

## Clinician Update

### February 23, 2023

#### Practicing Excellence for Clinicians

Practicing Excellence is a web-based coaching program for all Virtua colleagues and members of our medical staff. It is a program designed specifically to help us reconnect to joy and purpose and create better connections with our teams and patients.

If you are receiving *Clinician Update*, then Practicing Excellence is available to you personally and professionally. Its official kick-off is in April, and we will all pursue specific learning programs together. Practicing Excellence builds skills to drive outcomes in well-being, experience, and leadership effectiveness through on-demand coaching in five-minute intervals. The programs deliver short, actionable skill-building videos via a mobile app to allow clinicians and staff to learn at the same time, with role-specific tips.

According to Virtua Chief Clinical Officer, Dr. Reg Blaber, “Practicing Excellence is about more than fixing problems. It’s about establishing new ways of delivering care, communicating, and approaching life that lead to better outcomes. I’ve spoken to clinicians who are further along with Practicing Excellence than we are, and they have told me that their participation in this program has not only helped them find greater contentment and fulfillment as health care professionals, but more broadly as people.”

For clinicians new to Practicing Excellence, we invite you to watch or listen to one of these three 10-minute videos that recap the program’s key themes. Each video is customized for a different audience.

- [Hospital Clinician Keynote](#)
- [Ambulatory Clinician Keynote](#)
- [Nurses Keynote](#)

#### Create a Practicing Excellence Account

Once you’ve watched the video overview, the next step is for you to register with Practicing Excellence. **Download the Practicing Excellence app** on your phone by following these simple steps. You can also register for and access Practicing Excellence on its website, but many users prefer the mobile app for its simple navigation and for the ability to engage with the content on the go.

Registration tips:

- While your Virtua email is preferred, please use whatever email address you use most often and prefer.
- When prompted to provide a join code, enter the word VIRTUA.
- You will be asked to provide an Employee ID number. That six-digit number should be on the back of your ID badge. If you do not know your ID number, you can enter any sequence of numbers (like 000000) and move ahead with the sign-up process.

Once registered, you will be automatically enrolled in the Virtua Health Welcome Program, which includes an introduction video from Stephen Beeson, MD, founder and CEO of Practicing Excellence, and an overview of what the overall program is all about. You may also see a video geared to your line of work—such as emergency medicine, for example. Enjoy exploring the platform and becoming familiar

with its features and functions. You do not have to take any additional actions until the Virtua-wide launch in April.

***A Note to Clinician Leaders:***

In order to support the system-wide rollout of Practicing Excellence, all leaders are asked to get a jumpstart by participating in a special program called *Leading the Patient Experience*.

If you are not yet enrolled in this program, please follow these steps:

1. Click on “Progress” in the main menu of the Practicing Excellence website or app.
2. Tap or select the “Join Program” button.
3. Enter the join code *VIRTUALEADPX*.

Most leaders are a few weeks into the program, but you can easily catch up by watching the initial handful of tips under “Part 1: Create a Cause.” With that, you will be back on pace and can follow the [week-by-week program roadmap](#), which is the best way to fully process and act upon the video learnings.

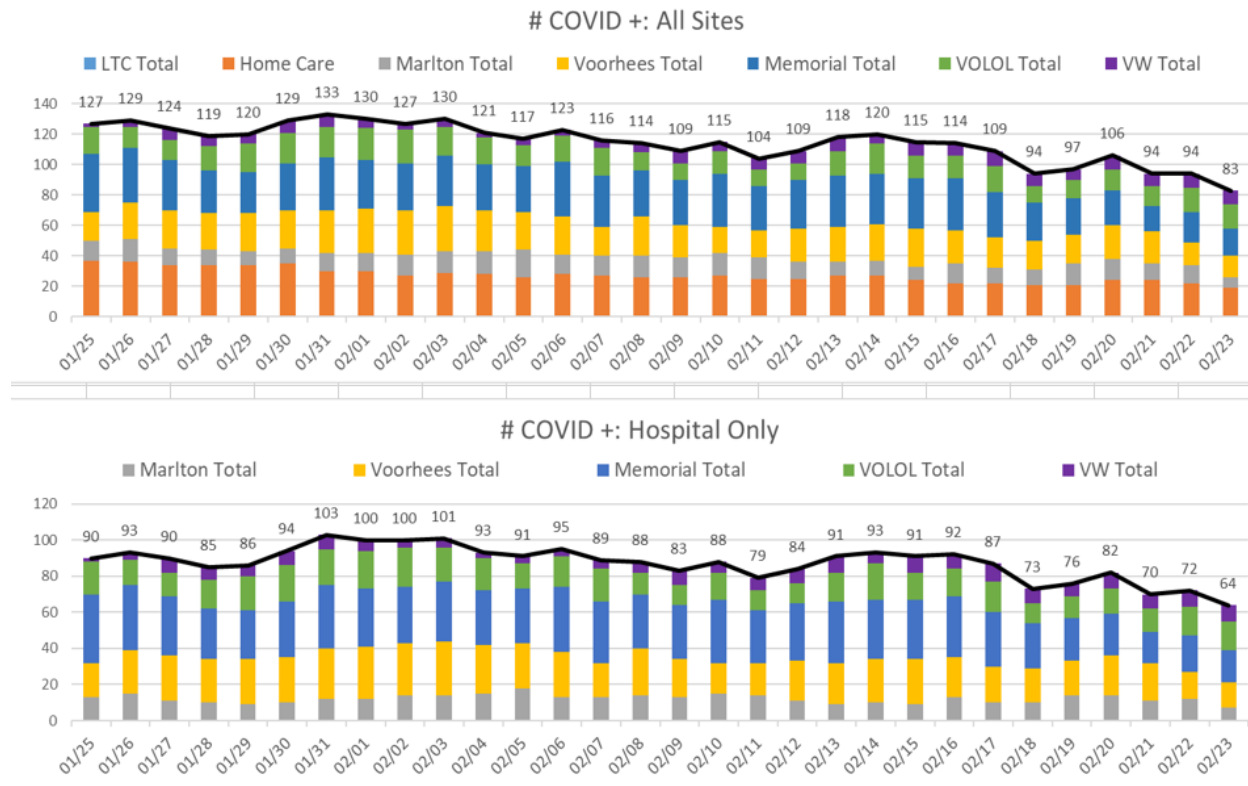
The goal is for all Virtua leaders to complete the *Leading the Patient Experience* program by the end of April. In fact, it is one Virtua’s global goals for 2023.

