

Clinician Update February 29, 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 Installs Advanced Cardiac Imaging Systems

Virtua has installed the innovative Omni Legend digital PET/CT—the first in New Jersey—and Revolution Apex platform—a CT system capable of 1-beat cardiac imaging—to add advanced capabilities at Virtua Cardiology – Moorestown at Marne Highway. The GE HealthCare platform systems represent meaningful improvements in cardiac imaging that can power clinical efficiencies and better patient outcomes.

“The highest quality of cardiovascular imaging matters because it helps us more accurately diagnose a patient’s heart condition,” said Virtua cardiologist Mark Finch, MD, FACC. “From there, we can establish the best possible care pathway, whether that’s medication, lifestyle modification, or medical intervention. The more information we’re able to analyze, the better our patient outcomes can become.”

To learn more about these systems, [read this press release](#) from GE HealthCare. Click [here](#) for a LinkedIn post shared by Catherine Estrampes, president and CEO of GE HealthCare in the United States and Canada.

Virtua Transitioning to Secure Chat Messaging Module Within Epic

Beginning **Monday, March 25**, Virtua will go live with Secure Chat, a messaging module available within Epic. Secure Chat will replace QliqChat as Virtua’s patient-secure, point-to-point messaging application on desktop devices, as well as on mobile devices as it will also transition to Haiku and Rover.

With the move to Secure Chat, colleagues will no longer be dependent on being logged into a third-party system for secure messaging and patient care communications as it will all be done in Epic. This transition will also allow care team members to use a secure, embedded, patient-centric chat as an alternative option to sending InBasket messages. Group messaging will be available and will also allow for the creation and use of customized groups.

“We are excited about the possibilities that the move to a more stable and consistent application will provide for communications and patient care throughout the organization,” said Samir Doshi, MD, FAAP, associate medical director of informatics at Virtua.

Chris Pomrink, DO, MBA, SHFM, VP of medical affairs at Virtua added, “Secure Chat will greatly enhance colleague communication and collaboration throughout the organization. We thank you for your patience as we make these important improvements.”

Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks regarding Secure Chat, including where to find training materials and how you will be supported through go-live.

Notice: Recording and Transcription of Virtual Meetings on Pause

Microsoft Teams, Zoom, and other virtual meeting applications allow attendees to record (both audio and video) and transcribe meetings. Depending on the type of information exchanged during such virtual meetings, these recording and storage functions place Virtua Health proprietary, confidential, or protected health information at risk of inappropriate or impermissible disclosure.

For this reason, Virtua Health is temporarily prohibiting the use of recording and transcription functionality in virtual meetings. Virtua Health will issue acceptable use guidelines outlining in what virtual meetings the recording and transcribing services can be used. If you believe that a particular use should be included as permissible, please send an email explaining the use case to Tom Gordon (tgordon@virtua.org), Chas Thawley (cthawley@virtua.org), Lauren Rowinski (lrowinski@virtua.org), and/or John St. Leger (jstleger@virtua.org).

Although the use of recording and transcription functionality in Virtua Health virtual meetings has been disabled, we cannot control external (non-Virtua) users. Therefore, it is possible for an external meeting attendee to use a virtual assistance bot in a Teams or other virtual meeting in which Virtua Health colleagues are participating. Use of such bots in a Virtua Health meeting is prohibited due to the same risks as described above. In such situations, it is important that you request external users not to record or transcribe meetings in which you participate. Should the external user not remove the bot, it is important that you consider whether the call will address Virtua Health proprietary, confidential, or protected health information. If so, you must consider whether the call should proceed at that time.

We rely on colleagues to be vigilant and take the following precautions to help protect the privacy and security of confidential data discussed during meetings.

[Click to view additional details.](#)

Important Apple Device Security Update Now Available

Virtua 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.

Please click [here](#) for more update information from Apple. It’s always a good habit to update your phone when the latest security release is made available.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for protecting yourself and Virtua from any security compromise.

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. If you need assistance, reach IT Customer Service at 856-355-1234.

