

Clinician Update

June 6, 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](#).**

Important Message From EVP & Chief Clinical Officer Reg Blaber, MD

I'm reaching out regarding Virtua's ongoing engagement with Practicing Excellence. I am certain that name resonates with you, as our partnership with this nationally recognized leader in the human experience is among our system-wide priorities, now and in the years ahead.

In the year since we launched Practicing Excellence, we have seen improvements in our HCAHPS scores, Net Promoter Score, and more. This demonstrates the measurable impact of putting experience front and center and highlights the direct connection to safety and quality.

Now, consider the cultural shift if we had **full participation** from our physician teams. I believe it can be transformative. In a time of distrust and rapidly accelerating technology, we can provide the relatable, empathetic human touch that is essential to health care delivery.

Furthermore, **I believe this program will benefit us even more than our patients.** If you commit to Practicing Excellence and act upon the research-driven tips, I am confident you will see a positive impact in your relationships and feelings of satisfaction.

If you are not utilizing the platform, there is plenty of time to join the Advanced Patient Experience Program currently underway. Remember, we are actively tracking participation, and have set an ambitious goal in our Now Plan.

For instructions on how to get involved or access the information, please visit the [Practicing Excellence page on Colleague Corner](#). You can also ask a colleague to show the steps and just how simple it is to use.

Thank you in advance for getting on board and being a part of this journey.

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 9 Guide](#).

Virtua Electrophysiologists Participate in Clinical Study of Novel Defibrillation Lead

The Virtua Heart Rhythm Specialists team recently participated in a study investigating the safety, efficacy, and reliability of the novel small-diameter Medtronic OmniaSecure™ defibrillation lead. In the study's primary [findings](#), the lead met its primary safety and effectiveness endpoints, exceeding prespecified performance goals.

"Our eventual use of this defibrillation lead will take us to the leading edge of what we can provide regularly as an option for our patients," said electrophysiologist Darius Sholevar, MD, lead clinician of Virtua's Heart Rhythm Specialists and the principal investigator at Virtua for the trial. "Existing defibrillation leads have a large diameter, which can contribute to venous occlusion or tricuspid valve complications. For the patient who may benefit from it, this is the world's smallest transvenous defibrillation lead, equivalent to the diameter of graphite in a wooden pencil. The unique catheter-based method of implantation helps us place the lead in the optimal position."

The small diameter and unique design of the investigational OmniaSecure lead provide the potential to offer significant clinical benefits for patients and physicians, such as low complication rates and comprehensive reliability while maintaining or exceeding performance of historical larger-diameter, stylet-delivered transvenous defibrillation leads.

Click [here for the report in *HeartRhythm*](#), published by the Heart Rhythm Society.

Celebrating Success and Teamwork in Transplant

Congratulations to Virtua Advanced Transplant and Organ Health for a record-breaking May. The team performed an impressive 17 transplant procedures, including 11 kidney transplants and six liver transplants. Additionally, the team supported 40 open-heart procedures.

"We're incredibly proud of our team's dedication," said Lisa Ferraro, president of Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. "It's truly a collaborative effort—from the referring providers to the surgical teams and the interdisciplinary staff providing exceptional pre- and post-operative care. Thank you for your commitment to saving lives! Everybody always!"

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 was fabulous. She answered all my questions and didn't make me feel rushed. I left there confident in her care. I felt like she truly cared about me. Thank you, Dr. Duca." (Maria Duca, MD)

“I think my primary doctor is the most qualified I've ever had. I trust her. She always really cares about how you are feeling and your response. I couldn't ask for more. I would recommend her to anyone very highly. Thank you.” (Jennifer Caudle, DO)

“He is by far the most knowledgeable physician I have ever dealt with. He also has a pleasant demeanor, which makes it easier to discuss difficult issues.” (Amit Bhalodia, DO)

“It is always a pleasure, and I always feel like my children are always well cared for and taken care of.” (Jamie Iulucci, APN, CPNP)

