

Clinician Update

May 23, 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](#).**

Single-Port Robotic Surgery Enhancing Outcomes

This week, surgeons at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital performed a minimally invasive, robotic-assisted urologic surgery utilizing a single port. The innovation allows for precise access through a single incision, helping to shorten recovery time due to less pain and less scarring. This advanced technique is also offered at Virtua Voorhees.

“It’s exciting that we are able to provide for our patients such leading-edge technology,” said urologist Jayram Krishnan, DO, whose team performed the first single-port urologic procedure at the hospital. “We have great staff working here as a team to provide the highest quality patient care.”

Sleep Apnea Treatment Milestone at Virtua Voorhees

Congratulations to Gabriel Wong, MD, otolaryngologist and sleep medicine specialist, on the recent placement of his 200th Inspire implant. This places Dr. Wong as one of the leaders in the country performing this innovative procedure that gives relief to those suffering with sleep apnea.

“Inspire was FDA-approved in 2014 and is a new treatment class for OSA,” said Dr. Wong. “This is the first OSA treatment in the United States that uses upper airway stimulation. It works by keeping the tongue from falling backwards and blocking the airway, resulting in more restful sleep.”

The device has an 11-year battery life and is placed in the body through two small incisions during an outpatient procedure performed under general anesthesia. A sensor is attached to the nerve that controls the patient’s tongue. A small device implanted under the skin on the right side of the chest sends a pulse to the sensor, moving the tongue out of the way so it doesn't obstruct breathing.

Inspire may be an option for patients with obstructive sleep apnea seeking an alternative to continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) therapy.

To learn more, click [here](#).

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 7 Guide](#).

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 is an excellent doctor. She is very caring and knowledgeable. She has been very proactive in finding the best treatment for my conditions. She has been very thorough referring me to other specialists to make sure that I don't have any other issues that would affect my recovery. I would highly recommend her.” (Tolulope Agunbiade, MD)

“He is always excellent. Everyone should be so fortunate to have a physician such as he is. He is professional, extremely knowledgeable, and always kind. Every interaction that I have had at Dr. Costabile's office always makes me glad that he is my doctor.” (Joseph P. Costabile, MD)

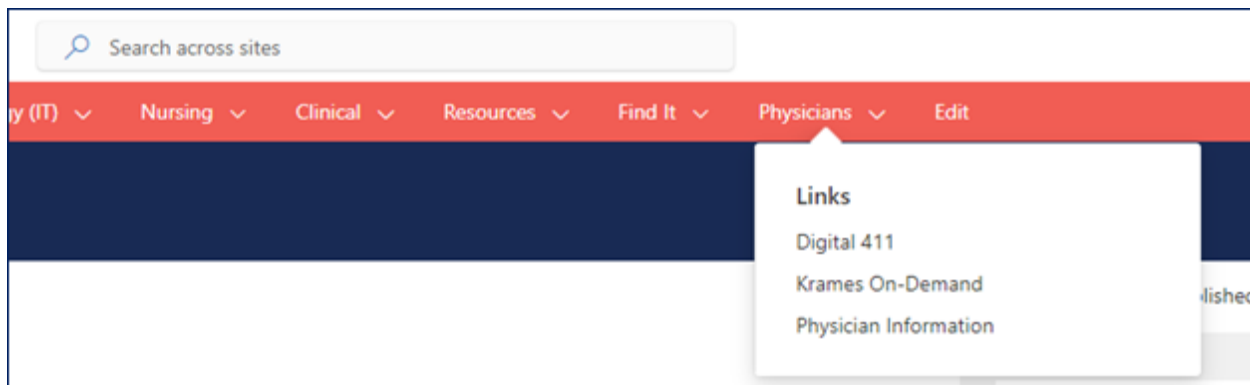
“I really appreciated the calm demeanor, thoughtful listening, and thorough advice that she offered in addition to treatment.” (Nicole Streeks-Wooden, MD)

“I'm very happy with the level of care provided and have therefore stayed at this facility for all my three children for a good eight years now. They are awesome in my book.” (Alexandra Pisani, APN)

“He is the absolute best! Old-fashioned bedside manner... took time to listen and to respond. Very knowledgeable about my health history.” (Scott Dorfner, DO)

Digital 411 and Physician Information Have Transitioned to Colleague Corner

The Digital 411 website link and Physician Information, previously found on the VINE, is now readily accessible under a new and dedicated "Physicians" tab in the Colleague Corner navigation bar. The content and external access to Digital 411 will remain the same. Over the coming months, the "Physicians" tab will be further expanded to include resources for medical education (GME and UME), research, and faculty development.



