

Clinician Update

May 9, 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](#).**

Breaking News! Virtua Implants First LVAD After Receiving Certification

On Monday, cardiovascular surgeons at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital performed the organization's first implant of a left ventricular assist device (LVAD). This milestone is on the heels of receiving designation by DNV, a credentialing organization that had affirmed Virtua's readiness to perform the full spectrum of cardiac services.

LVADs are usually implanted in patients who have reached end-stage heart failure to help the heart maintain function. The LVAD can support patients for the long term or can also serve as a bridge for patients who may later be candidates for heart transplant. Virtua's heart failure team, led by medical director Tolu Agunbiade, MD, is happy to report the patient is doing well.

Virtua's Chief Clinical Officer Honored Today with Medal of Excellence at Rowan-Virtua SOM Graduation

Reg Blaber, MD, Virtua EVP and chief clinical officer, is being honored with the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine's Medal of Excellence—the medical school's highest honor—at today's commencement. The award is in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to the school, its students, and the impact that he has made in forming the Virtua Health College of Medicine and Life Sciences.

Clinician Update will share more about today's commencement in next week's edition.

Building a Health Care Powerhouse

Dr. Blaber also joined Richard Jermyn, DO, dean of the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine, on the "Dialogue with the Dean" podcast for a conversation about the successful collaboration between Virtua Health and Rowan University. In this very informative and extensive conversation, they discussed how this partnership tackles industry challenges and boosts research capabilities. Topics discussed include the value of Virtua's clinicians working in tandem with Rowan's academic capabilities and how this now translates into a vibrant shared mission that ultimately leads to better patient care. Watch [Dialogue with the Dean](#).

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 5 Guide](#), which is also posted to the Colleague Corner.

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:

“He is very kind and caring, and very friendly. He is easy to talk to and treats me like a person, not just another patient. He listens to me and my concerns and puts my mind at ease. I highly recommend him! The staff is all very kind as well. Very happy that I selected Dr. Turnier.” (Auguste Turnier, MD)

“She is a new doctor for me. I’m in full-out menopause, and she has taken the time to not only explain that I’m not alone, but that what I’m experiencing is normal. She has displayed compassion. She will take her time and answer as many questions I can throw her way. Her staff is also amazing with such wonderful personalities.” (Nermin Lazarus, DO)

“Attentive, on-time, amazing bedside manner. Everything you want in a primary!” (Jocelyn Foster, APN)

“She is a very caring physician who listens carefully to your concerns. She explained her diagnosis and treatment well and answered all my questions. It was a wonderful first visit. I will definitely recommend her to my family and friends.” (Flavia Filisio, DPM)

“Dr. Maffei is an excellent physician. He listens intently and reviews history for pertinent issues. He not only treats the issue(s) you came in for, but also questions about chronic conditions. He is excellent.” (Mario Maffei, MD)

Celebrating Our Virtua Family

This week is Nurses Week, which presents the perfect opportunity to shower our incredible nurses with gratitude. Their dedication, compassion, and expertise are what make Virtua the preferred choice for care. Click to [view this special video](#) featuring a handful of fantastic nurses sharing their approach to individualized, human-centered care. Click [here](#) to share a message of recognition and gratitude.

Our appreciation extends far beyond Nurses Week—we celebrate all Virtua colleagues for the amazing work they do every single day. Hospital Week and EMS Week are right around the corner. Special Colleague Gatherings designed to showcase our appreciation begin next week. Click to [view the schedule](#).

Virtua Provides Advanced Stroke, Neurovascular Care in South Jersey

May is Stroke Awareness Month. As one of many complex neurovascular conditions treated at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes, we recognize the importance of educating the public about not only the signs and symptoms of stroke, but also the advanced treatment options needed for optimal outcomes.

“The more we educate the public about the signs and symptoms of stroke, the more likely they are to know when to seek care,” said Omar Choudhri, MD, cerebrovascular surgeon with the Penn Medicine Virtua Health | Neurosciences Program. “Once they are with us, we have the encompassing capabilities to best treat them at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes.”

Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, in strategic alliance with Penn Medicine, [has earned two prestigious designations](#) for its advanced stroke care. The team received The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval® and the American Stroke Association’s Heart-Check mark for Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center Certification. This is the latest recognition of the [neuroscience team’s](#) advanced capability to treat complex neurological conditions including stroke, as well as arteriovenous malformations, posterior communicating artery aneurysms, and others.

Palm Vein Scanning Now Launching at Virtua Marlton ED and Urgent Care Centers

On **Monday, May 13**, Virtua will launch Imprivata PatientSecure palm vein scanning at the Virtua Marlton emergency department and at all Urgent Care centers. PatientSecure is a biometric technology device that identifies each patient using the unique characteristics of their palm veins. Palm vein scanning provides a fast and safe way to correctly identify each participating patient and accurately link to their medical record.

