

Clinician Update

March 28, 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](#).**

Happy Doctors' Day!

Virtua Health is proud and grateful to wish all physicians a Happy National Doctors' Day! While the official day of recognition, March 30, falls this Saturday, we want you to know that every day we are thankful for your work and dedication to your patients, fellow colleagues, and community. Simply put, we know that you bring your best self to work each day.

This year, Virtua's theme for Doctors' Day (and our forthcoming 2024 colleague celebrations) is about highlighting the "why" that inspires and motivates our many magnificent doctors. Although each provider has a distinct perspective, they are all united by the desire to provide excellent care to everybody, always.

Look to Virtua Health's social media channels on Saturday to see how we are celebrating. We've asked some of your colleagues to share their "one word" that they use to describe their approach to care. At the same time, we'll be asking the public to engage with us by asking them to describe Virtua docs in their own words. We'll be using Virtua's social platforms ([Virtua's Colleague Facebook page](#), [public Facebook page](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter \(now X\)](#), and [Instagram](#)) to solicit messages of gratitude and compliments from your patients, community, and fellow colleagues. [Click to view the video](#).

Virtua's Philanthropy team also invited patients and donors to celebrate the Virtua doctor who made a difference in their life by sharing their story or making a gift of gratitude. Learn more about how our patients are honoring their caregivers at www.virtua.org/gratitude.

This Doctors' Day, we urge our physicians to take a moment to reflect upon your distinguished profession and to accept our heartfelt appreciation for your collaboration and friendship. We hope that you take a moment to bask in the limelight and accept our heartfelt gratitude for all your good works.

Virtua's Educational Programs Welcome New Residents

Virtua Health is honored to welcome 56 new residents and fellows across our Graduate Medical Education (GME) residency programs where they will expand their medical training starting in June.

"Our programs continue to demonstrate Virtua's commitment to academics as we address the health care workforce of the region and the needs of our community," said Richard Paluzzi, MD, medical director and designated institutional official of graduate medical education at Virtua. "Our programs continue to attract individuals from diverse geographical locations, spanning Rowan-Virtua SOM to

institutions both nationwide and globally—underscoring our commitment to cultivating a culturally rich learning environment. Residents from such varied backgrounds add to the richness of our programs, promoting inclusivity and fostering a wide perspective in health care while providing the highest standard of medical care.”

To learn more about our residencies or fellowship programs, reach out to the GME office at graduatemedicaleducation@virtua.org.

Clinical Decision Unit to Open at Virtua Voorhees Hospital on April 1

Next week, Virtua Voorhees Hospital will open a clinical decision unit – an extension of the emergency department that allows providers to further monitor and evaluate patients without necessarily admitting them into the hospital as an inpatient. This care model is growing in popularity for its efficiency and, often, lower patient costs.

The 12-room, 24-bed clinical decision unit (CDU) will be operated by emergency department colleagues. Patients can anticipate a “rapid workup,” meaning they will receive a variety of assessments and evaluations in a relatively brief amount of time. Most people who receive care in the clinical decision unit will be discharged to home in 20 hours or fewer.

“The concept of a CDU is new to most people, and so it’s important we set the appropriate expectations for our patients,” said Doug Stranges, DO, a member of the multidisciplinary team helping to launch the unit. “The CDU offers the speed and attentiveness of the emergency room in a dedicated area that’s quieter and more relaxing. As the name suggests, it gives us a venue to analyze a patient’s specific needs and decide upon a personalized care plan.”

For more information, [consult this FAQ sheet](#).

Conducting Research at Virtua: Understanding the HRPP Process

As Virtua fosters a robust research culture, clinicians should become aware of the steps involved in conducting a study—especially now as the process is being enhanced. Required by federal regulation, Virtua Health Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) is an institution-wide program that reviews and monitors ongoing studies and provides education and guidance to all participants. On April 1, the HRPP will go live with a new research submission process that will include a new and improved Institutional Review Board (IRB) research application. The purpose of the new process is to streamline the confluence of reviews that take place before a research protocol is approved.

“For research approval, there are many official ancillary reviews that must take place,” said Carlotta Rodriguez, MS, CIP, CHRC, director of Human Research Protection at Virtua. “We are here to help make the process as efficient and effective as possible, coordinating all the ancillary reviews in one seamless simultaneously process.”

To learn more about the roles of the HRPP, the IRB, and Research Administration and Operations, [click here](#). To submit an application, email IRB@virtua.org and you will be assigned an IRB Protocol Number which can be used for tracking purposes.

Urologist Reaches Robotic Milestone

Virtua treats complex urologic conditions like prostate cancer using advanced, minimally invasive approaches which allows patients to heal faster and with less pain. Indicative of the clinical skill available to patients here at Virtua, this week urologist Jay Krishnan, DO, MBA, completed his 1,000th urologic robotic-assisted procedure.

“Through our surgical advancements, we are providing patients the ability to have advanced, minimally invasive surgery, and to go home the same day,” said Dr. Krishnan. “Beyond the technology, we have great staff working as a team to provide the highest quality patient care. The result is surgical excellence at Virtua Health. I’m looking forward to my next thousand procedures.”

LAST CALL: *SJ Mag Media* Top Docs Polling Ends March 31

SJ Mag Media's top doctor balloting asks the guiding question: “If you were ill, who would you go to?”

[Click here as a physician to vote.](#)

Share this link with your patients, friends, and family: <https://simagazine.net/health/2024-top-docs-patient-poll>.

The deadline for voting for both is **March 31 at 5 p.m.**

To view the physicians who were chosen by their peers and patients as a *SJ Mag Media* 2023 Top Doc, click [here](#).

