

Clinician Update

January 12, 2023

Two Critical Therapies Now Available for Virtua Heart Failure Patients

Thanks to effective advocacy by the Virtua heart failure team, two very important medical therapies for heart failure have been added to the Virtua Health formulary and are now able to be ordered by cardiology providers via Epic.

Theresa Rowe, MSN, CRNP, director of heart failure services and Bethany Toole, PharmD, heart failure clinical pharmacist, brought dapagliflozin and empagliflozin to the Virtua Health Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. These two sodium glucose cotransporter-2 (SGLT2) inhibitors are recommended to reduce hospitalizations for heart failure and cardiovascular mortality, irrespective of the presence of type 2 diabetes.

“This is a big step forward in advancing heart failure care because patients are now able to be initiated on this essential class of medications while still inpatients at Virtua,” said Tolulope Agunbiade, MD, Virtua’s new medical director of advanced heart failure. “The goal is to reduce readmissions and to lower mortality in the heart failure population.”

For questions about these drugs, contact [Bethany Toole, PharmD](#). For questions to learn more about the Virtua heart failure team, reach [Theresa Rowe, MSN, CRNP](#). And to learn more about Tolulope Agunbiade, MD, Virtua’s new medical director of advanced heart failure, click [here](#).

Virtua Physician to Discuss Navigating the Return to Preventative Care

An estimated 41% of adults in the U.S. avoided medical care during the pandemic because of concerns about COVID-19. Join the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute on Wednesday, Jan. 18 for the webinar, “Navigating the Return to Preventative Care,” where experts will share best practices and tools for clinicians to help their patients return to pre-pandemic levels of preventive care.

Among the panelists will be Mary F. Campagnolo, MD, MBA, Virtua family physician and geriatrician, medical director for value-based programs and payer contracts for Virtua Medical Group, and a member of the board of directors for American Academy of Family Physicians.

The webinar will take place on Wednesday, January 18, 11a.m. to 12 noon. For more information, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).

Virtua Clinical Research Team Making Strides

Virtua physician investigators are moving science forward, looking for solutions in heart and vascular health, orthopedics, and pulmonary disease. In partnership with Rowan University, pharmaceutical, and medical device companies, the Virtua Clinical Research Team’s primary goal is to work diligently to improve the diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and cure of numerous diseases. In this ever-changing and highly technical field, the scientific knowledge we gain today translates into improved care for patients.

“We have made great strides by developing and maintaining an exemplary research team, and that is essential to the success of a quality clinical research program,” said Robert Post, MD, MS, FAFAP, who serves as medical director for research and CME, and is chairman of the Virtua Health research committee.

“We have strengthened Virtua clinical research by providing infrastructure, services, and mentorship that can assist new and established investigators through every stage of the research process. We are establishing new partnerships with industry and federal sponsors, while strengthening relationships with existing sponsors by providing expedient data on our clinical research capabilities, proficient clinical trial operations and high-quality outcomes.”

A key objective will always be engaging relevant stakeholders, including physicians, NPs, and PAs to improve the clinical research enterprise.

If you would like to learn more about Virtua Clinical Research, about its clinical trials, and your potential input or questions, [reach Jillian Stanley](#), director of research administration.

Virtua Health Clinicians Continue the Dream

On Monday, Jan. 16, the legacy and impact of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be commemorated throughout the nation. In honoring Dr. King, Virtua’s Colleague Communities ask that we join in reflection and action of this year’s theme, “Cultivating a Beloved Community Mindset to Transform Unjust Systems.”

According to the King Center, the theme represents “the pioneering work of Dr. King, which demonstrated that Kingian Nonviolence is the sustainable solution to injustice and violence in our world, ultimately leading to the creation of the Beloved Community, where injustice ceases and love prevails.” Two colleagues at Virtua have been recognized by the Black and African American Colleague Community (B.A.A.C.C.) for demonstrating this philosophy and continuing the Dream.

Troy Randle, DO, Virtua cardiologist, has been recognized for his dedication to continuing education and service to the community. Matilda Adams, director of the Samson Cancer Center, has been recognized for service excellence, commitment to the community, health literacy advocacy, and philanthropy. Congratulations!