SJ Mag Media Top Docs Polling Starts March 1

SJ Mag Media's top doctor balloting opens for physicians and patients on **Friday, March 1**. The guiding question is, "If you were ill, who would you go to?"

[Click here as a physician to vote](#). (The links here will not be accessible until tomorrow).

Share this link with your patients, friends, and family: <https://sjmagazine.net/health/2024-top-docs-patient-poll>

The deadline for voting for both is March 31 at 5 p.m.

To view the physicians who were chosen by their peers and patients as a *SJ Mag Media* 2023 Top Doc, click [here](#).

Time for Your Say in the Best Hospitals Ranking

The 2024–2025 *U.S. News & World Report* "Best Hospitals" reputation voting is taking place from February through mid-March. Each year, *U.S. News and World Report* releases the results of an opinion survey highlighting the "Best Hospitals" in the nation. A vital component of these scores derives from surveying board-certified physicians who are registered as [Doximity](#) users, the online networking service for medical professionals. If you are a registered Doximity member, you should have now received the annual member survey. Even if you don't receive the email, you can still vote by logging in to [Doximity](#) with your username and password.

We appreciate your help in recognizing the hard work and dedication our clinicians put into providing the highest level of care. Last year, Virtua hospitals were recognized as high performing in several categories by *U.S. News & World Report*.

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.

Learn more from this blog post by [U.S. News & World Report](#).

The Latest in the Today Physician Newsletter Series

Our two most recent issues of the *Today* series of physician education newsletters center on interventional cardiology and neuro-oncology and are now posted on Digital 411.

[Interventional Cardiology Today](#)

This issue delves into catheter-based mechanical removal of pulmonary embolisms (PEs) proving enormously beneficial to patients with moderate to severe PE events. A Virtua Pulmonary Embolism Response Team (PERT) has been developed, similar to the efforts that improved heart attack outcomes. Affecting close to a million Americans per year, PE has had stubbornly high death rates, in contrast to gains against other causes of cardiovascular mortality. One of the most common causes of death worldwide, PE has demanded innovation and raised the need for more direct intervention.

“Too many people with PE die before they can be treated,” said Virtua interventional cardiologist Rita Butler, MD. “The field is trying to change that by updating and formalizing treatment guidelines and response structure—and by offering faster, more-complete resolution, in large part through direct, minimally invasive treatment of emboli.”

Virtua’s PERT is available to respond quickly when they get a call from an ER or ICU, or a hospitalist. They ensure that the referring specialist is immediately in conversation with both a pulmonologist and either an interventional cardiologist or radiologist. They can then determine if the case is acute enough to call for immediate tPA administration, or amenable to catheter extraction or catheter lysis of the clot—or can be approached with even more-conservative means.

Virtua’s PERT can be accessed via the **Transfer Center at 856-757-3284**. To learn about this as well as a case review on a fast pulmonary embolism response, [click here to view *Interventional Cardiology Today*](#).

[Neuro-Oncology Today](#)

This issue spotlights Virtua’s advancements in the super sub-specialization of spinal cancer. The expertise is critical given the delicacy of spinal interventions and expanding differential approaches to treatment plans than can make the difference in cancer control, retention of function, or curative care.

“Most spine cancers are metastatic, but we also treat a variety of primary spine tumors,” said Kyle Mueller, MD, a fellowship-trained and board-certified neurosurgeon with the Penn Medicine Virtua Health Neurosciences Program. “Our close work with medical and radiation oncologists helps to define our distinct capability in this realm.”

To learn about this as well as spine-tumor surgical wound reconstruction, [click here to view *Neuro-Oncology Today*](#).

Remember, 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.

Virtua Is “All In” on Excellence

Thank you for being *All In on Excellence*! This week is our final tip of the *All In on Excellence* program! We will launch a new, advanced learning program this spring; you can anticipate more information about

that in March. For now, let's continue moving "Forward Together" with the tip, "Doing What We Say We Will."