Modern Healthcare Best Place to Work Survey Now Open

Virtua is participating in *Modern Healthcare's* “Best Places to Work” survey once again. A random selection of Virtua’s full-time and part-time colleagues received an email from Workforce Research Group on **March 22** and a reminder email on **March 27**, inviting them to take a short survey.

If you were selected to take the survey, please allocate 10 minutes to share your honest feedback.

The email will come from Surveys@WorkforceRG.com and the subject line will be “Your Voice Counts – Best Places to Work in Healthcare.” The survey is confidential.

Note: For colleagues who have the 365 version of Microsoft Outlook, this email is located in your "Other" inbox rather than your "Focused" inbox. Please also check your spam filter. Please do not report this as spam or phishing.

[Neuro-Oncology Today Now Posted to Digital 411](#)

Our most recent issue of the *Today* series of physician education newsletters centers on the advancements in neuro-oncology at Virtua. [Neuro-Oncology Today](#) details the smart technologies and precision approaches that are advancing brain surgery, as well as the decision making needed in determining the best options for brain tumor treatment.

“A highly collaborative approach to these cancers is the differentiator for our team,” said Pat Connolly, MD, a fellowship-trained and board-certified neurosurgeon with the Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Neurosciences Program. “We sequence treatment on a case-by-case basis, using the best options for each patient’s unique needs.”

To learn more, [click here to view Neuro-Oncology Today](#). Remember that our library of publications has a home base on [Digital 411](#), found under “Additional Resources/Clinician Publications.” There, you can find archived copies of *Clinician Update*, as well as the growing resource of the *Today* series.

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:

“Everyone was very nice. The doctor was wonderful. She explained everything to me. I left there very happy because I finally got an answer to the problems I am having and will have them taken care of. I am so happy I went to see her.” (Kristene Whitmore, MD)

“A caring, professional primary care doctor’s office. Very good services and follow-up.” (Arnold Fontanilla, DO)

“The staff were all friendly and made me feel comfortable and welcome. Dr. Doyle and her team were awesome!” (Kerra Doyle, DO)

“I have known Dr. Kader for many years. I knew him when I was an RN and he was a young doctor. I then became his patient, and it is a choice I have never regretted. His knowledge of patient care and treatment goes above and beyond for me as an individual. He listens to me, he looks at input from other physicians, and then a plan of care is established. Thank you for all these years. I think I’ll hang around for more.” (Richard Kader, DO)

“Had an 8 p.m. need for an urgent care. I got blessed by Dodi being on! She was friendly, thorough, and discussed my options with me. She made a painful situation as pleasant as it could be!” (Dodi Iannaco, APN)

[Elevating Excellence with the Advanced Patient Experience Program](#)

Spring is in the air and soon we will begin the next phase of our Practicing Excellence journey. Specifically, the Advanced Patient Experience Program will launch the **week of April 8** and will run for 26 weeks.

Here is a brief overview of what you can anticipate from the Advanced Patient Experience Program.

Learning Tracks: Like the introductory Patient Experience Program from spring/summer 2023, the advanced version also sorts our workforce into nine specialized learning tracks representing a range of health care roles. Although the video tips were created with specific audiences in mind, the themes (like building relationships and creating patient confidence) are relevant to all.

Enrollment: Nearly all colleagues have already been auto-enrolled in the advanced program (based on whichever learning track they participated in last year). You can check now by opening the Practicing Excellence platform and looking for the program under the *Progress* menu/tab. If you see it listed, you are all set for the launch.

New Colleagues: Any colleagues who are new to Virtua or did not participate in the introductory Patient Experience Program will need to enroll themselves in the Advanced Patient Experience Program. Instructions can be found on the [Practicing Excellence page of Colleague Corner](#).

Resources: Anything you may need to launch or sustain the advanced program can be found on Colleague Corner. This includes a toolkit for each learning track that maps out the program from start to finish. The Colleague Corner also includes handy weekly guides (which are easy to print and post in breakrooms, nurses' stations, etc.).

Remember, our Practicing Excellence programs are more than training; they're about building a community dedicated to growth, improvement, and excellence.

Virtua in the News

Virtua CEO in Top 10 of 'Health Care Power 50'

A statewide business publication has named President and CEO Dennis W. Pullin, among New Jersey's most talented leaders in the health care industry. "Since arriving at Virtua Health in 2017, [Pullin] has led significant transformation at the not-for-profit organization," the story noted. Read in [NJ Biz](#).

Dr. Tarun Kapoor Recognized for Digital Leadership

An industry publication has included Tarun Kapoor, MD, on its list of "46 Chief Digital Officers to Know." As SVP and chief digital transformation officer, Dr. Kapoor has led Virtua's implementation of artificial intelligence, including the GI Genius endoscopy enhancement and the Woebot mental-health tool, among others. Read in [Becker's Hospital Review](#).

More Praise for Food at Virtua Voorhees

The cafeteria at Virtua Voorhees Hospital has become a favorite destination for local foodies. Married colleagues Josef and Evie Sutiono create the eatery's fresh sushi, which is especially popular. Read the latest review in [NJ.com](#).

IDEA – Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity for All

On Sunday, **March 31**, [Easter](#) is celebrated by many as one of Christianity's holiest days, concluding the Lenten season and celebrating Jesus' resurrection. Additionally, Easter symbolizes renewal and the advent of spring in various cultures.

[International Transgender Day of Visibility](#) is **March 31**. Founded in 2009, this day is dedicated to increasing awareness, fostering acceptance, and celebrating the dignity of transgender and gender-expansive individuals.