

Clinician Update

August 24, 2023

Advanced Drug-Coated Balloon Now Available to Treat Peripheral Artery Disease

Virtua now has yet another next-generation, state-of-the-art tool to help individuals with peripheral artery disease. The SurVeil™ drug-coated balloon (DCB) was recently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for percutaneous transluminal angioplasty. The best-in-class technology includes a proprietary drug-excipient formulation for a durable balloon coating. The design is intended to provide more uniform drug distribution, better efficiency of drug transfer, and fewer downstream particulates and emboli.

Ibrahim A. Moussa, DO, FACC, FSCAI, RPVI, director of Virtua's Structural Heart Program, was principal investigator for a clinical trial of the device at Virtua. Dr. Moussa and his research team were recognized by the sponsor as helping to achieve this historic milestone.

"This is good news that the Surveil DCB will be available to us to treat our patients," said Dr. Moussa. "Clinical trials have shown that the Surveil DCB successfully demonstrated safety and effectiveness at two years post-treatment with a substantially lower drug dose. We strive to offer our patients the most advanced devices and evidence-based treatments that can make a real difference in their lives."

To learn more, click [here](#) for a press release by the medical device provider Surmodics, Inc.

Practicing Excellence at Virtua – Clinician Feedback on Explaining Care

Thank you for your commitment to Practicing Excellence and the Patient Experience journey. This week, we invite you to focus on the invaluable insights provided in the [Week 21 and 22 guides](#).

Topics include *Supporting your Team, Listening Well, Conveying Compassion, Sending Home, Finishing Strong, and Explaining Care*.

As for the skill of Explaining Care, Virtua endocrinologist Jean Marie Davidson, DO, had this feedback:

"I certainly relate to the tips on explaining care. Communication that is clear and in simple language helps build trust between patients and their provider, and ensures that patients are active participants in their own health care. Explaining medical conditions, test results, and medications not only improves the health and adherence of our patients, but also reduces medical errors."

It is no surprise that Explaining Care is a common reference among our clinician reviews. Note the following recent examples, and the clinician referenced:

"He is so nice, straight forward, and explains everything... so thankful to have him as my doctor, I can't thank him enough! (Emeka Acholonu, MD)

“He is someone you can talk to and takes the time to explain things... he is the BEST!” (Michael Meltzer, DO)

“He makes you feel really comfortable. He takes his time to explain step-by-step the tests and why they need to be done.” (Arnold Fontanilla, DO)

“She is wonderful! Explains everything and is very caring!” (Emily Gleimer, DO)

“He was extremely kind and patient with my 94-year old father and easy to understand when explaining his diagnosis.” (Scott Gabler, MD)

“He not only gave me guidance, but also explained to me how he came to his conclusion. He was very patient with me as I explained my issue to him. I was extremely pleased with my visit with him. So pleased I want and will tell others! Thank you, Dr. Paz!” (Efrain Paz Jr., DO)

“He took time to explain all the possible options and the pros and cons of them. Highly recommend this doctor.” (Geoffrey Bowers, MD)

Practicing Excellence allows you to search its library by topic. As we continue with our 26-week Patient Experience journey, you are also welcome to search for a topic that interests you—like Explaining Care—and find all related and relevant tips. We welcome your feedback as we share the Practicing Excellence journey. Email your thoughts to VirtuaClinician@virtua.org.

Virtua in the News

Virtua Orthopedist Discusses ‘Getting Your Life Back’

Scott Schoifet, MD, medical director of musculoskeletal services at Virtua, shared his highly personalized approach to patient care in a recent *South Jersey Magazine* story, along with several other orthopedic specialists.

“I want to know about their symptoms, of course, but I also want to know about their lifestyle, interests, and future plan,” Dr. Schoifet explained. “This allows me to make a more thorough assessment and a more individualized care plan.”

Read the article [here](#).

Epic Recognizes Virtua for Revenue Cycle Excellence

Epic has rated Virtua #1 nationwide in terms of efficient, effective hospital billing, after three years of being in the top 10. This recognition—based on extensive revenue cycle data spanning several Virtua departments—speaks to the collaborative and goal-driven nature of the Virtua workforce. The teams that track and influence these metrics most include medical records, patient accounting, revenue cycle, revenue integrity, I.T., and patient access (often referred to as registration). To see this year’s top ten, [click here for a photo of the announcement](#).

Click to learn more about [Epic's access and revenue cycle](#). Congratulations to Tom Gordon, SVP and CIO, Tom Buckley, SVP of revenue cycle & managed care, and all supporting teams.

