

## Clinician Update February 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](#).**

### Two New VMG Primary Care Practices Now Open to the Community

Today, Virtua welcomed two new primary care offices: Virtua Primary Care – Bordentown and Virtua Primary Care – Voorhees at 805 Cooper Road.

The Bordentown practice features clinicians Beverly Toporowski, MD, and Samantha McAdams, APN, and is located at 6500 K Johnson Blvd, Suite 100. Virtua Primary Care – Voorhees at 805 Cooper Road features clinicians Toby Soble, MD, and Ryan Hart, PA.

“These two practices enable our wider reach to serve our communities,” said Samuel Weiner, MD, vice president and chief medical officer of the Virtua Medical Group. “The new location in Bordentown represents our northern growth into Mercer County, while the new location in Voorhees represents our third primary care practice in that township. We’re really excited about what this will mean for the people we serve.”

### Virtua.org Unveils Exciting New Look and Improved Features

The reimagined [Virtua.org](https://www.virtua.org) has launched! The new site boasts many improved features and functions that make it easier for people to experience the site. [Check it out!](#)

### Now in Effect: New Continuing Medical Education (CME) Process

The Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine (SOM) is accrediting all Virtua Continuing Medical Education (CME) activities for physicians as of today, **Feb. 1**. New requests will continue to be coordinated by Virtua, but the Office of Continuing Education at Rowan-Virtua SOM will accredit the activity for *AMA PRA Category 1 credits™* for physicians. The process generally remains the same as it was, however being a new collaboration, there are some refinements.

Important notes:

- Program planners, please use the new Rowan-Virtua SOM accreditation slides and discard previous Virtua Health slides.

- Use the new hyperlink/QR code that has been redesigned using Rowan-Virtua SOM official accreditation statement. The existing Virtua Health hyperlink/QR code will be *deactivated* on **Feb 10**. If you have not completed a survey for 2024, please do it before this time as this is the only option to obtain a certificate.
- Please email program documents to [CME-CNE@virtua.org](mailto:CME-CNE@virtua.org), including attendance records, the Regular Scheduled Series (RSS) tracking document to identify speaker dates with topics, and the completed “Disclosure of All Financial Relationships from Planners, Faculty, and Others” for any new speaker or planner.
- All current CME educational activities will require a new CME request form which will be provided via email to planners by next week. This form will require a physician planner to complete, review, and sign by Thursday, **Feb. 29**.

If you have any questions, please email the Virtua Continuing Education Team at [CME-CNE@virtua.org](mailto:CME-CNE@virtua.org).

### Friday Is National Wear Red Day

**Tomorrow, Feb. 2** is National Wear Red Day. We encourage our colleagues to wear red and take a photo to raise awareness for the No. 1 killer of women—cardiovascular disease. Over 60 million women in the United States are living with some form of heart disease, so let’s show our support for the women in our lives by wearing red. Please be sure to post your photos to the [Virtua Colleague Facebook group](#) on Feb. 2 and/or email them to [virtuainfo@virtua.org](mailto:virtuainfo@virtua.org). We look forward to seeing your photos.

### National Women Physicians Day Is This Saturday, Feb. 3

National Women Physicians Day is celebrated on Feb. 3 each year. It marks the birthday of Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to receive a medical degree in the United States in 1849. She was famously allowed to attend medical school as a joke, but had the last laugh when she proved everyone wrong about her alleged “intellectual inferiority.” Dr. Blackwell became the first woman in America to earn her medical degree, and initiated the movement that helped women gain entry and equality in the field of medicine.

“This day recognizes not only Dr. Blackwell’s dedication, but the strides made by generations of women doctors since that time,” said Senior VP and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Jennifer Khelil. “We honor those who came before us, and we celebrate those dedicated physicians among us today. We are inspired by their commitment and care for our patients, as well as their roles in paving the way for future women leaders here at Virtua and in the medical field.”

## Virtua Is “All In” on Excellence

Thank you for being *All In on Excellence*! This week, we continue to consider what it means to be “On Purpose” with the helpful tip, “Creating Chemistry.”

This tip highlights the importance of bringing team values to life and recognizing that each colleague’s strengths complement others. Every team member’s contribution is valued and builds a strong foundation for improved efficiency, better problem-solving, ongoing collaboration, and ultimately, a cohesive team.

Click to [view the tip](#).