Virtua Primary Care Physician Leading Educational Calendar MLK Mural Effort

Donee Thomas-Patterson, MD, will be leading 45 children in posting MLK Day murals in six Camden Schools. She calls it, “beautification and education all at one time.” It is a Black History Month calendar that students will read during announcements every day, with a different historical person revealed. See last year’s calendar [here](#).

“Last year’s same effort was such a hit,” she said, “that multiple schools requested we put one up this year for them.” The event will be happening on Monday, Jan. 16.

Dr. Donee Thomas-Patterson is always very active in the community. If ever wanting to learn more or to join in her efforts year round, reach her [here](#).

Rowan Alumni Hosting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

While the 37th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Breakfast is sold out, opportunities are still available for Day of Service activities being organized by Rowan alumni. The on-site activities include volunteer service events at Cathedral Kitchen, local animal shelters, Volunteers of American Delaware Valley shelters and transitional housing programs, as well as off-site opportunities at Boys & Girls Club of

Glassboro, Rowan University Early Childhood Development Center, and more. For more information, contact volunteer@rowan.edu or register at alumni.rowan.edu/MLK23.

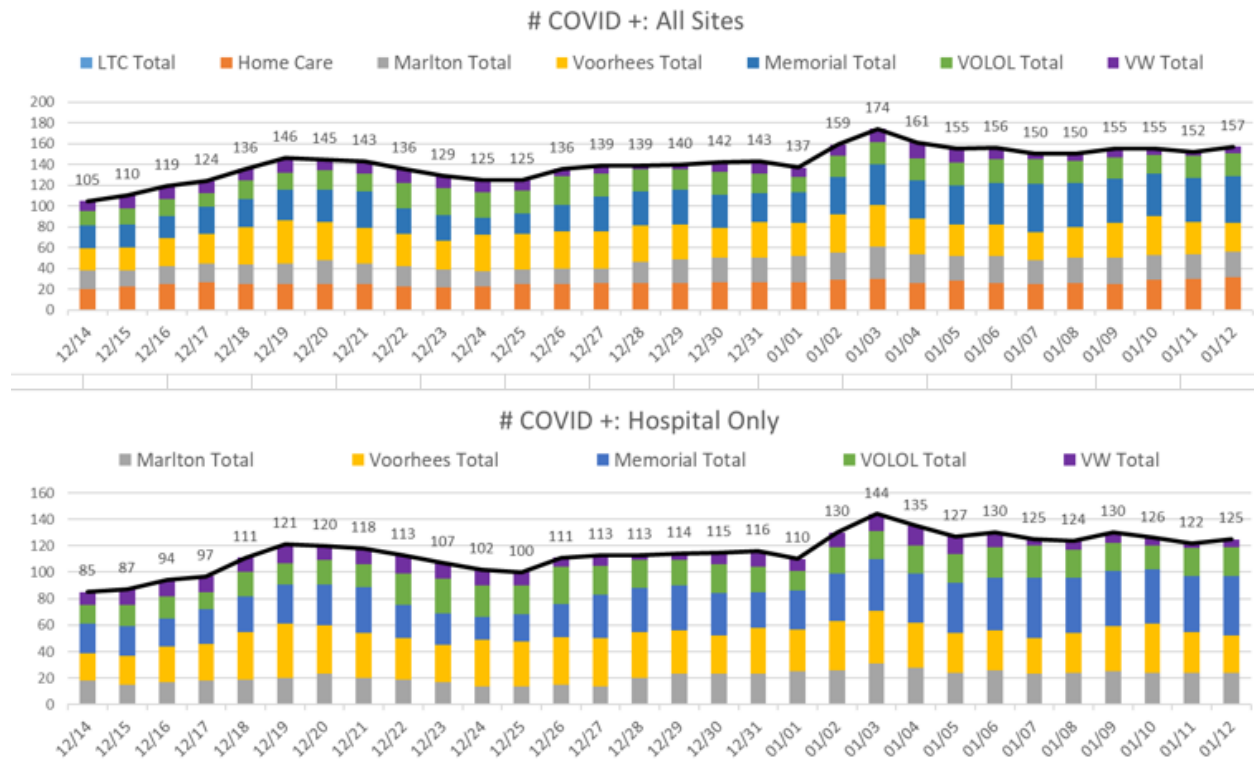
Rutgers–Camden Hosting Virtual Speaker Series

Rutgers University–Camden will go ‘beyond the dream’ to explore Martin Luther King Jr.’s lasting imprint on society with a virtual speaker series – the first of its kind in the university’s history – during the month of January. To learn more, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).

