

## Clinician Update

### June 13, 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 First in South Jersey to Offer World's Most Advanced Surgical Robot

Today, Virtua Health became the first in South Jersey to use the world's most advanced robotic-surgery system, called the da Vinci 5. Manufacturer Intuitive Surgical chose Virtua as one of 100 centers nationwide to offer the new system due to Virtua's extensive experience with robotic-assisted procedures.

The new system includes more than 150 enhancements, including improved accuracy and precision, enhanced views inside the body, novel force-sensing technology that may reduce trauma to tissue, and better positioning options for surgeons.

"Robotic-assisted surgery can offer many benefits over other forms of surgery, including greater precision, faster recovery, and less pain. The da Vinci 5 incorporates an array of technological advancements, which will propel robotic surgery's advantages to an even higher level," said general surgeon Craig Zaretsky, MD, chair of Virtua's Department of Surgery.

Dr. Zaretsky and other experienced da Vinci-trained surgeons have started using the new system at Virtua Marlton Hospital. The da Vinci 5 will initially be used for robotic hernia repairs, lung and other thoracic procedures, bariatric surgery, and urologic and colorectal procedures.

### Virtua First in South Jersey to Provide Groundbreaking Lung-Cancer Advancement

Virtua Health is the first provider in South Jersey to offer Cytalux® (pafolacianine), an innovative advancement that "lights up" lung cancer cells, enabling surgeons to better see and remove malignant tumors during surgery.

"This is a groundbreaking product. It will help us operate more accurately and provide better cancer care," said thoracic surgeon Matthew Puc, MD, program director of the Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Cancer Program.

Cytalux helps surgeons see the edges of the tumor, enhancing their ability to remove all of the cancer and preserve as much healthy tissue as possible. The drug also helps surgeons find secondary tumors that were not visible on imaging scans.

"At Virtua Health, we're committed to bringing the most advanced cancer care to our patients," Dr. Puc emphasized. "We're thrilled to bring this leading-edge technology to the people of South Jersey."

For news coverage, [click here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

## Virtua Debuts Second Mobile Pediatrics Unit

Virtua today unveiled its second pediatric mobile services unit. With two vehicles instead of one, our Pediatric Mobile Services Program will offer 70% more services to families in Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester counties. The number of appointments and interactions is expected to rise from 6,000 to about 10,000 annually.

Together, the two vans will offer a range of services for children, including screenings, flu shots, physicals, health education, and referrals to specialized services.

## Advancing the Patient Experience

As we continue our Practicing Excellence journey, we thank you for your ongoing commitment to the Advanced Patient Experience Program. This week, we invite you to focus on the invaluable insights provided for your track in the [Week 10 Guide](#).

## Last Call - Physiologic Cardiac Pacing: Quarterly Cardiology Grand Rounds, June 19

Join us for the next Quarterly Cardiology Grand Rounds, to be held virtually on **Wednesday, June 19**, 7 to 8 a.m. Kenneth Ellenbogen, MD, FHRS, director of clinical cardiac electrophysiology and pacing at Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center, will discuss physiologic cardiac pacing. This month, Dr. Ellenbogen assumed the presidency of the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS), a leading resource on cardiac pacing and electrophysiology, representing medical, allied health, and science professional from more than 90 countries.

The program objectives are to:

1. Understand the physiology of exercise and how patients with pacemakers can exercise
2. Identify the limitations of right ventricular apical pacing
3. Identify how to troubleshoot cardiac resynchronization therapy
4. Describe in detail cardiac conduction pacing

The target audience is physicians and interprofessional teams. To register for this online event, click [here](#). For continuing medical education accreditation information, and to learn more about the event, click to [view the flyer](#). For more information, please contact [VirtuaClinician@Virtua.org](mailto:VirtuaClinician@Virtua.org).

## Mark Your Calendar: Echo Considerations for the LVAD Patient, July 9

Join us virtually or in person as we welcome S. Michael Roberts, DO, FASE, FAOCA, chief of cardiovascular anesthesiology at Penn State Health-Hershey Medical Center, as he discusses:

- Pre-, peri-, and postoperative considerations and management of HeartMate 3 left ventricular assist device (LVAD) patients
- Interpretation of transesophageal and transthoracic echocardiograms
- Hemodynamic management of HeartMate 3 LVAD patients
- Anesthesia considerations

The event will take place **Tuesday, July 9**, from 12 to 1 p.m. in the Physician's Conference Room at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, or [virtually live here on Teams](#).

[Click here for a flyer](#). For more information, contact 856-952-1056 or email Theresa Rowe-Ruffin, director of Heart Failure Services, at [troweruf@virtua.org](mailto:troweruf@virtua.org).

## Utilizing Woebot to Increase Mental Health Care Access

As reported in recent months, Virtua is empowering our clinicians to recommend a mental health app to support patients with mild-to-moderate anxiety and/or depression. The innovative AI-based tool, called Woebot, uses the same techniques one would find in a therapist's office, and makes them available to patients 24/7. This service is available at no cost and can be ordered by placing an Ambulatory Referral to Woebot in Epic.

When ordering Woebot in Epic, use the smartphrase ".woebotnote" to document PHQ/GAD7 at follow-up visits on patients for whom Woebot has been ordered within the past year. Continued follow for patients is recommended.

*Note: Woebot is not a crisis service and should not be used in crisis situations. A patient in a crisis is always encouraged to call 911 or 988 (National Suicide and Crisis Hotline).*

A majority of Virtua's primary care clinicians have already been trained on Woebot. For those who were not, find [the training link here](#). In the future, we anticipate Woebot will be made available within specialty services.

For questions, contact Dr. Angela Skrzynski, lead clinician for Telehealth, at [askrzynski2@virtua.org](mailto:askrzynski2@virtua.org).

