



Clinician Update

July 10, 2025



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American Heart Association Honors Virtua Heart Failure Team

The American Heart Association this week honored the cardiologists, hospitalists, and nurses at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital for the fourth consecutive year with its Get With The Guidelines® - Heart Failure GOLD PLUS with Target: Heart Failure Optimal and Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll award.

“This national recognition highlights the exceptional care our clinicians and teams provide to our heart failure patients and is a direct result of all our hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence,” said Theresa Rowe, MSN, CRNP, director of Heart Failure Services at Virtua. “This honor also lets the community know that we follow standards that ensure patients are receiving guideline- directed medical care, which have shown to reduce cardiovascular death, as well as decrease HF hospitalizations.”

Virtua Expands Heart Failure Services With New Location

Virtua has expanded its heart failure services to the Jersey Shore. Starting this week, cardiologists are now treating heart failure patients at our newest location: 6508 Ventnor Avenue in Ventnor.

“Our mission is to support patients in managing their condition while improving quality of life and reducing hospital admissions,” said Rhondalyn McLean, MD, a

cardiologist specializing in heart failure and heart transplantation and assistant vice president of clinical operations at Virtua. “We work closely with referring physicians to deliver coordinated, comprehensive care. Our heart failure nurses and advanced practice providers focus on optimizing guideline-directed medical therapy, including IV diuretics administered at our sites.”

The Virtua heart failure team is always available to discuss a case or see a patient promptly. Clinicians may utilize the one-call, 24/7 hotline at [856-600-1945](tel:856-600-1945).

Virtua Now Offers Hospice Care

Virtua’s Home Care division has expanded in recent months to include additional, distinct services to enhance the continuum of care. In January, Virtua began offering palliative care, which offers long-term treatment and symptom management for individuals with chronic or serious illnesses. More recently, Virtua also started to offer comprehensive hospice care, which provides patients and their families with end-of-life support.

“At Virtua, we aim to be a trusted partner through everything, and we treasure the relationships we have established with families across generations,” said John Matsinger, DO, EVP and chief operating officer. “We intend to honor that by providing the best possible palliative care and hospice experiences for patients and those who love them.”

Enrollment in hospice care begins with a referral from a patient’s physician. **Virtua physicians can now request Virtua’s hospice services for their patients by calling [833-495-6655](tel:833-495-6655).**

“I encourage Virtua’s doctors to learn more about what we can now offer as a comprehensive health system,” said Steven Tepper, DO, lead physician for the service line. “They can trust that our hospice care team will provide their patients with individualized, compassionate care that honors the needs of the participants and the people in their inner circle.”

Click to [read more about the program](#).

We Communicate Thoughtfully

This week, we’re kicking off our second Guiding Principles series, spotlighting *WE Communicate Thoughtfully*—featuring a custom video message from SVP and Chief Marketing Officer Chrisie Scott, MBA.

“For the first time, Virtua is the highest-ranked brand in New Jersey and the second-highest in the tri-state,” Chrisie shares. “This recognition as a top 40 health care brand in the country has a lot to do with how we show up and how we communicate thoughtfully. Words matter. That’s why we created the *Language of Caring Guide*—a tool to help us all listen with intention, explain the ‘why,’ use kind, clear language, and make every interaction feel personal.”

Click to [watch the video](#) and see how you bring this principle to life each day. (**Note:** This video is on the Practicing Excellence platform as part of the Guiding Principles series.) [Download the Language of Caring Guide](#) on Brand Hub.

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:

“Dr. Overbeck is so caring and kind. He is wonderful for the elderly. He looks at the person, not just the age. I highly recommend him.” (**Kevin Overbeck, DO** – Geriatric Medicine, Family Medicine)

“Dr. Bagaria is one of the finest and most caring doctors I have met. His advice, based on medical knowledge and tempered with our specific needs, was highly effective and appreciated. He listened carefully to our concerns, did an extensive checkup, and constructed a plan of action for us that would ensure our good health.” (**Surendra Bagaria, MD** – Cardiology)

“I definitely felt seen and heard as an important patient. Thank you.” (**Michael Lanzisera, PA** – Hand Surgery)

“The best primary care physician I have ever had. She is competent, personable, and patient. You are not rushed through your visit. I absolutely love her. She takes the time to listen and understand what is going on with you.” (**Nicole M. Thompson, DO** – Family Medicine)

“Dr. Snyder is very insightful and thorough. What really sets him apart is his ability to explain and educate me on what is happening in my body. It is easy to sense how dedicated he is to his craft while being able to describe it to a layperson.” (**Charles A. Snyder, MD** – Gastroenterology)

“I’m very happy with Dr. Webner. I hadn’t sought help for eight years because I was overwhelmed with anxiety about going to the doctor. Everyone was so kind and patient.” (**David Webner, MD** – Sports Medicine)

Virtua in the News

Children of Immigrants Increasingly Face Trauma and Fear

Virtua psychologist Schenike Massie-Lambert, PhD, an assistant professor at the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine, discussed the mental health impacts on children as ICE activity rises.

"It's an ongoing stressor," she said. "That chronic fear of deportation or witnessing arrests can create some generalized anxiety [and] could create symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or depression not just in children, but also in the adults around them." Read in [NJ Spotlight News](#).

Virtua Transforming Hospital Rooms with 'Smart' Technology

Virtua is on track to convert nearly all of its inpatient rooms to "smart rooms" with virtual care capabilities. The system, which includes advanced sensors and video-conferencing technology, is already installed in multiple units. It provides enhanced patient monitoring and enables patients and family members to connect remotely with more than 400 care providers. Read in [Health Facilities Management](#).

Virtua Leader Honored for Outstanding Performance

A regional business publication has included Michael Capriotti among 13 leaders on its "Who's Who in Healthcare 2025" list. As SVP and president of advanced care operations and logistics, Michael provides strategic oversight for Virtua's Access Center, Enterprise Care Logistics Center, Hospital at Home, and other programs aimed at improving patient access, affordability, and experience. Read in [South Jersey Biz](#).

Medicine & Music: A Surgeon's Harmony

Howard Winter, MD, was practically raised in the world of health care, with vivid memories of nights spent in the hospital's on-call room alongside his father, an obstetrician. This early immersion clearly shaped his path. Today, as VP of surgical practice and outcomes, he's committed to ensuring top-tier surgical care across our hospitals. But Dr. Winter's passions extend beyond medicine; he also finds joy and a sense of "world peace" singing in a choir, embracing the harmony of blended voices.

[Click to view the latest episode](#) of *Here for Good: Inside Edition* to learn more about Dr. Winter's inspiring story and insights in this very interesting discussion

with Virtua President and CEO Dennis Pullin.



Virtua Health

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