

Clinician Update

June 23, 2022

New Primary Care Practice for LGBTQ+ Community Opens Monday

Coinciding with Pride Month, Virtua Health will open a new primary care practice in Marlton that will serve as a safe space for members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies while offering a range of specialized health screenings and services. The practice is called [Virtua Pride Primary Care](#), and will begin welcoming patients on Monday, June 27. It will serve adults as well as children ages 7 and up.

“Our vision at Virtua Health is to be the region’s trusted choice for personalized health care and wellness,” said Dennis W. Pullin, FACHE, president and CEO of Virtua Health (he/him). “Virtua Pride Primary Care reflects that intention by offering services that are meaningful and necessary in an environment that is welcoming and inclusive.”

Two established Virtua physicians will lead the practice: Shanin Gross, DO (they/them), and Richard Levine, MD (he/him). Both doctors requested to be part of the practice as soon as the opportunity became available.

Specialty services available at Virtua Pride Primary Care include gender-affirming care; HIV testing, prevention, and management; sexual health; medication-assisted treatment for opioid and alcohol abuse; and behavioral health services. The practice also has dedicated schedulers who are trained to assist members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Virtua held a grand opening celebration this week, attended by leaders, colleagues, and media outlets including CBS 3, NBC 10, 6 ABC, KYW Newsradio, and various print publications. Stories are featured below in “Virtua in the News.”

Dodi Iannaco (she/her), lead nurse practitioner at Virtua Urgent Care – Washington Township, attended the event and posted to the [Virtua Colleague Group Facebook page](#). She wrote: "Super excited to celebrate the opening of the Pride Primary Care practice. Thanks to Virtua leadership and OUT at Virtua for making this happen. Always choose LOVE." We invite you to take a closer look and view more snapshots [here](#).

Shane Lipscomb (he/him), assistant nurse manager at Virtua Marlton Hospital, is ready to become a patient at Virtua Pride Primary Care. “I’ve seen the ways Virtua has intentionally and actively advanced matters of inclusion and diversity,” he said. “As chair of the OUT at Virtua Colleague Community, I appreciate that we have been hands-on and heard in the formation of this new practice.”

Virtua Pride Primary Care is the health system’s 24th primary care location. To learn more about the practice, visit www.virtua.org/pride.

AHA Recognizes Virtua Hospitals for High-Quality Stroke, Heart Failure Care

The American Heart Association (AHA) has honored Virtua hospitals for their outstanding commitment to ensuring patients who had a stroke or are living with heart failure receive care using the latest, evidence-based treatment guidelines.

Virtua Voorhees and Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes received the 2022 Get With The Guidelines[®] – Stroke Gold Plus with Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll award; Virtua Marlton the 2022 Get With The Guidelines[®] – Stroke Gold Plus with Target: Stroke Honor Roll with Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll award; and Virtua Mount Holly and Virtua Willingboro the 2022 Get With The Guidelines[®] – Stroke Silver Plus with Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll award.

Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes also received the 2022 Get With The Guidelines[®] – Heart Failure Gold Plus with Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll quality achievement award.

“We strive to deliver the highest levels of care across our system,” said Reginald Blaber, MD, MBA, FACC, Virtua executive vice president and chief clinical officer. “We are honored so many people trust us with their health, and we honor that trust through our commitment to providing quality research-based care that allows for better days at home with family and loved ones.”

Get With The Guidelines quality achievement awards are earned by hospitals that demonstrate a commitment to treating patients according to the most up-to-date guidelines as outlined by the American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association. The guidelines put the expertise of these organizations to work for hospitals nationwide, helping ensure patient care is aligned with the latest research and evidence-based guidelines to help improve outcomes.

Virtua’s neurosciences program, in partnership with Penn Medicine, uses advanced techniques to treat stroke and other neurologic conditions. Virtua Voorhees, Marlton, Mount Holly, and Willingboro are New Jersey-designated Primary Stroke Centers. Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes, the hub of our neurosciences program, is a New Jersey-designated Comprehensive Stroke Center.

“The Get With The Guidelines – Stroke award at all five Virtua hospitals is a clear indication of our commitment to safe, evidence-based treatment guidelines across our system,” said Carole Thomas, MD, medical director of the Virtua stroke program. “Together with our neurosurgical partners at Penn Medicine, our goal is to ensure the people of South Jersey experience longer, healthier lives.”

Virtua’s heart failure program combines comprehensive inpatient and outpatient care to help people living with heart failure manage their symptoms and avoid admission to the hospital. Individualized, evidence-based treatment includes fluid status review and adjustment, exercise endurance testing, drug therapies, nutrition and physical activity guidance, education, and family support.