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 a caring and warm doctor, and I trust her with my health." (Katherine Joyce, MD)

"The best surgeon ever! He is well-versed in his knowledge of breast care and has the best bedside manner. He is also very honest with his patients." (William Holaday, MD)

"A very positive experience, my annual checkup. She is very knowledgeable, personable, and professional. She made me feel very comfortable and valued." (Dorian Jackson, APN)

"I've been going to him for many years. He is a great, very thorough, and knowledgeable doctor who truly cares about you. He doesn't rush, and the office always calls to remind of appointments and shows concern if you miss them." (Ashok K. Keswani, MD)

"He was wonderful and caring! He and his team were professional, kind, and super helpful!" (Brian Jaffe, MD)

New Enterprise Care Logistics Center Launches in Pennsauken

This month marked the grand opening of the Enterprise Care Logistics Center in Pennsauken. This cutting-edge facility is now home to several key operations, including Home at Hospital clinical operations, Medcom dispatch operations, the transfer center, system code call communicators, and central staffing. Designed to improve patient flow, streamline operations, support virtual care, and improve coordination across our health care network, this purpose-built environment ensures that we can deliver top-notch care to our patients with greater efficiency.

Virtua in the News

Can AI Help Solve the Physician Shortage?

Virtua's Tarun Kapoor, MD, SVP and chief digital transformation officer, discussed the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to take on more of clinicians' duties to help alleviate burnout and staffing shortages. Such uses of AI pose challenging questions, which health care leaders and society will ultimately need to decide, he said. Read in [MedCityNews](#).

How to Avoid Catching Stomach Viruses

South Jersey, like the entire Northeast portion of the country, is experiencing high levels of norovirus and other highly contagious bugs that cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach cramps. Virtua clinicians discussed these illnesses, including when to see a doctor and how to avoid catching the viruses. Watch Alfred Sacchetti, MD, an emergency medicine physician at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, on [6 ABC](#). See Dodi Iannaco, APN, lead nurse practitioner for Virtua Urgent Care, on [CBS 3](#) and [Fox 29](#).

Why to Be Leery Buying a Supplement at a Gas Station

Most of us stop at the gas station simply to fill up our vehicles. Some stations, however, have more to offer their customers. New Jersey is experiencing an increase in medical episodes among people who've consumed the supplement tianeptine, commonly known as "gas station heroin." Angela Skrzyński, DO, lead physician for Virtua Primary Care Telehealth, discussed the risks of using this unregulated product, which is widely available at gas stations and smoke shops. Listen or read on [KYW Newsradio](#).

Virtua-Rowan College of Medicine Will Boost Economy, Too

Virtua's partnership with Rowan University is designed to improve people's health and well-being across South Jersey. That includes strengthening the local economy by creating many thousands of well-paid jobs and a more highly educated, healthier workforce. "If we can create these communities of wellness, then, suddenly, we have this vibrant, dynamic community that attracts people not only to come here, but to stay here," said Virtua President and CEO Dennis Pullin. Read in [ROI-NJ](#).

Virtua Among 18 Heart Centers Opening or Expanding in 2024

The new Advanced Heart Failure Center at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital is listed among centers that are launching or growing this year. The program is credentialed as a Ventricular Assist Device (VAD) Facility, which enables it to implant these life-saving devices, also known as LVADs. Read in [Becker's Hospital Review](#).

Virtua Hospitals Earn Highest Designation in Nursing: Magnet Status

Three Virtua hospitals have been recertified with the top honor in nursing excellence: Magnet® Recognition. Fewer than 10% of hospitals nationwide have earned this prestigious designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Virtua first achieved Magnet® status in 2018, when it was a three-hospital system. Those hospitals—Virtua Marlton, Virtua Mount Holly, and Virtua Voorhees— are now recertified. "Magnet designation reflects the inspiring work that takes place every day here at Virtua Health," said Catherine Hughes, SVP and chief nursing executive. "Virtua nurses help ensure that our patients receive the very best care and that all their needs are met." Read in [ROI-NJ](#).