To learn more about Dr. King’s principles and how we can nurture equitable community mindsets, we encourage you to visit the following sites:

- [The King Center: King Holiday 2023](#)
- [Jersey Cares: Martin Luther King Day of Service](#)
- [Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Clean Up](#)

COVID-19 Census



Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey was reported today as 1.17.
- The total number of cases reported as of 3 p.m. today:
 - Atlantic County 69,232

- Burlington County: 111,290 cases
- Camden County: 134,630 cases
- Gloucester County: 68,269 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, and Atlantic counties: 5,050.
- The state's Vaccination Overview dashboard reported 20,080,046 doses of vaccine have been administered.

Mpox Stats

As of the last weekly posting, the number of probable and confirmed cases of mpox cases in New Jersey: **764**.

Exclusive Provider Event

Proton Therapy: Advancements and Applications

Jan. 25, 2023

2023 will be a significant year for Proton Therapy in South Jersey. Join the Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Cancer Program on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 5:30 p.m. for a reception, clinical overview, and tour of the Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Proton Therapy Center. This event is exclusive to providers, and will be of special interest to gastroenterologists, urologists, ENTs, GYNs, and specialists within the neurosciences, as well as medical, surgical, and radiation oncologists.

The event is an opportunity to see the center live, learn more about proton's applications, and to meet the clinical leaders who are bringing this new technology to South Jersey.

Register here: [Proton Therapy: Advancements and Applications | Virtua Health](#)

The event will take place at the Virtua Voorhees Health & Wellness Center, 200 Bowman Dr., Health & Wellness Building E, Conference Room 130. For any questions, email VirtuaClinician@virtua.org.

In the News

Eligibility Is Increased for NJ FamilyCare

As of Jan. 1, 2023, children under 19 are eligible to apply for NJ FamilyCare regardless of immigration status. All other requirements for NJ FamilyCare still apply. NJ FamilyCare, New Jersey's publicly funded health insurance program, includes CHIP, Medicaid and Medicaid expansion populations. That means qualified New Jersey residents of any age may be eligible for free or low-cost health care coverage that covers doctor visits, prescriptions, vision, dental care, mental health, and substance use services, and even hospitalization. Feel free to share [information](#) on this program with patients. Individuals ineligible for NJ FamilyCare can find information on other insurance affordability programs at www.getcovered.nj.gov.

All-New 2023 Lineup for Free Women's Health Webinars

Virtua's popular "Real Talk" series features unfiltered, interactive chats with clinical experts. This year's first session, on Feb. 16, will focus on sleep and its benefits for the heart, including how to get a better

night's rest. Other topics will include addressing back pain, mind-heart benefits of yoga, and feeling great after age 60—plus a special men's health session in June. Read in the [Patch](#).

Virtua's CEO and CFO Recognized for Leadership, Excellence

As part of a 2022 retrospective, *South Jersey Biz* included Dennis Pullin in its [Power 50](#) list of "some of the region's most influential leaders impacting how business is done." The publication also recognized Virtua EVP and CFO Bob Segin as a [Top CEO/CFO](#), "representing the very best in business."

Virtua's Successful Marketing Strategy Highlighted in Year-End Review

Industry magazine [HealthLeaders](#) put the spotlight on six winning marketing strategies by health systems nationwide, including Virtua's. The publication credits Virtua with using "consumer-led and consumer-focused strategies to retain current patients while also bringing new patients to the organization." The article links to this [2022 interview](#) with Chrisie Scott, Virtua's senior vice president and chief marketing officer, who discusses the approach in detail.

Building Your Virtua Legacy—A Special In-Person Event with Dr. Randal Pinkett

We invite you to join our Colleague Communities on **Thursday, Jan. 19** at 4 p.m. at the Virtua Barry D. Brown Health Education Center (the HEC) to discover how you can combine your personal strengths with others to plant the seeds of a positive, lasting legacy in the workplace. Special guest speaker Dr. Randal Pinkett will share strategies to expand beyond your comfort zone; recognize and demonstrate the four facets of excellence; identify different mentors; and build beneficial relationships and powerful networks. Seating is limited. To date, more than 250 colleagues have registered for the event. Register here: [Building Your Virtua Legacy—A Special Event with Dr. Randal Pinkett](#) or send an email request [here](#).