“He is an exceptional physician. You can expect to have his undivided attention. You will feel as if you are his only patient. You are in excellent hands. He is the real deal.” (Craig Turner, DO)

Medical Director Excited About Expansion of Virtua's Pediatric Mobile Services

Stay tuned for the exciting news in the coming weeks of an additional new unit being introduced to Virtua's Pediatric Mobile Services. The program already provides an array of services to children in underserved communities, including screenings for dental, developmental, blood lead level, vision, and hearing, as well as back-to-school and sports physicals, lead poisoning education, flu vaccinations, health education, community resources, and referrals. Working with over 200 community partners, Virtua has provided needed health services to more than 14,000 children during more than 20,000 visits over the last seven years. These services are now poised to grow.

As medical director of Virtua's Pediatric Mobile Services, Mary Campagnolo, MD, knows well its mission and the importance of expansion. “This is about access to health care. There is such a need in our local communities,” said Dr. Campagnolo. “These are our youngest treasures, children from infancy to age six, and they need these services. I can't say enough about the work this team does in serving our communities.”

The Virtua family physician and geriatrician is also medical director for value-based programs and payer contracts for Virtua Medical Group, and recently completed her term as a member of the board of directors for American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). She also serves on the Virtua Health Foundation Board of Trustees and has been very active in seeking ways to meet the health care needs of the community.

“We are so honored and blessed to have such an advocate for the children we serve,” said Maria Emerson, Virtua's director of pediatric rehabilitation services. “And now as we are expanding to include a second mobile unit, Dr. Campagnolo has been instrumental in our planning and clinical policies.”

The program is supported by grants, the Joseph Lacroce Foundation, and other generous donors. To learn more about Virtua's Pediatric Mobile Services Program, click [here](#).

Note: Change in Virtua Laboratory's Primary Reference Services

This week, the Virtua Corporate Laboratory transitioned its primary reference laboratory services from ARUP Laboratories to LabCorp. While both laboratories provide outstanding services and quality results, we anticipate shorter turnaround times by decreasing the distance the specimens need to travel to LabCorp.

Nothing has changed for providers in terms of their ordering process. Virtua Information Technology has already adjusted many of the Miscellaneous Tests to add them to the Epic Send Out database for ease of ordering. Prior to using the Miscellaneous Test option, please search for the test by name.

We anticipate a continued seamless transition to this new laboratory service. If any provider has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Tina Molchanow, corporate phlebotomy manager, at tmolchanow@virtua.org.

Reconstructive Orthopedics Now Live on Epic

Nearly a year ago, Virtua Health excitedly welcomed Reconstructive Orthopedics joining the organization and Virtua Medical Group as it became Virtua Reconstructive Orthopedics. This week, we reached another significant milestone in that journey as Virtua Reconstructive Orthopedics went live on Epic and other Virtua-standard applications and technologies.

In May, Reconstructive Orthopedics practices began scheduling and registration activities in Epic for all appointments on or after June 3. This week, colleagues also started placing orders and documenting in the Epic system. As reported in [last week's Clinician Update](#), now that these practices are live, patient data from Reconstructive Orthopedics practices will be visible to colleagues at all other Virtua locations. Additionally, appointments scheduled in Epic at the newly added locations are already visible in the system.

Virtua Research Update: Resources Now Available on Colleague Corner, and More to Come

Virtua's Human Research Protection Program, along with the Virtua Research Administration and Operations team, now provide research resources to clinicians via Colleague Corner. When on the network, click the Clinical tab on Colleague Corner, and in the drop-down, select [Research](#).

Virtua Health is making research a core mission. We conduct research to advance science, patient care, and to invent new medical treatments to improve the lives of our patients.

Soon, we will go-live with a new research tab on the Virtua website.

