

## Clinician Update

### June 30, 2022

#### **Virtua Health Commemorates America's Freedom and Independence**

This Monday, Americans commemorate adoption of the Declaration of Independence and our break from Great Britain 246 years ago. We celebrate the freedom to forge our own paths as individuals and as a nation, as well as acknowledge the courage of all those who bravely fought for liberty and justice for all.

Virtua Health joins in the celebration by offering free frozen treats to colleagues at all Virtua hospitals, as well as the health and wellness centers in Camden and Berlin.

Additionally, to celebrate the summer season, Virtua is pleased to announce the extension of Workplace Wednesdays, which invites colleagues to receive one complimentary meal every Wednesday. The free meals will continue into July.

Virtua wishes you and your loved ones a safe and enjoyable Independence Day.

#### **Helping Patients Get the Most Out of Their Summer Fun**

While folks are out over this and other summer weekends, it is good to know that **Virtua Urgent Care Telehealth** is just a tap away, so no one has to miss the moments that matter the most. Virtua Urgent Care Telehealth and Virtua's in-person **Urgent Care Centers** are open on the weekend and the Fourth of July holiday.



#### **Virtua and Lourdes Health System Celebrate Three Years Two-Gether**

Virtua and Lourdes Health System joined on **July 1, 2019**, establishing Virtua as the most deeply rooted and comprehensive health system in South Jersey. *Two-gether*, we are here to serve our community; here to connect them to the care they need; here to help create healthier lives. Here for Good.

Pictures say a thousand words. Have a memory from this exciting moment in our shared history? Let us know at [hellogood@virtua.org](mailto:hellogood@virtua.org). Happy Anniversary!

#### **Virtua's Rectal Cancer Program Receives Prestigious Accreditation**

Virtua's Rectal Cancer Program is now recognized as a National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer (NAPRC). Virtua's program is one of less than 60 in the U.S. to qualify for this prestigious American College of Surgeons accreditation; and one of two in New Jersey.

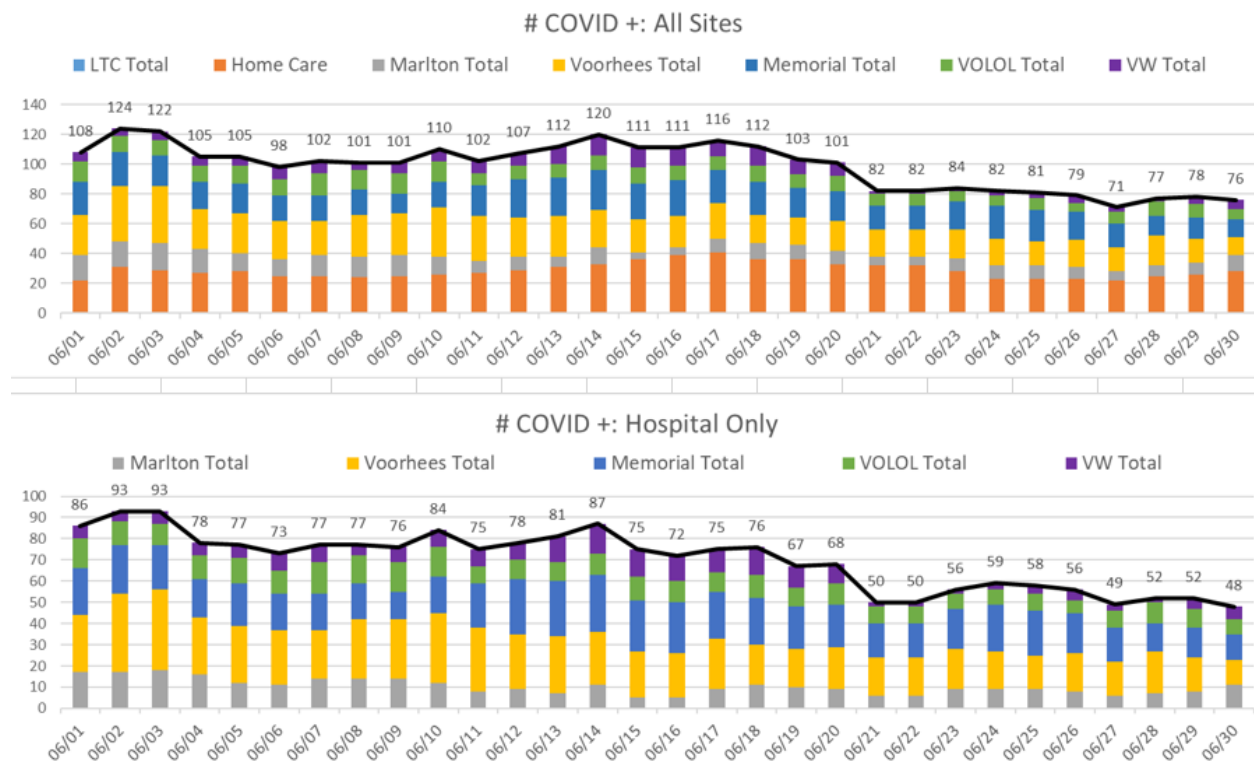
To achieve NAPRC accreditation, a rectal cancer center must demonstrate compliance with the NAPRC standards addressing program management, clinical services, and quality improvement for patients.