### Win a Free Lunch for Your Practice!

As a clinician, what has been your experience referring to Woebot? What are patients saying? Have any stories to share? Send us your Woebot feedback. We want to hear it all. Email your comments to [afardell@virtua.org](mailto:afardell@virtua.org) by **Aug. 1**. Submissions will be entered to win a free lunch for the clinician's practice.

## ICU Medical Director Says Quality Improvement Involves Everybody Always

“Quality improvement doesn’t just happen,” said Emilio Mazza MD, PhD, medical director of the intensive care unit at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes hospital. “As we’ve seen discussed through Practicing Excellence and elsewhere, as stressed so effectively by our quality leaders here across the system, we must never lose our focus on continuous improvement, and that involves all of us.”

Dr. Mazza is one of several national and international physicians to recently complete the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Certificate Program through the Emory University Goizueta Business School Executive Education Program. The immersive learning journey is focused on providing the mindset, skills, and frameworks required to succeed as a CMO, from business leadership to overseeing clinical operations, influencing stakeholders, and spearheading quality improvement.

“That quality improvement element was prevalent throughout the program,” said Dr. Mazza. “A takeaway for me is to express my appreciation for all my fellow colleagues here at Virtua for this shared dedication and commitment.”

## 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 has made me feel like I was her most important patient since my first visit. She listens closely and is very knowledgeable. I have and will continue to suggest Dr. Moore to my family and friends.” (Robin Moore, DO)

“One of the best experiences I ever had with a doctor. She provided clear information, gave us her undivided attention, and answered all our questions while calming all our fears.” (Anju Paul, MD)

“It was like we met before. She was very knowable about my condition. I noticed that she washed her hands before she examined me and after she was finished, which is a good thing. Thank you.” (Manisha Nidamarthy, APN)

“He was absolutely brilliant, incredibly informed, listened really well, tried to really work hard to come up with something customized that made a lot of sense, and just seemed to really be up-to-date on the most cutting-edge information. He cited peer-reviewed studies and gave explanations for not just what to do, but why we should do the things that he was pointing out for us. Really, really phenomenal.” (Timothy Colangelo, MD)

“She was amazing! I would recommend her to anyone! She listened to me and was very helpful. She made me heard and at ease.” (Brittany Guest, APN)

## Virtua Willingboro Unveils Newly Redesigned Reflection and Healing Garden

If you have a bit of extra time at Virtua Willingboro Hospital, you're encouraged to check out the newly redesigned Reflection and Healing Garden located in front of the sitting benches by the Same-Day Surgery building. This space has been transformed to promote wellness and nurture the mind, body, spirit, and soul of our colleagues and visitors. Find a moment of peace to meditate, pray, or simply soak up the sunshine in this tranquil escape.

## Virtua in the News

### **N.J. Hospitals Offer State-of-the-Art Technologies**

Physicians from Virtua and other hospitals across the state discussed some of the latest advances offered at their institutions in a statewide magazine. Kintur Sanghvi, MD, an interventional cardiologist, highlighted a groundbreaking procedure available at Virtua—renal denervation—which treats high blood pressure that cannot otherwise be controlled. Darius Sholevar, MD, a cardiac electrophysiologist, noted the importance of offering leading-edge care, even if it's costly. He said that philanthropic support through the Virtua Foundation helps fund certain services that patients couldn't otherwise afford. Read in [New Jersey Business Magazine](#).

### **Virtua Hosts 10th Annual 'Run With the Docs'**

More than 700 participants of all ages came out for the June 9 event, featuring a 5K run and one-mile walk. Since its 2015 inception, Run with the Docs has raised over \$350,000 for Virtua's Perinatal Bereavement and Palliative Care Program, which helps families experiencing pregnancy or infant loss.

Ann Coyle, manager of the perinatal bereavement program, expressed her gratitude for the community's involvement. "The money raised provides grieving patients and their families the necessary support they need as they navigate a devastating and emotional journey," she said. Watch on [NBC 10](#) and [Fox 29](#).

### **More Recognition for Virtua's Brand**

A new story in [Philadelphia Business Journal](#) dissects the latest brand rankings for the region's health systems. National brand-consulting firm Monigle rated two Philadelphia-area health-system brands among the country's top 50: Virtua and Penn Medicine. "Humanizing a brand is all about putting oneself in the consumer's shoes and truly understanding their fears and hopes, their needs and expectations," said Christie Scott, SVP and chief marketing officer. "It's about demonstrating empathy and going beyond the transaction of a health care moment to create a more meaningful relationship."

### **Virtua's Segin on List of Top CFOs**

An industry publication has named EVP and Chief Financial Officer Bob Segin to its list of "CFOs to Know." During his 39-year tenure, Bob has been pivotal in enhancing the organization's financial stability and service quality. He has played a key role in Virtua's most complex initiatives, including the integration of Lourdes Health System and the creation of the Virtua Health College of Medicine & Life

Sciences in partnership with Rowan University. Read in [Becker's Hospital Review](#).

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

June 19 marks [Juneteenth](#), a federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. Virtua is committed to inclusion, diversity, and equity through its colleague communities, such as the Black and African American Colleague Community (BAACC). BAACC fosters belonging by growing their membership; representing Virtua in various community events; and hosting events like "Access in Crisis" for Black Maternal Health Week, which yielded over 100 attendees.

Find local Juneteenth events in [Philadelphia](#) (June 19, 12 to 5 p.m.), [Burlington](#) (June 15 to 16), [Winslow Township](#) (June 22, 2 to 8 p.m.), and [more](#).

Additionally, June 20 is the Summer Solstice. It marks the first day of summer and the longest day of the year! Click to [learn about the global traditions](#) to celebrate the season.

And Happy Father's Day this Sunday to all dads!