

## Clinician Update

### August 1, 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](#).**

### Virtua Reaches 300th Liver Transplant Milestone

Virtua Advanced Transplant & Organ Health this past Friday successfully completed its 300th liver transplant. This achievement underscores Virtua's unwavering commitment to excellence in patient care and surgical innovation.

"Our expanding capabilities have been pivotal in reaching this landmark," said Virtua Chief of Hepatology Simona Rossi, MD. "Over the years, we have continually focused on clinical excellence and increasingly progressive patient and organ acceptance criteria to ensure the highest standards of care for our patients. This dedication to advancement has enabled us to perform these complex transplant surgeries with successful outcomes."

Central to this success is our robust clinical and surgical team. The program's surgeons, hepatologists, anesthesiologists, nurses, and support staff work tirelessly to provide comprehensive and compassionate care. Their expertise and dedication are the foundation of our transplant program, ensuring that every patient receives the best possible treatment from pre-operative evaluation through post-transplant care for years to come.

For more information about liver transplant at Virtua, call 856-796-9340.

### Health Alert: Listeria-Tainted Deli Products Sicken Many

As [headlined in last week's \*Clinician Update\*](#), an outbreak strain of Listeria has been reported in 13 states ([see map](#)). According to the CDC, at least 34 people have become ill, 33 people were hospitalized, and two people have died—one in New Jersey and one in Illinois. Deli meat is believed to be behind the outbreak. This week, 7 million pounds of meat and poultry products [have been recalled](#).

Pregnant women, newborns, adults ages 65 and older, and people with weakened immune systems are at higher risk of complications. "Beyond our pregnant patients, it is always wise to share with the public that it is important to contact a health care provider right away if an individual is experiencing any symptoms of listeria, such as fever, muscle aches, headache, nausea, or vomiting. Early diagnosis and treatment can help prevent serious health problems," said Virtua OB/GYN Rachel Kramer, MD.

For more CDC information on Listeria (Listeriosis), click [here](#).

## Navigating the Process for Conducting Human Subjects Research

Academic research is now endemic to the composition of Virtua, and thus “human subject research” is now very much a topic within the research environment here. Any research that involves a human subject—or access to their information or biospecimens about whom an investigator (whether professional or student) is conducting research—must meet federal regulation requirements.

Before initiation of research-related activities, the Institutional Review Board (IRB) assesses whether a proposed project meets the regulatory definitions of “research” and “human subject.”

Click [here](#) to learn more about who is considered a human subject. You can use this [infographic](#) to check if your project is considered research.

Virtua’s Research Administration and Operations is always ready to share its growing wealth of resources. Click [here](#) to better understand the roles of the Human Research Protection Program (HRPP), the IRB, and Research Administration and Operations.

As always, please contact us at [research@virtua.org](mailto:research@virtua.org) or at [irb@virtua.org](mailto:irb@virtua.org) for assistance.

## Important Notice: Apple Device Security Update

Virtua Information Technology is requiring everyone using an Apple device whether they are personal, or Virtua issued to apply the latest update released from Apple to patch a critical vulnerability.

Due to these important Apple security updates, any device without the required release version will be restricted from synchronizing Virtua email for security protection reasons.

Please see below the Apple Devices and their latest software version. If your device software version is less than the version shown below, then YOUR DEVICE IS AT RISK FOR COMPROMISE.

Click [here](#) to obtain the current Apple security releases.

### **How do I check what version I have?**

Refer to this article: [Find the software version on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod \(service-now.com\)](#)

### **How do I update my device?**

Refer to this article: [Update your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch \(service-now.com\)](#).

### **Tips to keep in mind:**

- Do not download, accept, or execute files from untrusted and unknown sources.
- Do not visit untrusted websites or follow links provided by untrusted or unknown sources.

Thank you in advance for protecting your device and Virtua!

## Advancing the Patient Experience

As we continue our Practicing Excellence journey, we thank you for your ongoing commitment to the Advanced Patient Experience Program. We're in Week 17 of the 26-week Advanced Patient Experience Program! Discover valuable insights and discussion starters in the [Week 17 Guide](#).

## 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:

“The doctor has a very awesome bedside manner. He listens, he explains things to you, and I just think he's in the right field because he cares about people. Thank you.” (Khaled I El-Badawi, MD)

“He was very empathetic, and I felt like he really listened to me. I had notes and he looked at everything. I think my visit went very well with him. I would recommend him to anybody. He was amazing.” (Michael J. Barnish, DO)

“She was patient and listened to my condition and told me what I needed to do. Very pleasant experience indeed. I certainly will recommend her and this practice to family and friends.” (Julie Polisiakiewicz, DO)

“It was clear that she listened to me. She gave me all the time to talk. I felt at home.” (Nathifa A. Garcia, APN)

“From the moment I checked in, everyone was very kind, attentive, and caring. Dr. Zaretsky was very knowledgeable regarding my health concerns and made me feel like I'm in the right place and in good hands. He answered all my questions and explained everything in detail so I could understand it. I walked out knowing I was seen by one of the best.” (Craig L. Zaretsky, MD)

## Get to Know Dr. Denne Thomas-Patterson

When it comes to primary care medicine, Denne Thomas-Patterson, MD, understands that it is important for her patients to feel heard. The family medicine physician believes that educating patients about their health and how to self-advocate for their care stays with them. A world traveler, Dr. Thomas-Patterson has always dreamed of becoming a doctor and has practiced medicine in several countries around the world. Click [here](#) to learn more about Dr. Thomas-Patterson.

## Virtua in the News

## **Whooping Cough Spreading Locally and Beyond**

Rates of pertussis are rising, with Virtua seeing several cases in recent weeks. Jeffrey Polansky, DO, emergency medicine physician, discussed the highly contagious illness, which is especially dangerous for babies, pregnant people, and those with respiratory conditions. Juliette Osborne, whose daughter Emmani is recovering from pertussis, shared her family's experience and urged everyone to get vaccinated. Watch on [CBS 3](#).

## **Virtua Among N.J. Hospitals Maintaining Quality & Resilience**

Despite unprecedented challenges in recent years, New Jersey hospitals have continued to provide world-class care, wrote Cathy Bennett, president and CEO of the state's Hospital Association. For example, Virtua was one of the first in the nation to start a Hospital at Home program. Since its 2022 launch, the program has enabled more than 1,000 patients to receive hospital-level care from the comfort of home. Read this opinion piece in [NJBIZ](#).

## **IDEA – Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity for All**

**Aug. 7** is [Purple Heart Day](#). First observed in 2014, this national observance is reserved to commemorate those in the Armed Forces who have sustained injuries or passed away due to combat in the service.

### **[Minority Donor Awareness Month Event](#)**

**Aug. 15, 5 to 7 p.m.**

Barry D. Brown Health Education Center

Join our colleague communities for an event organized by the VirtuAsia colleague community, in collaboration with other colleague communities in recognition of National Minority Donor Awareness Month and organ donation.