“Virtua is committed to improving patient care by adhering to the latest treatment guidelines,” said Chun (Dan) Choi, MD, Virtua vice president of cardiovascular clinical operations. “Our Get With The Guidelines recognition is just one indication of our team’s commitment to putting proven knowledge and guidelines to work every day to improve outcomes for people with heart failure, including reduced hospital readmissions and more healthy days at home.”

Virtua’s Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll™ awards recognize the hospitals’ programs that ensure patients with Type 2 diabetes, who might be at higher risk for complications, receive the most up-to-date, evidence-based care when hospitalized due to heart disease or stroke.

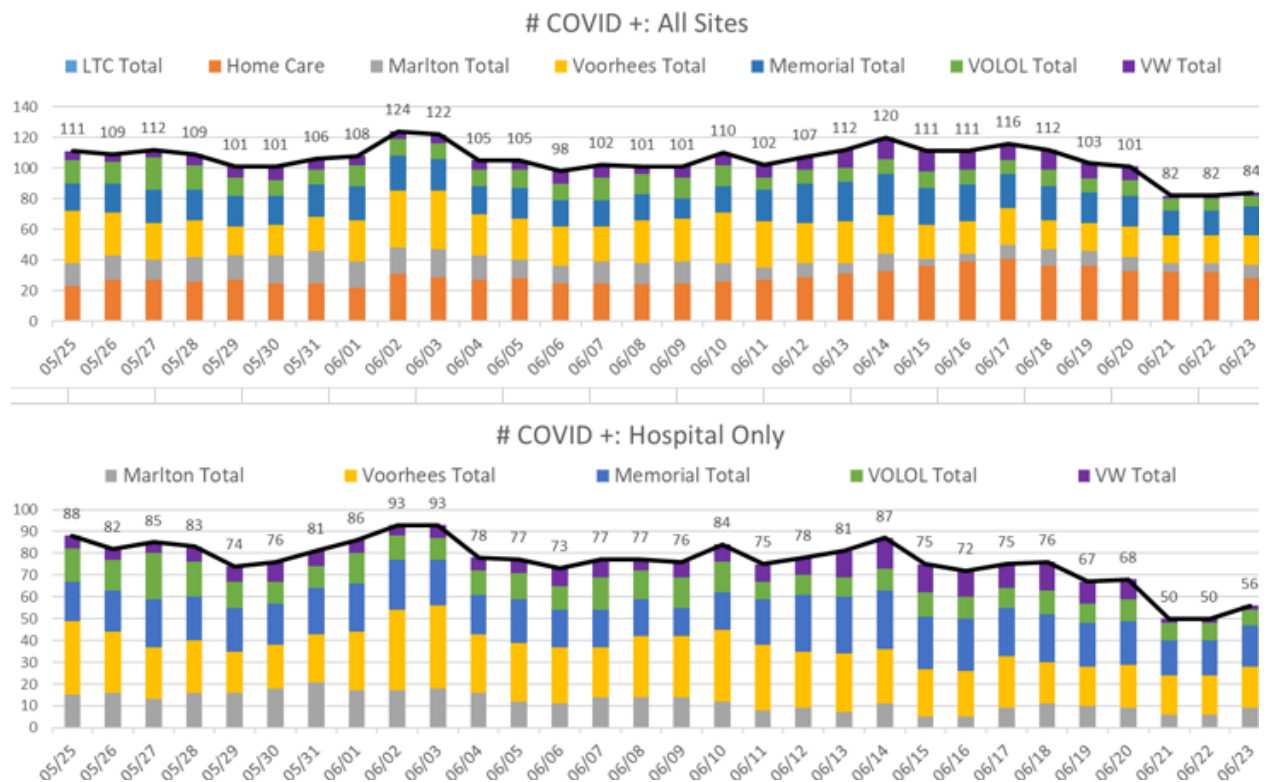
“Congratulations to our heart failure team on a job well done! They continue to demonstrate their dedicated commitment to our patients, which helps lead to improved outcomes,” said Robert Mohapatra, MD, MPH, FACC, medical director of the Virtua heart failure program.

“This is not just about participating in a registry, but the kind of care we know will help improve the quality of life for our patients and also increase the time they get to spend at home,” said Theresa Rowe, MSN, CRNP, director of heart failure services. “I can’t thank you enough for your ongoing support and efforts to educate and empower our patients to be the best that they can be. It truly does take a village.”

1,000 Reasons to Celebrate

Congratulations Dr. Craig Zaretsky, MD, on his 1,000th robotic-assisted procedure and to the team at Virtua Voorhees Hospital! Click to [learn more](#) about how Virtua's robotic-assisted surgery provides smaller incisions and helps patients recover fast and with less postoperative pain.

