratitude.

But our appreciation extends far beyond Nurses Week—we celebrate all Virtua colleagues for the amazing work they do every single day. Hospital Week and EMS Week are right around the corner. Colleague Appreciation gatherings designed to showcase our appreciation begin next week. [Click to view the schedule](#).

## More of Virtua in the News

### Virtua Partners on \$5 Million Program to Uplift Camden Community

Virtua has joined forces with the United Way, Cooper University Healthcare, and several philanthropic supporters to launch the [Camden Community Uplift Initiative](#). This four-year, \$5 million effort aims to reduce poverty and boost employment for Camden residents. Camden’s challenges include a 34% poverty rate, limited broadband access, and low workforce participation. The group seeks additional investments of \$8 million. Read in [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#) and [ROI-NJ](#). Watch on [Fox 29](#), [NBC 10](#), and [6 ABC](#).

### Seven Virtua Nurses Recognized with DAISY Awards for Excellence

A statewide magazine has highlighted the 2024 DAISY Foundation Award recipients, including seven Virtua nurses. Launched in 1999 in memory of J. Patrick Barnes, the DAISY awards “recognize nurses whose compassion, guidance and level of care exemplify the high standards of the profession.”

The Virtua honorees are listed as follows: Ivana Clifford and Camryn Curiale of Virtua Marlton; Lillian Finlay and Michael Galinski of Virtua Mount Holly; Jesse Gonzalez and Nyla Williams of Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes; and Molly Mullee of Virtua Voorhees. Read in [New Jersey Monthly](#).

### Local Student Receives Virtua Scholarship at County Event

Virtua recently presented its Light Maker Scholarship to a high-achieving student who's planning a career in health care. Virtua joined Burlington County officials to present the \$1,000 award to Meera Gosai, a senior at Northern Burlington County Regional High School, who plans to attend Rutgers University as a pre-med student. Read in [The Trentonian](#).

## From Helping Hands to a Forever Family

Physical therapist Jamie Hubble works in the Virtua early intervention program. She empowers parents with strategies to help their little ones learn to crawl, walk, and explore their world.

But one little girl in foster care, Penny, captured not just Jamie's professional expertise, but her heart.

In this edition of *Here for Good: Inside Edition*, Jamie joins Virtua president and CEO Dennis Pullin to discuss this very special girl. Penny's diagnosis of spinal muscular atrophy presented unique challenges. Undeterred, Jamie and her husband, Kyle, embarked on a mission to find alternative ways to support Penny's development. What began as dedicated therapy evolved into an undeniable bond and culminated in their decision to adopt Penny. Today, Penny is a thriving, vibrant child, a testament to their love and commitment.

Jamie's story beautifully illustrates how a therapist's dedication can extend far beyond clinical care, blossoming into the creation of a cherished family. [Click the link to view the full episode.](#)

## Virtua's Upcoming Blood Drives

Give the gift of life at an upcoming Virtua blood drive. Donate by May 18 and receive a \$20 e-gift card to the store of your choice. Donate between May 19 and 31 and receive a limited-edition Red Cross solar lantern, while supplies last.

Find a convenient donation location and time:

- Virtua Moorestown: Friday, May 9, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Virtua Voorhees: Friday, May 16, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Virtua Mount Holly: Sunday, May 18, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- First Baptist Church, Willingboro: Tuesday, May 19, 1 to 6 p.m.
- 303 Lippincott Drive, Marlton: Thursday, May 22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Virtua Berlin: Friday, May 23, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Virtua Moorestown: Tuesday, May 27, 2 to 7 p.m.

- Virtua Voorhees: Friday, May 30, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

[Click to make an appointment.](#)

## Upcoming Wellness Activities

### Cycling for Care

This **Saturday, May 10**, the Cherry Hill Free Clinic Cycling for Care 2025 takes place through the farms and low rolling hills of Burlington County. Distance options: 20, 41, 63, and 100 miles. To learn more or to register, click [here](#).

### Supporting Organ Donation Awareness, May 17

As the only center in South Jersey performing kidney, liver, and pancreas transplants, Virtua Advanced Transplant & Organ Health is proud to sponsor a team to walk in this year's [NJ Sharing Network 5K](#) in Ocean Grove, NJ, on **Saturday, May 17**. To join the team, please contact transplant liaison Natalie Frament at 215-528-1195 or [nframent@virtua.org](mailto:nframent@virtua.org).

### Bridge to the Beach

On **Sunday, June 1**, the American Cancer Society Bike-A-Thon Bridge to the Beach runs from Philadelphia to Ventnor, NJ. Distance options: 20 to 100 miles. Virtua has discounted registrations (use code CORP15). To learn more about the event and Team Virtua Health, click [here](#).

### Propel 100

On **Saturday, June 28**, the 2025 Propel 100 Charity Bike Ride starts off in Willingboro. Distance options: 12, 30, 50, 70, 100 miles. Proceeds from Propel 100 support Virtua's cancer patient support services and mobile health screenings. To learn more or to register, click [here](#).

If you are interested in learning more about Virtua's colleagues who participate in local cycling events, including information on how to obtain a colorful free jersey, email team captain Andrew Giordano at [agiordano@virtua.org](mailto:agiordano@virtua.org).

### Run with the Docs, June 8

The popular 5K run and 1-mile walk known as [Run with the Docs!](#) will take place on the Virtua Voorhees Hospital campus **Sunday, June 8**, all to support our programs for families who have experienced [pregnancy and infant loss](#). For more information, including registration details, [click here](#).

For event organizers and OB/GYN physicians Stacy Ann McCrosson, MD, and Kimberly Bridges-White, MD, the event is a great opportunity to get out for a truly meaningful cause. “We are so inspired by the families who show up with their teams each year,” Dr. McCrosson said. “We are overwhelmed by the outpouring of support these families receive from our colleagues at Virtua, all the doctors, nurses, and staff, the running community, and friends and family from all over the tri-state area who make it a tradition of kindness to be at this event.”

“All of us together,” said Dr. Bridges-White, “it’s how we show we are truly Here for Good. So, we hope everyone feels welcome to be a part of it!”

Click to [view and post the flyer](#).



Virtua Health

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