

Clinician Update

April 25, 2024

With your busy schedules in mind, we are experimenting with a way to expedite the delivery of this important clinician messaging to you. **If you are interested in an abbreviated audio version of *Clinician Update*, [click here](#).**

Last Call: Take the Professional Fulfillment and Burnout Survey Due Tomorrow

Last year, Virtua conducted a survey based on a tool developed by Stanford University to assess clinicians' perceptions and factors affecting their well-being. Surveys were conducted among VMG and Virtua Health medical staff clinicians.

The results of that effort established a baseline for Virtua to understand the professional fulfillment and stressors impacting its members. This year, we are conducting a follow-up study. We are pleased to share that you are invited to take part in the survey. **Look for the invitation to participate in your email. The subject line reads: "Action Needed: Take the Virtua Professional Fulfillment and Burnout Survey." (If you have not received the message, let us know by contacting VirtuaClinician@Virtua.org.)**

The survey **is short and should take about five minutes to complete**. We want to assure you that your responses remain anonymous. We are using the well-respected health research firm, NRC Health, as a third party to collect the data and analyze results. Your participation will ensure we have a full picture of how we are doing and where we may better assist you in the future. We ask that you complete this by midnight on **Friday, April 26**.

WE Support for Clinicians

Talking about our mental health can be uncomfortable. WE Support is here to help. If you or a colleague are facing difficult times at work or home, consider reaching out to a trained peer supporter. WE Support has six trained peer supporters who are clinicians. These clinicians come from a variety of settings and backgrounds to offer a well-rounded and empathetic experience for colleagues. They facilitate confidential conversations that can help you feel less alone.

Richard Kader, DO, lead physician at Virtua Primary Care — Linwood, shares why he felt compelled to become a peer supporter: "With over 30 years of practicing family medicine, I have gained invaluable experiences and challenges that I would like to share with my colleagues to support their emotional and mental health. I am passionate about assisting my colleagues on a pathway to physical and emotional well-being."

The "Request for Peer Support Connection" form can be easily accessed on the WE Support page of the Colleague Corner or can be found [here](#). The information collected is used solely to pair up colleagues

based on career network. This confidential resource is available to all clinicians who work for the system, even if you are not employed by Virtua.

Research at Virtua: IRB Continues to Streamline Training Process

The institutional review board (IRB) at Virtua welcomes you to find out more about what is a very rewarding process. As research here expands, best practice standards continue to heighten the training process. Federal guidelines stipulate that researchers must attain official human subject and conflict of interest training every three years. The Virtua Health Human Research Protections Program has revised Virtua's IRB research training program to become more user-friendly.

"The goal is to make what can be complex as efficient as possible," said Robert Post, MD, medical director of research at Virtua. "We want to continue inspiring effective research results by ensuring our investigators and study personnel are equipped with the proper tools and knowledge provided in training."

Virtua utilizes the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program as our training platform. The CITI Program has become the gold standard in human subject research training. It performs continuous process improvement and regularly updates content to sustain up-to-date, standardized information.

The log-in process has been streamlined with a more convenient registration questionnaire and simplified instructions. An expiration notification process has also been implemented.

Once you are a registered user, please watch for emails from the CITI Program. It's not junk email. You will not receive any marketing emails from CITI Program.

For more information, or to start the process, all are welcome to reach IRB@virtua.org.

Top Physicians 2024 – *South Jersey Magazine*

In its August issue, *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 June 3.**

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:

“She is a very focused, very educated, and a caring doctor. She listens to my concerns, speaks about them in a professional yet compassionate manner, and develops a very competent plan on how to address them. She makes me want to take my health seriously. I highly recommend her.” (Nicole Kuhar, DO)

“She is so kind and considerate. She listens to my concerns and follows through with my care.” (Mary Campagnolo, MD)

“She took the time to see me as a person.” (Maria Pauciello, APN)

“I cannot speak highly enough about him. One of the best medical physicians I have ever experienced. He takes the time to listen and provides you with the best possible medical treatment plan. His passion, enthusiasm and dedication to medicine is apparent from the moment you step into his office being under his care. It is clearly obvious he is highly invested in his patients’ health care by his professionalism and bedside manner.” (Raymond Ragland, MD)

“He is THE BEST. He is very attentive and professional. He is approachable and caring. I've never felt like my needs haven't been met whenever I had to see him. He takes his time to make sure he hasn't missed my concerns. I would highly recommend this doctor.” (Gary Shapiro, MD)

Virtua Health Celebrates Patient Experience Week

At Virtua Health, our commitment is to be "Here for Good" for everybody, always. During National Patient Experience Week, **April 29 to May 3**, we express our gratitude to our dedicated colleagues who establish personal connections when fulfilling the health care needs of our community.