For additional information about Practicing Excellence, how it works, and why it matters, please visit the [Practicing Excellence page on Colleague Corner](#). The page also includes step-by-step instructions for the app.

**Bid Farewell to Weekly COVID Numbers**

Now that cases have been stable for the past several months, starting with next week’s *Clinician Update*, we will no longer be reporting COVID-19 census data for Virtua as well as county-level figures from the state. Of course, should there be a significant change or uptick in statistics, we would resume the report.

**COVID-19 Census**



**Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts**

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey was reported on Thursday as .80.
- The total number of cases reported as of 3 p.m. Wednesday:
  - Atlantic County 70,767
  - Burlington County: 114,270 cases
  - Camden County: 138,039 cases
  - Gloucester County: 69,911 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, and Atlantic counties: 5,102.
- The state’s Vaccination Overview dashboard reported 20,203,252 doses of vaccine have been administered.

**Mpox Stats**

As of the last posting, the number of probable and confirmed cases of mpox cases in New Jersey: **764**. As figures have also stabilized for Mpox, we will pause the weekly report at this time.

**COVID-19 Testing at Virtua Voorhees Hospital**

Virtua Voorhees Hospital—and only Virtua Voorhees Hospital—has adjusted its COVID-19 testing protocols. As of Feb. 21, only patients who present with COVID-19 symptoms or are suspected of having COVID-19 will participate in COVID-19 testing. This revised protocol changes the necessity of pre-procedure and pre-surgical testing for surgical patients at the Voorhees campus; these patients (including same-day, post-op, and labor and delivery) will NOT be tested unless symptomatic.

Universal testing will remain in place at all other Virtua campuses. Importantly, any Voorhees patient being transferred to a different campus will require testing at the receiving site. For more information, [click here](#).

## **Virtua in the News**

### **What Happens When COVID-19 Emergency Declarations End?**

The federal government plans to let the COVID-19 public health emergency expire in May. Emilio Mazza, MD, critical care chief at Virtua Mount Holly Hospital, recently discussed what that could mean for patients and providers. For example, many Americans may have to start paying for COVID tests, vaccines, and treatments. "It's going to make it more complicated, especially for the underserved... and folks without insurance," he said. Watch and read on [CBS 3](#).

### **Burlington County & Business Magazines Recognize Dennis Pullin**

The Burlington County Commissioners recently honored Virtua President and CEO Dennis Pullin and two other leaders in celebration of Black History Month. Each received a certificate of excellence for their dedication, service to the community, and leadership. Read on the [County website](#) and [Tap Into](#). Additionally, two New Jersey magazines ranked Pullin as a top area leader. *ROI-NJ* named him number 18 on its statewide "Super 60" list of business influencers. And *South Jersey Biz* identified him among the region's "Top CEOs and CFOs." Click to view the [ROI-NJ story](#) and the [page featuring Dennis Pullin](#). See the South Jersey Biz article [here](#) and Pullin's profile [here](#).

### **Virtua Announces New Foundation Board Leadership**

Virtua Health has named new leadership appointments for the Virtua Health Foundation Board of Trustees. They are Damien M. Ghee as chair and John C. Gillespie as vice chair. Additionally, John J. Parker, Sr., who served as the Foundation board chair from 2019 to 2022, has joined the Virtua Health Board of Trustees for a three-year term. Read in the [Patch](#).

### **Statewide Magazine Highlights Virtua**

*New Jersey Business Magazine* recently featured Virtua in two stories. In [NJ Hospitals Deliver Award-Winning Services](#), the magazine profiles four of the state's "most honored" health systems. In [Prosperity & Plight in South Jersey](#), John Matsinger, DO, EVP and chief operating officer, discusses Virtua's growth and how it is enhancing its facilities.