Virtua Mobile Grocery Store Fills Food Gap in Atlantic City

Despite its tourism revenue, Atlantic City is a "food desert"—where many residents have difficulty accessing healthy, affordable groceries. Virtua is filling that need with the Eat Well Mobile Grocery Store program, which visits this underserved community weekly. It's "a godsend," said resident Rosetta Butler. "It's a really big blessing for people like me, who can't make it to the market easily... who can't drive, are older, or have health issues." Read in [NJ.com](#).

Laughter and Care on the Go

Here for Good: Inside Edition features Patrick Mulvenna

Patrick's got jokes, but he's also got heart. In this episode of "Here for Good: Inside Edition," President and CEO Dennis Pullin chats with Patrick Mulvenna, lead patient transporter. A natural people person, Patrick goes out of his way to make every patient feel at ease while driving them to their destination. It might be a joke, a friendly conversation, or just letting them know they're in the best hands at Virtua.

Listen on your preferred podcast platform or [watch the video podcast](#).

March-ing Forward Together: Celebrating Awareness, Health, and Community

Dress in Blue Tomorrow for Colon Cancer Awareness

Kick off Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month by dressing in blue to emphasize the importance of getting a lifesaving colon cancer screening. Colorectal cancer is the third-most common cancer worldwide, but with early detection it is highly treatable and even preventable.

Put on your favorite blue attire this Friday and join us as we encourage everyone to get a colonoscopy starting at age 45. Take a photo with your team, and post it on our [Colleague Facebook page](#) or email it to hellogood@virtua.org.

National Nutrition Month

The well-being team invites you to "Build Your Own Trail Mix," offering a healthy mix of Cheerios, cashews, almonds, pumpkin seeds, dark chocolate chips, pretzels, and dried cranberries. This initiative aims to keep you energized and focused throughout the day. Be sure to visit one of the participating locations, while supplies last:

- March 6: Virtua Mount Holly Hospital, Pavilion Art Gallery, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- March 6: Virtua Willingboro Hospital, Cafeteria, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- March 13: Virtua Marlton Hospital, Cafeteria, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- March 13: Virtua Voorhees Hospital, Cafeteria, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- March 20: Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Cafeteria, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- March 20: Virtua Health & Wellness Center - Camden, Cafeteria, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- March 27: Virtua Health & Wellness Center - Berlin, Wellness Lounge, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Other March Observances

March ushers in a number of observances, each celebrating unique achievements, histories, and the ongoing efforts toward equality and inclusion. [National Women's History Month](#) kicks off this array of recognitions. This year, the spotlight is on "Women Advocating for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion," with a special focus on International Women's Day and its theme of Inspire Inclusion to come in our next issue.

Concurrently, March 1 is [Zero Discrimination Day](#), initiated by the United Nations to combat global inequality and injustice. This day aligns with the month's broader themes, encouraging personal and collective action towards promoting inclusivity, empathy, and compassion at Virtua and beyond to fight against discrimination.

March also marks [National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month](#), aiming to shed light on intellectual and developmental disabilities. This year's theme, "A World of Opportunities," focuses on creating inclusive communities that support everyone's potential to thrive.

Celebrating cultural heritage, March observes [Greek American Heritage Month](#), aligning with Greece's National Independence Day on March 25, and [Irish American Heritage Month](#), recognizing the contributions of Americans with Irish ancestry. Both observances highlight the rich cultural legacies and contributions of these communities to the United States.

Share a Photo of Your Beloved Pet

The beloved [Pets of Virtua contest](#) returns, celebrating National Pet Day and Dog Therapy Appreciation Day on April 11. We're calling for your pet photos by March 6, with voting kicking off on March 7. Whether it's a solo pet shot or a group pose, [submit your best photo](#) for a chance to have it featured on a WE Applaud eCard. Last year, we delivered over 1,000 eCards! Remember, photos should be horizontal, focus on close-ups, and ensure your pet stands out from the background. As we retire last year's Pets of Virtua eCards, we're eager to see this year's batch of winners.