Virtua will be making connections in the research community even stronger. Patients will be able to find clinical trials in which to participate. Investigators will be able to find forms and applications for new studies. Participants, investigators, and sponsors will have access to Human Research Protections

Program (HRPP)/Institutional Review Board (IRB) resources. Among these resources, policies will also be available for regulatory compliance.

To learn more, email IRB@Virtua.org or researchreview@virtua.org.

Type 1 Diabetes Group JDRF Is Now 'Breakthrough T1D'

This week, the type 1 diabetes (T1D) research and advocacy organization Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) changed its name to Breakthrough T1D to emphasize its mission to help people of all ages with the condition.

The name Breakthrough T1D demonstrates the organization's leadership in accelerating scientific discovery, therapeutic development, and access to treatments and therapies for the T1D community.

“For more than half a century, our organization has been at the forefront of type 1 diabetes research and advocacy,” said Aaron J. Kowalski, PhD, Breakthrough T1D's chief executive officer. “I believe our new name, Breakthrough T1D, will help to deepen engagement and support across the entire community as we drive toward curing type 1 diabetes.”

To learn more, click [this Medscape Medical News article](#).

Virtua has been a proud supporter of JDRF. On July 27 at 11 a.m. in Cherry Hill, we will be participating in its [Greater Delaware Valley Chapter- T1D Summer Series](#). For more information, [click here for the Young Adult Diabetes Support Network](#). Additionally, Virtua provides diabetes support and services. Feel free to spread the word to patients who may benefit. Click [here](#) for diabetes support groups and networks. To learn more overall about all the services provided by VMG's Nutrition and Diabetes Care department, click [here](#) and [here](#).

Final Call: This Sunday Is Run With the Docs!

The popular 5K run and 1-mile walk known as [Run with the Docs!](#) will take place on the Virtua Voorhees Hospital campus this **Sunday, June 9**, all to support our programs for families who have experienced [pregnancy and infant loss](#). For more information, including registration details, [click here](#).

Spread the Word: Smart Shopping Advice, June 12

Shoppers at the ShopRite of Glassboro on Wednesday, June 12, at 5:30 p.m. will have the opportunity to join cardiologist Joshua Crasner, DO, and registered dietitian Claire Rudden for an evening of heart health information and grocery shopping tips.

Please consider sharing this event with your patients. They may RSVP for the event via email at 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.

Virtua in the News

Virtua-Rowan a Key Tech Hub for New Jersey

A statewide business publication profiled seven high-tech centers supporting “new realms of discovery,” including Virtua’s extensive partnership with Rowan University. The collaboration is designed “to bring together leading clinicians and scientists to elevate care delivery, medical innovation, and education for New Jersey,” the story reported. Read in [New Jersey Business Magazine](#).

Virtua’s HR Chief Earns NJHA Award

The New Jersey Hospital Association will present its Diversity and Inclusion Award to Rhonda Jordan, EVP and chief human resources officer, during the group’s annual “Best at the Beach” event next month.

Rhonda is a key leader of Virtua's efforts to support inclusion, diversity, and equity on behalf of patients, staff, and the community. Read in [New Jersey Business Magazine](#).

Virtua Executive Recognized Among Top CIOs

An industry publication has named Tom Gordon, SVP and chief information officer, among "133 CIOs to Know." He oversees technology initiatives and strategy for all Virtua operations across 400-plus care locations, the story noted. Tom's accomplishments include leading Virtua's implementation of the Epic electronic health record and overseeing technical responses to the pandemic. He also leads Virtua's investment in AI and other IT innovations. Read in [Becker's Hospital Review](#).

IDEA – Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity for All

[National Puerto Rican Day](#) will be celebrated in New York City on **June 9**. This annual celebration began in 1958 and continues today with unity and pride.

[National Loving Day](#), celebrated on **June 12**, recognizes the landmark 1967 Supreme Court case involving the right to interracial marriage. Mildred and Richard Loving, an interracial couple, were arrested for their marriage in Virginia, which at the time had laws prohibiting interracial marriage. The court ruled in their favor nine years later.