Camden Coalition Wins Federal Behavioral Health Equity Award

Virtua is a member of the Camden Coalition, which is among 10 winners of the U.S. government's Behavioral Health Equity Challenge. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently announced the honorees, chosen from 427 submissions.

The Coalition is also one of four winners in the category of "strategies that address mental health." The group's Pledge to Connect program seeks to improve access to outpatient behavioral health services for people seeking care from an emergency department.

The federal recognition program highlights initiatives that increase access to behavioral health services for racial and ethnic underserved communities, as well as organizations working in substance abuse prevention and treatment. Read more in [Healthcare Innovation](#).

MFM Lead Clinician Dr. Shailen Shah in the Spotlight

Did you know he scuba dives? If you haven't had the chance to meet Shailen Shah, MD, lead maternal-fetal medicine (MFM) clinician, check out his [profile video](#). Dr. Shah shares how he enjoys understanding his patients as human beings, learning their goals and objectives, and matching medicine and healing to what they want to achieve. And he shares his love for the deep blue. That's right, scuba diving. Plus, now he wants to take that love to the upward blue, to flying.

Social Share Moment: We encourage you to share or repost his [profile video](#) with your friends and colleagues on social media. Use hashtag #BestDoctors or #BestPeople to reflect that Virtua strives for excellence.

Workforce and Patient Safety Update

Safety is a priority at Virtua, and we continue to take measures to maintain a safe environment for all. Here are a few highlights from this year:

- Virtua is providing all colleagues with safety resources and training. Recently, Virtua's Workplace Violence Prevention Steering Committee rolled out a system-wide education program in partnership with the Crisis Prevention Institute. As part of the collaboration, all colleagues are required to complete our Virtua Workplace Violence Prevention Program two-hour education module.

- The security team worked closely with the emergency department leadership team to provide 24/7 security coverage at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes, Virtua Mount Holly, and Virtua Willingboro hospitals, with Virtua Voorhees and Virtua Marlton coming soon. The Virtua Camden satellite ED has security officers in the treatment area from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week, and 24/7 security coverage at the ED weapons-screening area. The Virtua Berlin satellite ED has an officer assigned 24/7.

Additional initiatives to support a safe environment are also underway for the weeks and months ahead. These include:

- Installing screening devices at all Virtua hospitals and the satellite emergency departments in Berlin and Camden
- Creating “touch down” spaces for police personnel at all hospitals, helping to enhance the presence of our law enforcement partners
- Adopting new equipment and technology in support of colleague safety both inside and outside our facilities

Virtua Urgent Care: Your Reliable Health Care Partner

With back-to-school activities, and more lure to the outdoors, so too comes the need for your patients to be prepared for when accidents happen: that twisted knee in soccer, the bug bite, the unexpected fever or flu, and... dare we say it—the never welcome UTI.

“The need for urgent care services is year-round,” said Sam Weiner, MD, VP & CMO of Virtua Medical Group. “It’s important that we make our community aware that we are here and ready for them when the need arises. For fellow clinicians, urgent care provides a great way to address emergent patient needs in those off hours when it might be difficult to see a patient in your practice. The urgent care team provide a seamless way to extend your practice and keep you fully informed of your patients progress and experience.”

Virtua Health offers three ways for patients to access urgent care:

- Walk in care without an appointment
- Schedule a same-day reservation at any location
- Participate in a telehealth visit from anywhere in New Jersey

Let your patients know that to find an urgent care location near them or to schedule a telehealth appointment, visit [Virtua.org/UrgentCare](https://www.virtua.org/UrgentCare).

Upcoming CME Events

Cardiology for Primary Care - Sept. 9, 2023

[Register today for the annual Virtua Cardiology for Primary Care Symposium](#), scheduled to take place on Saturday, Sept. 9. This will be the 13th year Virtua Cardiology has held this event to educate primary care practitioners, physicians, NPs, PAs, and other health professionals on news and trends in cardiovascular care. A few of this year's topics include sleep and the heart, imaging modalities, a panel discussion on heart failure, and so much more. Check out the many excellent presentations on the agenda. [Learn more and register here](#). The program will be presented in-person on the campus of Rowan College of Burlington County, with a live-stream version available.

The symposium is part of the Rowan series, "Key Essentials for Optimizing Patient Care," a 5Block CME Series, and is designed specifically to better prepare primary care clinicians for the management of their patients. Questions? Email VirtuaClinician@virtua.org.