If you have any questions about this, please email VirtuaClinician@virtua.org. We're excited to have everything in one central location—the [Colleague Corner](#)—for your convenience.

Honoring the Sacrifice

As [Memorial Day](#) approaches, we remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Originally known as Decoration Day, this holiday emerged after the Civil War to honor the fallen from that conflict. It has since evolved to pay tribute to all soldiers who gave their lives in service to our country.

A ceremony honoring New Jersey's fallen: On Friday, Virtua's WE Serve Colleague Community will hold a special ceremony at Virtua Voorhees Hospital to honor New Jersey residents who have died in service since World War I. A powerful display of 6,000 American flags will serve as a visual tribute to their sacrifice.

Showcasing veteran artists: WE Serve partnered with Medford Arts to showcase artwork by talented veteran artists. This exhibit is currently on display at Virtua Mount Holly Hospital for the remainder of May.

Learn more: For more information about the WE Serve Memorial Day event or the veteran art exhibit, please contact WE Serve at WeServeColleagueCommunity@virtua.org.

Important Apple Device Security Update Now Available

Virtua Information Technology is requiring everyone using an Apple device, whether they are personal or Virtua-issued, to apply the latest update released from Apple to patch a critical vulnerability.

Click [here](#) for the latest Apple security release updates, as well as directions and information. If your device software version is less than the versions shown, then **your device is at risk for compromise**.

When on the network, you also can visit the Colleague Corner for [those same details](#).

Thank you in advance for protecting your device and Virtua!

Know About Quishing: QR Code Scams on the Rise

“Quishing” is an online scam involving fraudulent QR codes. The Virtua IT department recently put our colleagues' awareness to the test with a quishing simulation. They sent an email with a QR code supposedly leading to HR benefit information. Here's how our colleagues responded:

- 19% recognized the email as phishing and reported it correctly.
- 3% scanned the QR code.

These results highlight the importance of staying vigilant. Here's how to stay safe:

- Never scan QR codes in suspicious emails. Phishing emails often use them to steal personal information or infect devices with malware.
- Report suspicious emails as phishing. Use the "Click Report Phish" button and contact securityawareness@virtua.org.

For more insights into quishing, click to [view this video](#) or [read this article](#).

Helping Those Who Smoke to Kick the Habit

We often come upon patients who are having a hard time quitting smoking. “Face it, it’s hard to quit. It’s even harder to do it alone,” said Virtua thoracic surgeon Matthew M. Puc, MD, medical director of the Penn Medicine | Virtua Cancer Program. “It’s one thing to encourage our patients. It’s even better when we can offer the assistance needed to finally break the deadly habit.”

Virtua offers two smoking cessation options—both run by certified tobacco treatment specialists:

- Small-group education and support sessions are FREE. Patients can register on virtua.org or call 888-847-8823. The next one-night class is **July 23**.
- Individual counseling consists of eight visits and is covered by most insurance plans with no out-of-pocket costs. Sessions are held at the Virtua Thoracic Surgery office in Marlton. To schedule, patients can call 856-355-7176.

Please feel free to share these worthwhile resources. [Click here to learn more](#). [Here](#) is a printable flyer.

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of EMS Week, May 19-25

Each year, National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week (May 19 to 25) is hosted by the American College of Emergency Physicians and National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians to

recognize the work of EMS clinicians. This year's 50th anniversary theme is "Honoring Our Past. Forging Our Future." The week not only recognizes those heroes of today and tomorrow, but the trailblazers who have set the high standards we now rely upon.

Virtua's more than 400 EMS professionals engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills and are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"As clinicians, EMS staff are highly skilled and trained, and for good reason," said Ronald Klebacher, DO, medical director for patient logistics, who started his career as a paramedic. "In so many ways, a patient's survival depends on this profession."

We asked a few of our EMTs how they would describe their approach to care. See what they had to say [here](#). Join our celebration of EMTs [here](#). To learn more about Emergency Services at Virtua, [click here](#).

Top Physicians 2024 - South Jersey Magazine

In its August issue, *South Jersey Magazine* will highlight those physicians as voted by the public who have made an impact on the lives of people in our area. Each person can vote one time per day [here](#). Entries must be received by **Monday, June 3**.