We also want to make it simple for teams across the organization to bring patients into the Experience Week conversation. Clinicians and team leaders are invited to print out and distribute this [Patient Experience Week note](#). The image is designed to fit standard letter-sized paper and includes a space for colleagues to write notes or sign their names. This is a small gesture to show our patients that we are honored to care for them and be their partner in good health.

We also welcome any photos of how you and your teams celebrate Patient Experience Week. Please send images to virtuainfo@virtua.org; some may be re-shared on Virtua’s social media platforms.

Advancing the Patient Experience

Continuing the conversation around Patient Experience, thank you for your ongoing commitment to Practicing Excellence’s Advanced Patient Experience Program. This week, we invite you to focus on the invaluable insights provided in the [Week 3 Guide](#).

Throughout the organization, colleagues are watching tips that best reflect their role and team. Fortunately, all Practicing Excellence content supports our core values and principles.

This week, we spotlight Track 5, Acute Care Staff. They are watching the tip, [“Connecting along the Patient Journey: Mitigating Fear.”](#) This video highlights the importance of finding and easing patients’ fears and practicing empathy.

Jackie Pavlidakis posted in the comments section, “I have noticed through my own practice that when you acknowledge a patient's feelings or fears, the patient really connects and listens to the information being provided to help ease their mind. Acknowledgement makes the patient feel validated.”

Dawn Conley shared, “Remember that someone's anger could just be their fear talking.”

Clinicians Featured in Summer *HeartTalk* Magazine

The summer issue of our *HeartTalk* magazine recently arrived in 127,000 households in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester counties. This issue includes articles and patient testimonials on the new Crohn’s & Colitis Center, the Advanced Heart Failure Center, the Children Achieving Success Through Therapeutic Life Experiences (CASTLE) program, robotic-assisted hernia surgery, Virtua Pride Primary Care, the Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Cancer Program, and much more!

Special thanks to participating clinicians Jennifer Rubenstein, MD; Julie Polisiakiewicz, DO; Sanket Patel, DO; Craig Zaretsky, MD; Lori Timmerman, DO; Shanin Gross, DO; Howard Weinberg, DO; Amy Lombardo, APN; Amy Quick, LPC; and Kintur Sanghvi, MD.

Click [here](#) to view a digital version of the magazine.

Highlighting Our Donors’ Impact

We are pleased to share our 2023 Impact of Giving report—Transforming Health Care Through Philanthropy—and hope that you are as inspired as we are by the significant impact our donors and caring colleagues made last year.

Our colleagues’ commitment to being here for good is remarkable. Last year, nearly 1,400 colleagues, including every senior leader, supported Virtua’s colleague giving campaign, Give for Good. Together through philanthropy, we supported a range of programs and services that make a difference for our patients, our community, and each other.

Thanks to our donors’ generosity:

- 765 cancer screenings were provided by Virtua’s latest mobile program to be fueled by philanthropy—the Mobile Health & Cancer Screening Unit.
- 408 hospitalized patients were aided through the Patient Care Fund to ensure they can continue to get healthy at home.
- 6,017 children received free developmental and health screenings by the Pediatric Mobile Services team, which is set to expand with a new vehicle in mid-2024.

- 1,972 patients received nutrition education and free food at one of our Eat Well Food Farmacy locations.
- 106 Virtua colleagues received emergency aid through the Colleague Care Fund.

See more of our donors' impact at [GiveToVirtua.org/impact](https://www.givetovirtua.org/impact). You can also read the full printed report [here](#).