COVID-19 Census



Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey was reported yesterday as 0.83.
- The total number of cases reported as of 3 p.m. today:
 - Atlantic County 59,492 cases
 - Burlington County: 93,203 cases
 - Camden County: 113,878 cases
 - Gloucester County: 59,035 cases

- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, and Atlantic counties: 4,720.
- The state's Vaccination Overview dashboard reported 18,043,855 doses of vaccine have been administered.

Virtua in the News

- **Virtua Debuts Primary Care Practice for LGBTQ+ Community** – As noted above, Virtua is opening a primary care practice for members of the LGBTQ+ community, their families, and allies. The Marlton site, called [Virtua Pride Primary Care](#), will offer a range of specialized health screenings and services, starting Monday, June 27. Virtua held a festive sneak preview this week, which was covered by many media outlets, including [NJ Spotlight News](#), [CBS 3](#), and [KYW Newsradio](#).
- **Speaking Up about the Unspeakable** – In the wake of recent mass shootings—including those at health care facilities in Oklahoma and Ohio—the heads of Virtua and Cooper joined forces to speak out about this public health crisis. Dennis W. Pullin, Virtua's president and CEO, penned a powerful essay in partnership with Cooper University Health Care's co-CEOs and presidents, Dr. Anthony Mazzarelli and Kevin O'Dowd. Read in [Becker's Hospital Review](#) and [ROI-NJ](#).
- **Safety Director of the Year** – Paul Sarnese, assistant vice president of environmental services, security, and safety, was named one of the 2022 Campus Safety Directors of the Year for leading the Virtua team's efforts in providing medical care and additional support to more than 1,000 refugees from Afghanistan. The Director of the Year entries were judged by a distinguished panel of public safety and emergency management experts. [Read more](#).
- **Respiratory Infections and Seasonal Illnesses Surging in Children** – Dr. Jeff Seiden of CHOP at Virtua said Virtua's pediatric emergency room is 30% to 40% busier than normal in a pre-COVID year. "We're seeing a compression of all the usual seasonal illnesses coming in at once," Dr. Seiden observed. Watch and read on [Fox 29](#).

Virtua Midwife Named Fellow of ACNM

Congratulations to Virtua midwife Karen McEvoy Shields, CNM, MSN, on being named a Fellow of the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

This honor is bestowed upon those midwives whose demonstrated leadership within ACNM, clinical excellence, outstanding scholarship, and professional achievement have merited special recognition both within and outside of the midwifery profession. This is an elite honor, and Karen has been selected as one of only 91 exemplary midwives throughout the country.

Karen serves as the administrative and clinical director of the Midwifery Birth and Wellness Center, and believes all people should have access to health care that offers the support to have, not have, or raise children in a way that is safe, equitable, and compassionate. We are so proud of Karen's dedication to each patient so *together* they can create a health care plan that's actionable and sustainable.

A Moment of Reflection and Celebration at Virtua's 2022 Gala

On June 4, Virtua's trustees, leaders, and generous donors gathered to celebrate the power of philanthropy and its impact on our mission. Thanks to the support of our donors, more than \$500,000 in

proceeds from the event will benefit Virtua's [Eat Well](#) food access programs. This year's gala paid special tribute to our front-line health care workers for their heroism and resilience through the pandemic.

During the event, President and CEO Dennis W. Pullin, FACHE, presented state Sen. Troy Singleton with Virtua's 2022 Humanitarian Award for his remarkable commitment to the health and well-being of New Jersey residents. The impact Sen. Singleton has made on our patients, community, and colleagues can be seen in this [video](#).

Additionally, a first-of-its-kind Voice for Good Award was given to ESPN commentator Stephen A. Smith for his selfless advocacy and support of health care workers during the pandemic. Stephen A. was unable to attend in person, but he did send a [special video message](#) for all of us at Virtua. For more, [watch Highlight Video](#) and to learn more at [GiveToVirtua.org/gala](#).

Important Reminder: Break the Glass Launches Next Week

Virtua is committed to safeguarding the privacy and security of all patients' personal health information (PHI). This includes protecting the PHI of colleagues who receive care at Virtua facilities. To further enhance colleague privacy and address any concerns regarding who can access their medical records, Virtua will launch the Break the Glass initiative on Tuesday, June 28.

Click to read [commonly asked questions and answers](#) regarding Break the Glass. This FAQ is also available on the VINE under Virtua News.

Cherry Hill Free Clinic's Five-Year Anniversary Celebration

June 28, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Virtua colleagues are cordially invited to the five-year anniversary celebration of the Cherry Hill Free Clinic! Join in recognizing five years of:

- Treating more than 5,000 patients
- Vital medication, X-rays, and labs
- Life-saving, compassionate care
- Fighting medical poverty and getting people back to work
- Doing it 100% for free

Support their mission by purchasing a ticket to an afternoon outdoor celebration, catered by a variety of food and dessert trucks, with kids' activities and games. [Click to register](#).