## 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 absolutely SPECTACULAR! I cannot say enough good things about her! She is thorough and checks off all the minutia, ensuring she captures all the details of things that need to be addressed! She listens! She takes action! She asks if there is anything else. She is pleasant, down to earth, and makes you feel like you are the only patient she has. I could not be more thrilled with the care we get from her!” (Alexandra DeSimone, MD)

“Awesome doctor! She listens and gives information and talks with her patient to give the best care in the best way. Never had to wait a long time to see her.” (Susan Varevice-McAndrew, DO)

“Dr. Abiuso is terrific! I look forward to my appointments with him.” (Patrick Abiuso, MD)

“Very good experience. Great team.” (Dorothy Cam, CNM)

“Everyone I had contact with was very nice. They seemed to enjoy their jobs. Dr. Herbst is a very caring person/doctor.” (Allison Herbst, MD)

## Virtua in the News

### CDC Warns Measles Is a Growing Global Threat

A recent measles outbreak in Philadelphia highlights the rising risk from this highly contagious respiratory infection—especially for the unvaccinated. Angela Skrzynski, DO, lead physician of Virtua Primary Care Telehealth, comments on what has become a concern for many parents. Watch or read on [CBS3](#).

### New Law Enables More N.J. Residents to Receive ‘Hospital at Home’

Those with private, commercial health insurance or Medicaid are now eligible to receive comprehensive, acute care at home. Virtua is among the state's largest providers of these services, known as Hospital at Home. Read in [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#), [ROI-NJ](#), and [HealthLeaders](#).

### **Virtua CEO Named a Top N.J. Influencer**

A statewide business magazine has named Virtua President and CEO Dennis W. Pullin, FACHE, to its "Power List 2024: Super 60." The publication cites such innovations as Virtua's mobile health programs, and the Virtua-Rowan partnership aimed at improving health care quality and access. Read in [ROI-NJ](#)

### **Industry Magazine Spotlights Virtua Orthopedics & Spine**

*Becker's Orthopedic Review* included Virtua in two recent stories. The publication lists Virtua Mount Holly and Virtua Voorhees hospitals among "250 top orthopedic facilities for Medicare members, per Aetna." Read it [here](#). And Virtua's acquisition of Reconstructive Orthopedics is listed among the largest spine/orthopedic acquisitions of the last five years. View the list [here](#).

### **New Drug for Postpartum Depression Now Available**

The pill, called Zurzuvae, can help those struggling to bond with their baby or adjust to life with a newborn. Rachel Shmuts, DO, vice chair of education of the Department of Psychiatry at Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine, discussed the new medication. Watch on [6 ABC](#).

### **NJHCQI Issues Report on Advanced Primary Care**

Advanced primary care is patient-centered and comprehensive. Providing such care requires sufficient resources and infrastructure to support effective care teams. The New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute (NJHCQI) led a focused examination of current primary care payment models in New Jersey and has released [this report](#).

Mary Campagnolo, MD, is a board member of NJHCQI. The Virtua family physician and geriatrician, medical director for value-based programs and payer contracts for Virtua Medical Group, and former member of the board of directors (2020 to 2023) for the American Academy of Family Physicians, advocates for the support of advanced primary care. She participated in the NJHCQI work group of experts to create significant steps forward to support the delivery of advanced primary care in New Jersey.

"The report calls for much-needed changes to how we pay for primary care. The report also calls for better data collection and transparency regarding the physician workforce for fiscal and policy decision-making. It also promotes streamlining reporting on quality measures and recommends a core set of measures for use across payers."

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

## Upcoming Microsoft Authenticator Go-Live

Virtua Information Services is in the process of updating our multifactor authentication application from Entrust to Microsoft Authenticator. We are excited about the benefits this transition provides to the organization, as Authenticator is a secure, intuitive, and an easy-to-use multifactor authenticator application. It will provide Virtua with additional capabilities around password-less authentication and eliminates the need for users to type in their username and password each time they need to authenticate.

All Virtua colleagues who presently use Entrust or SMS text messages to authenticate their access to the Virtua network MUST transition to the Microsoft Authenticator application or they will be unable to access the Virtua network remotely. In adherence with security standards and best practices, SMS text notifications will no longer be supported as a verification method.

The transition will take place in three parts throughout February. Please review the go-live dates below to see when each application will transition to Microsoft Authenticator for remote access, multifactor authentication. However, users are highly encouraged to complete enrollment as soon as they can. This will allow for a seamless transition and ensure no disruption to your remote access.

### **Go-Live 1, Feb. 6**

*External Access to:*

Office 365 Applications (Outlook, Teams, etc.)