Rollout will continue system-wide in a phased approach throughout 2024.

To learn more about palm vein scanning at Virtua, click [here](#) to download the FAQs.

Virtua in the News

‘Health Care Hero’ Awards Honor Virtua Physician and Organization

Virtua has earned two “Health Care Hero” awards from a statewide business publication. Elizabeth Revesz, MD, breast surgeon with the Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Cancer Program, is among seven “Physician of the Year” honorees. And Virtua is one of two institutions named a “Workplace Wellness Hero – Organization.” An awards dinner will be held next month. Read in [NJ Biz](#).

New Guidelines Advise Mammograms Start at Age 40

Nichole Melchior, DO, a breast surgeon with the Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Cancer Program, joined other experts to discuss new federal recommendations for breast cancer screenings. She also emphasized that most cancer authorities advise annual mammograms, versus the federal guidance of every two years. Watch and read on [NJTV](#).

Teenager’s Mental Health Crises Highlights Gaps in Care

A family's long search for effective mental health services illustrates the lack of sufficient programs for youth with severe behavioral challenges. Patrick Cleary, MD, Virtua's chair of psychiatry, offered his insights on these issues. Read on [NJ.com](#).

Virtua Leads Area Hospitals in Eliminating a Greenhouse Gas in ORs

Virtua and CHOP have phased out a common anesthesia gas, desflurane, which contributes to global warming. Other area hospitals are also moving in this direction. "Virtua is increasingly shifting away from all inhaled anesthetics and encouraging doctors to opt for anesthesia drugs that can be delivered through an IV, without emitting greenhouse gases," the story noted. Read in the [Philadelphia Inquirer](#).

Virtua Earns Recognition in 41st Annual Healthcare Advertising Awards

Several Virtua marketing initiatives were recognized in an annual awards program for health care marketing. Notable projects/publications include *HeartTalk* magazine (which reaches 127,000 households in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties by mail); the *Today* newsletter series targeted to physicians; an email campaign promoting GI and digestive health, and a TikTok video featuring gynecologic oncologist Emily Gleimer, DO. Read the full list on [Healthcare Ad Awards](#).

Police Substation Opens at Virtua Marlton

The Evesham Police Department has opened a substation inside the emergency department at Virtua Marlton Hospital. The new facility will help officers better serve Virtua staff, patients, and area residents, and provide a safe area for officers to perform their administrative work. Watch on [CBS 3](#) and [6 ABC](#).

Virtua Clinicians Talk Menopause, May 15

Menopause goes far beyond hot flashes—affecting skin, sleep, heart, joints, mental health and emotions, libido, weight, and metabolism. The long-term impacts on the body are real and exhausting, leaving many to search for anything that provides relief.

Virtua's Rachel Kramer, MD, OB/GYN; Nermin Lazarus, DO, Exuberan® by Virtua; and Andrea Martin, NP, Sexual Wellness & Pelvic Health, will chat about symptoms and physical changes and will dive into hormone replacement therapy and offer solutions that offer support during our latest Real Talk! Women's Health Chat, "Take control of your menopause journey— before, during, and after" on **Wednesday, May 15** at 7 p.m.

[Registration is free and required](#) to receive the event link to the live online webinar. Please share with patients, staff, and friends who you feel may benefit from attending.

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.

Being Here for Good Is Hereditary

Meet Christine DiPascale and her two daughters, Erica Dell-Priscoli and Adrianna Evans, a trio of Virtua nurses, for this special Mother's Day episode of *Here for Good: Inside Edition*. President and CEO Dennis Pullin sits down with this Virtua family who discuss their shared passion for the nursing vocation and why they go above and beyond for their patients and for each other.

Click to [view the video](#).

Upcoming Colleague Community Events

Military Vets Art Show

May 19, Virtua Mount Holly Hospital Art Gallery

While the reception is scheduled for May 19, the artwork is displayed throughout the month. For details, contact WeServeColleagueCommunity@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 and guided meditation and light stretching session, as well as several giveaways and prizes.

IDEA – Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity for All

Recently, the **VirtuAsia** and **jHOLA! Colleague Communities** hosted events that highlighted cultural awareness and community engagement.

VirtuAsia participated in the AAPI Heritage Month Festival in Cherry Hill. Their presence served to raise awareness about the importance of health screenings, promoting well-being within the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

Meanwhile, ¡HOLA! hosted a Meet and Greet event, providing a platform for colleagues to connect with leaders and current members. This gathering fostered a deeper understanding of ¡HOLA!'s mission and goals, while also offering opportunities to get involved. The event wasn't just informative, but also a delightful immersion into the food, passion, and vibrant culture that embodies ¡HOLA!