



Clinician Update

August 14, 2025



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Virtua Now Using Epic to Improve VTE Prophylaxis Practices

In an attempt to significantly reduce the number of venous thromboembolic events (VTE) Virtua has instituted enhancements to Epic. Starting this month, all admitted patients to Virtua hospitals, including pre- and postop patients, are now required to be evaluated for their risk for VTE, such as deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism.

VTE events are the most preventable complications of hospitalized patients in the U.S. today. Once patients are classified as either low, moderate, or high risk, Epic now prompts the clinician to order appropriate prophylaxis against VTE events, such as low-dose anti-clotting drugs and/or lower extremity compression devices. Clinicians may opt out of these orders but must specify a valid reason for doing so.

By utilizing these enhanced Epic features and addressing associated challenges, the goal is to improve VTE prophylaxis practices and ultimately reduce the incidence of this potentially life-threatening complication.

Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine Welcomes Class of 2029

Marking the start of its 50th anniversary, the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine welcomed its Class of 2029 at white coat ceremonies this

past Friday. This is the largest incoming medical school class in New Jersey and the largest in school history.

Richard Jermyn, DO, dean of Rowan-Virtua SOM, noted the Class of 2029's diversity of backgrounds and experiences. More than 60% of the students are from New Jersey, with 15% from South Jersey. Students hail from 19 states and eight countries.

Rowan University Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Voki Pophristic also addressed the incoming class, expressing her excitement about the future that awaits them at Rowan-Virtua SOM. "You have come to a very special place at a very special time," she said. "Rowan-Virtua SOM is growing like few others across the nation!" She spoke about the significance of Rowan-Virtua SOM being part of the [Virtua Health College of Medicine & Health Sciences](#), highlighting how this partnership would allow more students to learn alongside doctors in South Jersey's largest health system.

Read more at [Rowan Today](#).

Rowan-Virtua Researchers Developing New Oral Cancer Treatment

An early clinical trial shows that a new drug called MASL® holds promise for treating oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC). Gary Goldberg, PhD, of the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine, and Mahnaz Fatahzadeh, DMD, MSD, of the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine, led the first in-human phase 1 trial, which was recently published in the *Journal of Cancer Research and Clinical Oncology*. The results demonstrated the potential of MASL to address critical unmet needs in the treatment of oral cancer, according to the researchers. Read in [News/Medical Life Sciences](#).

Submit Your Research Ideas for Grant Funding

Virtua's Office of Philanthropy and Virtua's Center for Nursing Excellence and Innovation are gathering ideas for research proposals that can be submitted for seed funding to the New Jersey Health Foundation (NJHF) this fall. The NJHF offers two funding streams, and we can submit multiple requests:

1. **Research projects (up to \$50,000 per project)**, supporting promising studies that can lead to larger grants.
2. **Community health, social science, and educational programs (up to \$35,000 per project)**, funding initiatives that address important health-

related societal challenges.

If you have a research idea suitable for consideration, please complete this brief interest survey by **Sept. 2**.

[NJHF Idea Intake Survey](#)

A kickoff meeting will be held on **Sept. 8** to share full details about the opportunity, explain the internal submission process, review available support to prepare your proposal, and answer your questions. The internal submission deadline will be **Oct. 15**.

More information and additional resources can be found using this link: [NJHF Resources](#)

All applications to the NJHF must be submitted through the Virtua Health Foundation—do **not** contact or submit directly to the New Jersey Health Foundation. Contact Amy Glasofer, director of investigator, initiated research, at aglasofer@virtua.org with questions or to learn more about the funding opportunity. Thank you for your interest and for helping us prepare strong proposals!

Oliver Station: A Model for Affordable Housing With On-Site Health Care

Last week, Virtua and The Michaels Organization officially opened Oliver Station, a new model for community health. This video explores their collaborative effort, which integrates high-quality housing with a Virtua primary care practice. By providing residents with access to health care right at their doorstep, the initiative aims to build a stronger, healthier community. This vibrant housing and health care community in Camden's Whitman Park neighborhood embodies Virtua's Culture of We, creating a supportive environment for both residents and our clinical colleagues.

[Click to view the video.](#)

Advocates hope [Oliver Station](#) will become a model for similar communities in other under-resourced areas. Media coverage includes [WHYY](#), [NJBiz](#), [Philadelphia Business Journal](#), [NJ.com](#), [KYW Newsradio](#), [NBC 10](#), [Telemundo 62](#), [Fox 29](#), [CBS 3](#), and [6 ABC](#).

Annual Cardiology for Primary Care Symposium to Address Health Equity Strategies and More, Oct. 4

In many ways, the biggest influence on the well-being of the people we serve and their life expectancy is the daily environment they must navigate. The conditions in which they live, learn, work, and age, are social drivers of health, such as housing stability, availability of healthy food, access to transportation, education, and income.

“These social determinants of health may affect the provision of diagnostic and treatment options as well as outcomes,” said Virtua cardiologist Troy Randle, DO, who will address strategies in dealing with health disparities at the 15th Annual Cardiology for Primary Care Symposium to take place virtually on **Saturday, Oct. 4**, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. “We’ll discuss ways to heighten our ability to hyperfocus on specific populations in local communities to improve outcomes.”

The symposium is part of the “Key Essentials for Optimizing Patient Care” five-block CME series presented by the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Randle’s presentation will be just one of an array of topics and speakers providing valuable cardiology and primary care insight.

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 cme@rowan.edu.