On Sunday, June 9, It's Time to 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 on **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](#).

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. We are pleased to note that Dr. Ellenbogen joins us as he assumes 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.

Objectives:

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.

Virtua in the News

Virtua Celebrates Hospital Week

Action News stopped by Virtua Voorhees Hospital last week to capture the festivities, as colleagues enjoyed carnival games, classic summertime foods, and a photo booth. A new highlight this year: married sushi chefs Josef and Evie Sutiono demonstrated the art of sushi-making—and a few lucky colleagues got to enjoy the resulting rolls. Watch on [6 ABC](#).

CEO Recognized for Outstanding Leadership

An industry publication has named Virtua President and CEO Dennis Pullin to its list of “Great Leaders in Healthcare.” Under Dennis’ direction, for example, Virtua launched South Jersey’s first proton therapy center, began a partnership with an affordable-housing developer, secured a grant to expand Virtua’s organ transplant center, and launched a mobile cancer screening program. Dennis has also led improvements to Virtua’s culture, launched a transformative partnership with Rowan University, and greatly expanded robotic surgery, among other achievements. Read in [Becker’s Hospital Review](#).

Rowan President is #3 N.J. Influencers in Higher Education

Dr. Ali Houshmand, president of Rowan University, has been named the state's third most influential leader in higher education by a New Jersey business publication. “The school’s recent collaboration with Virtua Health is just the latest of dozens of examples of his prowess in the business world,” the magazine reported. Dr. Houshmand aims to increase enrollment to 38,000 in the next decade and become an R1 institution (an elite designation for public universities with the highest levels of research activity). Read in [ROI-NJ](#).

Prioritizing Well-Being and Emotional Health

Creating a culture that prioritizes well-being and emotional health was the featured topic during WE Thrive’s “Vulnerability at Virtua” event, a roundtable discussion that included Jay Case, MD, VP of clinical operations for behavioral health; Suja Matthews, MA, director of inclusion, diversity, and equity; Hafeza Shaikh, MD, assistant program director of cardiology; and Erika Dawkins, PsyD, clinical psychologist and Carebridge professional.

This webinar, now recorded, presents a crucial opportunity to engage with the topic of mental health stigma and it sends a powerful message that vulnerability is valued. When colleagues feel safe discussing their challenges, they are more likely to seek help and cope effectively. Together, we can break down barriers, promote understanding, and build a healthier, more compassionate health care environment. Click to [access the webinar](#).

Well-Being Week, June 3 to 7

Well-Being Week is about two weeks away and promises to be packed with [virtual sessions](#) and fun challenges to boost colleagues' emotional health.

The Kona Ice trucks will return to select locations. All colleagues are invited to partake in this refreshing treat and are encouraged to visit the location nearest them.

- **June 3:** Virtua Voorhees Hospital (11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 4 to 9 p.m.)
- **June 4:** Virtua Marlton Hospital (11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 4 to 9 p.m.) and 301/303 Lippincott (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.)
- **June 5:** Virtua Willingboro Hospital (11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 4 to 9 p.m.)
- **June 6:** Virtua Mount Holly Hospital (11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 4 to 9 p.m.) and Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Berlin (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
- **June 7:** Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital (11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 4 to 9 p.m.) and Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Camden (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

IDEA – Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity for All

Virtua is proud to be a sponsor of these events. This year's parade on **Thursday, June 6** (6 to 8 p.m.) promises to be a vibrant showcase of LGBTQ+ and ally performers, organizations, and community volunteers coming together to create an unforgettable experience. Starting at the corner of Crystal Lake Community Night is **Friday, June 7** (5:30 to 9 p.m.). This event is an open invitation to the community and beyond to embrace and celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride in all its forms. It's an opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of LGBTQ+ pioneers and immerse yourself in LGBTQ+ history, all while enjoying the company of local LGBTQ+-friendly vendors and allies. The evening will be enriched with educational and celebratory resources, Pride Quizzo, performances, and the much-loved Drag Queen Lip Sync Battles. Community Night is at Haddon Square on Haddon Avenue next to Planet Fitness.

For more information about the Pride Parade or to volunteer at the Community Night, Please contact OUT@virtua.org.

Celebrating Wellness Month With the Women of Virtua

June 11, 5 to 7 p.m.

Be Well Bistro, 303 Lippincott Drive, Marlton

This event will include a summer recipe demo, guided meditation, and a light stretching session, as well as several giveaways and prizes.