Quarterly Cardiology Grand Rounds, Sept. 20

Topic: CCTA in 2023 – Plaque, Physiology, and Planning PCI

Join us on Wednesday, Sept. 20, from 7 to 8 a.m. for the next session in our Quarterly Cardiology Grand Rounds series. We will be discussing coronary computed tomography angiography (CCTA), specifically "CCTA in 2023 – Plaque, Physiology, and Planning PCI." The featured speaker will be Jonathon A. Leipsic, MD, FRCPC, FSCCT. Dr. Leipsic is head of the Department of Radiology and a professor of cardiology at the University of British Columbia. He is also a research chair in advanced cardiopulmonary imaging, and has over 530 peer-reviewed manuscripts in press or in print, over 300 scientific abstracts, and has edited two textbooks. [Click here to learn more about this session](#).

To register for the session, click [here](#).

Registration Is Now Open for "The Non-Hepatologist's Guide to Caring for Patients with Liver Disease," Sept. 30

Date: Saturday, September 30, 2023

Time: 7 to 8 a.m. Registration and Breakfast

8 to 11:15 a.m. Collaborative Sessions

Location: Virtua Health Education Center, 106 Carnie Blvd, Voorhees, NJ 08043

Caring for patients with liver disease can be very complex. Virtua Advanced Transplant and Organ Health invites all clinicians to attend "The Non-Hepatologist's Guide to Caring for Patients with Liver Disease," on Saturday, Sept. 30 from 7 to 11:15 a.m.

"At Virtua, we provide comprehensive care for all types of liver disease," said Chief of Hepatology Simona Rossi, MD. "This education session is designed to empower you to confidently evaluate and care for patients with this multifaceted disease, from the most common to the most complex."

Learn from the experts as they speak on a variety of topics across the spectrum of liver care, including:

Elevated Liver Enzymes: Should We Care? Presented by Nyan L. Latt, MD, Medical Director, Hepatobiliary Tumor Program

Assessment of Patient With Cirrhosis. Presented by Simona Rossi, MD, Chief of Hepatology

Where Do You Begin With Fatty Liver Disease? Presented by Ashraf H. Malek, MD, Associate Director Hepatology

Renal Failure, HRS or Not HRS? That Is the Question. Presented by Hisham El Genaidi, MD, Transplant Hepatology

Evaluation of the Incidental Liver Tumor. Presented by Nyan L. Latt, MD

Is This Acute Liver Failure or Is This Decompensated Liver Cirrhosis? Presented by Simona Rossi, MD

Alcohol-related Liver Injury. Presented by Ashraf H. Malek, MD

Viral Hepatitis, Take Away Points. Presented by Hisham El Genaidi, MD

Register in the Virtua Learning System (VLS) here: <https://virtualearning.csod.com/ui/lms-learning-details/app/event/7341cef1-9b95-4f8e-b312-973fa37c1c02>

Virtua Health designates this live activity for the maximum 3.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Virtua Health is accredited by the Medical Society of New Jersey to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

For the day's agenda, click [here](#). For more information, please contact Natalie Frament at NFrament@virtua.org or 215-528-1195.

[Here for Good: Inside Edition Spotlights Father-Daughter Duo Serving on the Frontlines](#)

Socrates Kouvatias has been a paramedic since November 1995. With nearly three decades under his belt, he's not just seen it all, but has shared tales of his experiences at home, making quite an impression on his daughter Alyssa, who is now a Virtua EMT. The pair sat down with President and CEO Dennis Pullin on the ["Here for Good: Inside Edition" podcast](#) to share their experiences working together and giving back to the community.

Socrates shared that his long tenure in emergency health care hasn't just made him an efficient paramedic, but also instilled a passion for teaching. He emphasized the importance of mentoring young EMTs and paramedics, ensuring they're equipped with essential skills, the right attitude, and empathy. Socrates says that emergency care is fraught with challenges, and that the profession is not for the faint of heart. Alyssa, echoing her father's sentiments, mentions how she thrives on the adrenaline rush, a testament to her commitment to the job.

The camaraderie between Alyssa and Socrates has been noticed by their fellow colleagues, who've affectionately nicknamed Alyssa as “Little Soc” or “Baby Soc.” Socrates has indeed carved out a legacy, not just as a paramedic, but also as a father. By introducing and guiding his daughter into this noble profession, he's ensured that his commitment to the community will live on through Alyssa.

Get to know this extraordinary father-daughter pair by clicking to [view the full episode](#).

IDEA – Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity for All

On Aug. 26, the nation observes Women’s Equality Day, commemorating the certification of the 19th Amendment in 1920. As the amendment states, “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

While a monumental point in history, it was only the start to a larger movement toward equity in voting. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 expanded voting rights to Black women. To learn more about our voting history, and ways to continue practicing true equality, click [here](#). Also, learn more about the role of women in leadership at Virtua [here](#).