New Security Screening System at Virtua Mount Holly

In a move to continue keeping our colleagues, patients, and visitors safe, Virtua has installed the Evolv weapons-screening system at the main entrance and emergency department at Virtua Mount Holly Hospital. This follows the successful installation of the same system at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Virtua Marlton Hospital, Virtua Willingboro Hospital, and the Virtua Health & Wellness Centers in Camden and Berlin.

Renal Denervation for Hypertension & Beyond, May 7

Join Kintur Sanghvi, MD, FACC, FSCAI, chief of interventional cardiology, for an education session for clinicians on renal denervation, a new means of caring for individuals with chronic hypertension who have been unable to reduce their blood pressure despite taking multiple medications and practicing a healthy lifestyle. The event is on **Tuesday, May 7 at 12 p.m.** live on Teams or in person in the Physicians Conference Room at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. [Click to access the Teams session](#). Click [here](#) for a flyer.

Cherry Hill Free Clinic "Cycling for Care," May 11

Looking for a great way to start Mother's Day Weekend? The "Cycling for Care" event is a bike ride through the rolling hills of Burlington County on **Saturday, May 11**. Come join for an easy 10 miles, a challenging 100 miles, or any distance in between. It's all to benefit the Cherry Hill Free Clinic.

"I can't thank our clinicians enough," said Jubril Oyeyemi, MD, FHELA, medical director for community health at Virtua, and founder and CEO of Cherry Hill Free Clinic. "Most especially our Virtua clinicians for all your support to CHFC as we have worked together, tirelessly, to provide health care, at no cost, to neighbors who cannot afford health insurance. Events like this bring us all together for what we persevere in that is so very special—being here for good."

To register, click [here](#).

Virtua in the News

Philadelphia Region's Life Sciences Hub Requests \$75M in Federal Funds

Virtua is part of a coalition of 100-plus organizations that seeks government funding to advance the region's life sciences industry. Virtua and its partners would lead initiatives to accelerate the development of precision medicines, address inefficiencies and inequities in research, prepare the region for future public health emergencies, and grow jobs in data science, health research, and artificial intelligence. Read in the [Philadelphia Business Journal](#).

Love Sushi? Best in N.J. Found at Virtua Voorhees Hospital

Word continues to spread about the great food at Virtua Voorhees Hospital, including freshly made sushi. Husband-and-wife sushi chefs Josef and Evie Sutiono "are local celebrities now. People stop into the hospital and get a cafeteria pass just to try out the food," the story reported. Read on [105.7 The Hawk](#) or [92.7 WOBN](#).

Virtua Nurses Share Their Sweet Story on Here for Good: Inside Edition

Bunny Lyons has dedicated 19 years of her career to critical care nursing at Virtua Marlton Hospital, while Deb Ferris has spent 22 years at Virtua, currently serving as the nursing director in the emergency department at Virtua Voorhees Hospital.

Beyond their passion for nursing, they also share a love for baking that spans more than four decades. Bunny, who is also owner of Bunnycakes, a cookie baking/decorating shop in Berlin, discovered a kindred spirit in Deb through their mutual interest in creating sweet confections.

The duo joined President and CEO Dennis Pullin to talk about their friendship, their lifelong love for baking, and their shared commitment to caring for the community in the latest Here for Good: Inside Edition. Click to [view the video](#).

Upcoming Mental Health Awareness Month Sessions

["Vulnerability at Virtua" – A panel discussion on mental health stigma in health care](#)

May 2, 5 to 6 p.m. (virtual)

[Dispel the Stigma: Be an Advocate for Mental Health](#)

May 9, 11 to 11:25 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

[Self-Care Fair & Happier Hour with Laughter on Call](#)

May 22, 3 to 5 p.m. (no registration required to attend the fair)

5 to 6:30 p.m. Happier Hour with Laughter on Call (registration required)

Virtua Barry D. Brown Health Education Center

IDEA – Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity for All

This month, we recognize our diverse communities and honor those who serve.

- [Haitian Heritage Month](#) and Haitian Flag Day is on **May 18**.
- [Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month](#) originated in 1977 as Pacific/Asian American Heritage Week, until the expansion to the entire month in 1990.
- [Jewish American Heritage Month](#) was originally decreed as Jewish Heritage Week in 1980, with the expanded proclamation to a month in 2006.
- [Military Appreciation Month](#) recognizes the sacrifices and service within the U.S. Armed Forces.