### **Cardiothoracic Surgery Today Now Posted to Digital 411**

Our [most recent issue](#) of the *Today* series of physician education newsletters centers on what is new in cardiothoracic (CT) surgery at Virtua. With expanded staff and experience, our cardiothoracic surgery program is treating patients of higher acuity and more complex needs. This most recent issue, *Cardiothoracic Surgery Today*, features the advanced procedures being performed at Virtua for our patients. Candidates who are at greater risk for surgery due to multiple heart or other conditions, or who can benefit from minimally invasive endovascular interventions, can find the best surgical solutions available at Virtua.

“Striving to serve southern New Jersey as a tertiary destination cardiovascular center means to function as one unit in providing a comprehensive care model for all heart needs for our patients,” said CT surgeon Chun (Dan) Choi, MD, Virtua vice president of Cardiovascular Clinical Operations. “In fact, we already excel in many areas of heart care compared to other programs in the region.”

[Click here to view \*Cardiothoracic Surgery Today\*](#). Remember that our library of publications has a home base on [Digital 411](#), found under “Additional Resources/Clinician Publications.” There, you can find archived copies of *Clinician Update*, as well as a growing resource of the *Today* series.

### **U.S. News Physician Survey Currently Underway**

The annual *U.S. News and World Report* survey, which captures medical specialists’ expert opinions on which hospitals provide high-quality referral care in their specialty, is in full swing. We have learned that invitations have been mailed to eligible physicians who are users of Doximity. If you have not yet received an invitation by email, expect to get one soon, likely, by the end of the week. The survey will continue into mid-March, and each physician will receive clear instructions in the email.

To be survey-eligible, a physician must be a Doximity user and must meet [U.S. News’ eligibility criteria](#), which are determined primarily by board certification in a specialty that *U.S. News* evaluates. For answers to frequently asked questions about the physician survey, please see [last year’s blog post](#).

While you are welcome to participate in this survey, there is no obligation to do so. But, we do appreciate your help in recognizing the hard work and dedication our clinicians put into providing the highest level of care. [Last year](#), Virtua Health was recognized as high performing by *US News & World Report*, with Virtua Voorhees Hospital tying for the sixth-best hospital in the state.

If you are looking to establish your Doximity profile, just follow the instructions [here](#). Certain profile data is viewable via [USNews.com](#) through its [Doctors tab](#) (within the Health tab) and used by patients to find care, so it is always good to keep your profile up to date.

### **Virtua Urgent Care Celebrates Black HERstory Month**

Virtua Urgent Care – Washington Township honored and celebrated Black History Month in February. Lead medical assistant Shareen Hill posted a board entitled *Black HERstory* in the team’s break room “to celebrate the beautiful talented Black women who’ve shaped the lives of so many over the years.” Shareen also posted our African American nurse practitioners and physicians who are role models in our department.

“Celebrating the history and culture, as well as learning about the stories and lives of these women who’ve impacted the world, has been an amazing experience to share with our team,” said practice manager Jennifer Logan. “Thank you, Shareen, for this beautiful board and act of kindness. I would also like to recognize and celebrate our African American colleagues who are committed to making a difference and helping our patients and communities.”

### **Upcoming Event Next Week—**

## **The Journey to Thriving Event: Creating Space to Discuss Clinician Burnout**

***Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 6 p.m.***

As we continue to prioritize the well-being of our colleagues, Virtua will host a virtual event this upcoming Tuesday focused on clinician burnout. During this one-hour virtual event, Dr. Andy Cohen, vice president of clinical operations and medical director, will share his story from the day his unrecognized burnout came to a head, what he learned from that experience, and the adjustments he has made.

Nate Terrell, licensed professional counselor and Carebridge consultant, will address the concepts of burnout, compassion fatigue, and the stress responses they can produce.

Click to register on the [Virtua Learning System](#). The event will be held using the Carebridge Zoom platform, which will allow for anonymous attendance and participation in the question and answer segment.

## **Mark Your Calendar: Quarterly Cardiology Grand Rounds**

***Wednesday, March 29***

Virtua Cardiology has initiated a Grand Rounds series for clinicians. The inaugural program for the **Quarterly Cardiology Grand Rounds** will be on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 7 a.m. and will be held virtually. Hear Dr. William Lombardi, professor of medicine from the University of Washington discuss the **Emotional Toll of High-Risk PCI: Effects on Operator Ability to Improve**. To register, go to the [Virtua Learning System \(VLS\)](#) or visit VLS and search for the title. To learn more [view the flyer](#). Be sure to mark your calendars for future sessions on June 21, September 20 and December 20.

## **In case you missed it! Virtua Physicians Talk Sleep and Heart**

Our most recent Real Talk! Women's Health Chat was all about how sleep plays an important role in your heart health and overall well-being. Tolulope Agunbiade, MD, medical director of Advanced Heart Failure, and pulmonologist Neha Vagadia, DO, pulmonologist with Virtua Pulmonology & Sleep Medicine, sat down (virtually) to provide our attendees with helpful insights and tips to sleep better, be more heart-healthy and have them feeling their best. Click [here](#) for a recording.