Colleague Corner

Azure Applications

### **Go-Live 2, Feb. 20**

*External Access to:*

Citrix.virtua.org

### **Go-Live 3, Feb. 27**

*External Access to:*

All remaining applications, including Global Protect VPN, Virtua Works, API, ServiceNow, etc.

Enrolling in Authenticator is quick and easy. To enroll, follow the instructions in [this tip sheet](#). Colleagues can also find a list of support resources, including FAQs and a troubleshooting guide. Thank you for your support and patience as we complete this important security upgrade.

Note: Once Authenticator is installed and you are enrolled, please be sure to have notifications turned on. Do not disable notifications or the application will not prompt you properly.

## New Security Screening System Coming to Virtua Marlton

In a move to continue keeping our colleagues, patients, and visitors safe, Virtua is set to install the Evolv weapons screening system at the emergency department in Virtua Marlton Hospital. This follows the

successful installation of the same system at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, and the Virtua Health & Wellness Centers in Camden and Berlin.

The new metal detectors are equipped with advanced sensors, cameras, and artificial intelligence, supporting security personnel in the detection and screening of firearms and other weapons. This state-of-the-art technology effectively distinguishes between items of concern and common personal belongings such as keys and phones, doing so in real time.

Importantly, the screening equipment is designed to be discreet and efficient, ensuring that foot traffic flows smoothly. Visitors will not be required to empty their pockets or undergo a separate bag check, significantly streamlining the entry process. The system is capable of screening as many as 4,000 people per hour.

### **Interested in a Confidential Conversation with a Virtua Peer?**

If you or a colleague are interested in having a confidential conversation with a trained peer about stressors at work or in your personal life, [request outreach](#) from a peer supporter. *WE Support* is available to the following colleague groups: physicians, nurses, clinicians, and patient logistics professionals.

We will soon launch our allied health career network (i.e. pharmacy, rehab, behavioral health, radiology, respiratory, laboratory, nutrition) in February. To nominate yourself or someone else to become a peer supporter click [here](#).

### **Nominate a Virtua Colleague or Team for a WE Award**

WE Awards represent Virtua's highest honors, recognizing individuals who make exceptional contributions and have a significant impact on our organization by exemplifying our Culture of WE, serving our community, and driving quality and safety through high reliability.

Check out the 2023 WE Award winners in [this video](#).

If you know a colleague or team of colleagues, employed by Virtua, who is WE Award worthy, submit a nomination.

Nomination Period: **Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2023**

Nomination Submission Deadline: **Feb. 4, 2024**

Click to access [WE Awards criteria](#) on the Colleague Corner and the WE Applaud platform ([peopleareeverything.com/virtua](https://peopleareeverything.com/virtua)) to submit your nomination. If you are unable to access these channels, please click to see the [WE Awards FAQ](#), [criteria](#), and questions for the [individual nomination](#) or [team nomination form](#). Write the answers in the email and send them to [weawards@virtua.org](mailto:weawards@virtua.org).

## Clinicians in the Spotlight in the First Wow-WE Video of 2024

Brighten your day with this month's [Wow-WE video](#)! The video celebrates:

- The teams who helped a couple welcome twins born on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day
- Our record-setting 114 organ transplants in 2023, and thousands of five-star Google reviews.
- How Virtua was the first health system in New Jersey to perform an innovative new procedure to help people with uncontrolled high blood pressure, and the first in the state to use an image-guided, catheter-based system to diagnose and treat vascular disease
- Our vascular surgery team, which recently completed its 50<sup>th</sup> TCAR procedure
- How all three Virtua hospitals with maternity divisions earned places on the new *U.S. News & World Report* list
- Thousands of five-star Google reviews

Check out all the good news featuring colleagues across the organization!

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

This week marks the start to Black History Month to recognize and celebrate the achievements, contributions, and rich cultural heritage of Black and African Americans. The month was officially recognized in 1976. The [Association for the Study of African American Life and History \(ASALH\)](#) chose this year's theme to be "African Americans and the Arts."

The emphasis on self-learning and allyship during Black History Month—and throughout the year—fosters an environment of inclusion and respect. We will share various facts and resources throughout the month to help expand our collective learning during Black History Month in *By Design*.

Virtua's Black and African American Colleague Community (BAACC) is a resource and a safe space to cultivate success for our Black and African American colleagues. Their mission is to promote an environment of awareness, education, mentorship, inclusion, and respect throughout Virtua and beyond. To join or learn more, contact the BAACC at: [BAACC@virtua.org](mailto:BAACC@virtua.org).