Dr. Oyeyemi Co-Authors Report on How Integrating Social Care Enhances Health Equity

Virtua’s Jubril Oyeyemi, MD, FHELA, who is also chief medical officer of the Camden Coalition and founder and CEO of the Cherry Hill Free Clinic, has co-authored an article for the *American Journal of Managed Care* on health equity. It makes the case that it is imperative for health care to enhance integrated

social care to “break down the silos and create integrated systems that cohesively respond to the complex and diverse needs of patients.”

The article stresses how integrated approaches reach people both at the time of their visit and back in the community. When health care and social care operate in isolation, vulnerable individuals fall through the cracks. “A patient may receive excellent medical treatment in a hospital or walk-in clinic but return to unstable housing or food insecurity, virtually guaranteeing a decline in their health.”

To read the article, click [here](#).

A Valuable Tool to Enhance Health Equity: *Unite Us*

As a reminder, as reported in [last week's *Clinician Update*](#), Virtua is using technology to streamline communication and referrals between community partners in order to help address health-related social needs. The goal is to make it easier to connect patients to essential services—such as housing, food access, and behavioral health—through the *Unite Us* integration in Epic.

If you or your team would like information or additional training on how Virtua uses the *Unite Us* platform, you can find training modules on the VLS by searching “Unite Us” or browsing the [Virtua Health Resource Directory](#).

Action Required: Upgrade to Windows 11 by Sept. 2 to Maintain Security and Support

As part of its ongoing efforts to maintain a secure and resilient environment, Virtua reminds you that Windows 10 will no longer receive support **beginning Oct. 14**. To ensure continued operational and security updates, all PCs and laptops must be upgraded to **Windows 11**.

Windows 11 can be directly installed from Virtua's **Software Center** to your device. Virtua is requesting your assistance to complete this by **Sept. 2**. To aid in this effort, the Windows 11 team has provided the instructions [here](#):

Starting Sept. 3, Virtua will start to automatically update machines

Laptops must have power plugged in and be directly wired to the network for up to three hours.

- Colleagues will be able to work on the PC for approximately 20 minutes after the upgrade has been initiated.
- At that point, the device will restart and be unavailable for 33 minutes.

Desktops must have power plugged in and directly wired to the network for up to 90 minutes.

We Communicate Thoughtfully

This is our final week highlighting the Guiding Principle WE Communicate Thoughtfully. Thank you for your continued attention and engagement. Next week will be a catch-up week, and beginning the week of Aug. 25, we'll introduce our next Guiding Principle: We Invite Belonging.

This week's call to action: [Click to view the tip of the week by track.](#)

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. Sauerwein saved my husband’s life. He is extremely knowledgeable, his bedside manner is fantastic, he is extremely responsive on MyChart, and collaborative with other doctors. We couldn’t recommend him enough.” (**Samuel Sauerwein, MD** – Cardiology)

“Dr. Randa Foda always gives good ideas of what to eat to take care of my body, and she really listens before she prescribes.” (**Randa Foda, MD** – Family Medicine)

“She was VERY knowledgeable and spent a good amount of time answering questions and discussing options. She was great!” (**Jayme N. White, PA** – Orthopedics)

“She is such an amazing, loving, and caring provider. I wouldn't trade her for any other. She listens and is very attentive. Thank you so much for being a dedicated provider. (**Lorraine Harris, APN** – Obstetrics and Gynecology)

“Dr. Boris was extremely professional and helpful. By every measure, he was extraordinary.” (**Walter Boris, DO** – Thoracic Surgery)

“Dr. Land always takes time to listen.” (**Stephen Land, MD** – Family Medicine)

“Dr. Weir was compassionate, highly knowledgeable, and explained the procedure very clearly to me. He recently performed a second procedure and was again outstanding in making me feel comfortable. I’m glad we found him!”
(**Mark Weir, MD** – Pulmonology)

“Dr. Brant was absolutely amazing. His flawless execution in reconstructive surgery, paired with a compassionate bedside manner, makes him a premium-level doctor. I’m humbled and grateful for the way that he and his team, both in-office and at the surgical center, cared for me. Can’t thank them enough.”
(**Matthew Brant, DPM** – Podiatry)

Virtua’s HR Chief Speaks at *Newsweek* Conference

Rhonda Jordan, EVP and chief human resources officer, shared her insights on Virtua’s culture at *Newsweek*’s recent Women’s Global Impact forum. She noted that Virtua has diversified its board of trustees to reflect the demographics of its patient population. Today, 60% of Virtua’s executive leaders and 41% of its board members are women—a significantly higher proportion than the industry average. Rhonda believes that “balancing the scales can improve satisfaction across all levels of the organization,” according to [Newsweek](#).

Get to Know Lieutenant Darby

This month, Kevin Darby celebrates his sweet 16th year at Virtua, a journey that began in patient transport and has since seen him rise to lieutenant of security for Virtua Marlton and Berlin. Kevin champions an integrated approach to campus safety, highlighting the successful implementations of the weapons screening and personal panic alarm systems, as well as collaboration with local law enforcement. Kevin also stresses the vital role of colleagues actively practicing “when you see something, say something.”

A former college basketball player at Rowan, Kevin modestly describes himself as a “very solid” shooting guard in this interview with Virtua President and CEO Dennis Pullin. And for those curious, he confirmed that he can “still move and put the ball in the basket, even if it’s a little slower” these days.

To learn more about Kevin’s journey, click [here](#) to watch.



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