Centers are required to establish a multidisciplinary rectal cancer team that includes clinical representatives from surgery, pathology, radiology, radiation oncology, and medical oncology.

“The NAPRC accreditation is confirmation of our team achieving the highest standards of rectal cancer treatments and care,” said Avi Galler, MD, director of Virtua’s Rectal Cancer Program. “The most advanced treatment is available right here in South Jersey at Virtua—there is no need for patients to travel out of state.”

Dr. Galler advises everyone to stay up to date on their colonoscopies—a test that can identify asymptomatic cases of rectal cancer at an earlier stage. He also reminds everyone that the age to begin colonoscopy testing has been changed from 50 to 45—and even younger for people with a family history of colorectal cancer. Click for more about [Virtua’s Rectal Cancer Program](#).

### COVID-19 Census



### Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey was reported yesterday as 0.99.
- Unfortunately an error in today’s NJ Department of Health dashboard report prevented our normal report on cases, mortality and vaccination rates.

### Racial Disparities in Medicare Home Health Use

*Adapted from the NJHA Coronavirus Update*

Home health visits for Medicare beneficiaries declined in 2020, while patient acuity increased. People of color were less likely to have caregiver assistance. Those were among the key findings of a

[Commonwealth Fund analysis](#) of home health use by Medicare beneficiaries during the pandemic's first year. Researchers analyzed files containing 100% of Medicare claims for 2019 and 2020, plus a sample of Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS) assessments. Key findings included:

- Medicare beneficiaries using home health decreased by 6% in 2020 compared to 2019.
- Home health visits decreased by nearly 14% while patient acuity increased.
- Beneficiaries of color were less likely to have caregiver assistance, and a higher proportion of caregivers available to beneficiaries of color needed additional training to adequately provide assistance.
- Among the highest-acuity—Latinx/Hispanic and Asian American beneficiaries—hospitalizations were higher when their caregivers needed training.
- The issue brief urges policymakers considering changes to the Medicare home health system to take into account observed racial disparities in access to and quality of caregiver assistance, as well as the increase in patient acuity when home health visits declined.

## Upcoming Events

### Smoking Cessation Education and Support

**July 19 and 25 and Aug. 22 and 29, 12 to 1:30 p.m.**

The community is invited to attend a two-session educational support group to learn about the tobacco addiction process and get tools and support to help quit smoking, including free nicotine patches and discounted acupuncture. Topic discussions will include addiction, stress management, and developing a personal plan to quit smoking using resources and support. To register, call 888-847-8823.

### Technology-Enabled Care Virtual Conference

**Oct. 22, 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Save the Date for “Maximizing the Technology Toolkit,” a free virtual conference that includes a technology and clinical track, podium presentations, exhibit hall, and poster presentations. The conference is open to all Virtua colleagues, especially providers, clinicians, allied health professionals, and leaders in ambulatory and inpatient clinical areas. Click to [view the flyer](#).

### Run with the Docs

**Rescheduled to Saturday, Sept. 17**

Dangerous weather conditions on the scheduled race day required organizers of the annual Run with the Docs to postpone the much-loved event to **Saturday, Sept. 17**. Anyone who registered for the 5K and/or one-mile walk has automatically had their registrations transferred for the new fall date. If you would like to sign up and support this important cause, which has raised nearly \$390,000 for Virtua's perinatal bereavement program, please visit [RunWithTheDocs.org](https://RunWithTheDocs.org).



**Calling All Colleagues Born in 1992 or After**

Virtua is eager to introduce a new Colleague Community supporting colleagues in the late millennial and Gen Z generations. If you are interested in joining the team to activate this new Colleague Community, please reach out to Jenny Zanetich at [jzanetich@virtua.org](mailto:jzanetich@virtua.org) no later than Friday, July 1.



### **Carebridge Can Help**

At Virtua, colleague well-being is a priority. The [WE Thrive](#) page provides resources supporting the six key areas of well-being: physical, emotional, social, financial, spiritual, and intellectual. Check out what Carebridge is offering this month to help you thrive!

### **July Virtual Support Groups**

#### **Stress Check-In: Thrive with Hope**

**Date:** Thursday, July 7

**Time:** 10 to 10:30 a.m.

[Register now](#)

#### **Stress Check-In: Tips for Keeping Your Child Engaged with Learning over the Summer**

**Date:** Wednesday, July 13

**Time:** 11 to 11:30 a.m.

[Register now](#)

#### **Stress Check-In: Helping Those Who Grieve**

**Date:** Thursday, July 21

**Time:** 2 to 2:30 p.m.

[Register now](#)

#### **Live Webinar: Organizing Your Workspace and Yourself**

**Date:** Tuesday, July 19

**Time:** 12 to 1 p.m.

[Register now](#)

[Click here](#) to download the Virtual Support Group Flyer.

[Click here](#) to download a pdf of this newsletter.

### **Carebridge Can Help**

- Call 800-437-0911 or email [clientservice@carebridge.com](mailto:clientservice@carebridge.com)
- A Carebridge representative is available 24/7 for confidential and free consultations
- Log on to [myliferesource.com](http://myliferesource.com); your access code is **Y6EXA**