

Clinician Update

November 21, 2024

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Virtua a National Leader in Care of Aortic Stenosis

The American Heart Association (AHA) is piloting a program to design and create national guidelines for the timely diagnosis and treatment of aortic stenosis. This past weekend, the AHA recognized Virtua as a leader in this initiative, honoring the Structural Heart Program at its annual conference in Chicago. Virtua is one of only 23 hospital systems in the country to have received this recognition.

“Aortic stenosis, which occurs when the aortic valve doesn’t open as it should, is one of the most prevalent and serious valve diseases and is severely underdiagnosed,” said Ibrahim Moussa, DO, FACC, FSCAI, RPVI, medical director of Virtua’s Structural Heart Program. “At Virtua, our treatment has been recognized for its timeliness and effectiveness, accomplished in a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach in how we care for our patients.”

Click [here](#) to learn more about Virtua’s Structural Heart Program.

Momentous 2024 Continues for LVADs at Virtua

The Advanced Heart Failure and Cardiothoracic Surgery teams at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital have successfully performed the health system’s fourth left ventricular assist device (LVAD) implantation. Congratulations to the entire team at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes. [Read how the team performed their first implantation](#) and look for a case review of one of our LVAD patients in an upcoming issue of our *Today* newsletter series.

Reviewing ACCME Integrity Standards

Standard 4: Manage Commercial Support Appropriately

In *Clinician Update*, we’ve been sharing the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education. [The five standards](#) are designed to ensure that CME activities are developed and delivered in a manner that is ethical, transparent, and free from commercial bias. This week we highlight Standard 4.

Standard 4 discusses how accredited providers who choose to accept commercial support (defined as financial or in-kind support from ineligible companies) are responsible for ensuring the education remains independent of the ineligible company and that the support does not result in commercial bias or commercial influence in education.

Click [here](#) on Digital 411 for further elaboration on Standard 4, as well as all five standards provided by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. If you have any questions, please contact cme-cne@virtua.org.

Be an Antibiotic Steward

This is Antibiotic Awareness Week. The observance is aimed at raising awareness about the threat of antibiotic resistance and the importance of improving antibiotic prescribing and usage.

Virtua Family Physician Discusses Vaccine Public Policy

Mary Campagnolo, MD, Virtua family physician and geriatrician and medical director for value-based programs and payer contracts for Virtua Medical Group, was a guest on [Inside Family Medicine](#), a podcast of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Campagnolo joined Sterling Ransone, MD, FAAFP, in discussing their experiences as family physicians delivering preventive, longitudinal primary care and AAFP's advocacy for stronger vaccine public policy. To hear the podcast, click [here](#).

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:

"I appreciate the care and attention that Dr. Johns-Keating provides. She is very thorough and takes the time needed to address questions and concerns. Highly recommend." **(Krysta Johns-Keating, MD)**

"Dr. Caudle was professional and caring at the same time, knowledgeable about my current care and future plans. It was my first visit with her in my transition from a pediatrician's practice, and I am very pleased." **(Jennifer Caudle, DO)**

"She knows her patient's medical history before she comes in the room! I love that you are always treated with respect, and she listens to you about all of your concerns. She always wants the best for you. I have been seeing her since 2009, and I will continue until my wheels fall off! She always looks out for her patients. I just want to say THANK YOU!" **(Charmane Dixon-Murriell, APN)**

"I was very pleased with Dr. Galan. I checked all the reviews on her and they were all great. So, I knew in my heart she was the doctor for me. I am so glad I picked her. She is a very caring, kind doctor. She takes her time and explains everything to you. I have been under a lot of stress for a while. During my visit with her, she made me feel much more at ease. I would highly recommend her." **(Yesenia Galan, MD)**

"He was very concerned about making me well, which I appreciated very much!" **(Benjamin J. Duckles, MD)**

Practicing Excellence: The Best of the Best

Let's end 2024 as a united workforce focused on our "why." From now through the end of the year, we will highlight some of the most popular tips in the Practicing Excellence library. These are tips beyond the standard curriculum that colleagues have sought out and seen tremendous value in.

Today, Sam Weiner, MD, VP and CMO of Virtua Medical Group shares with all colleagues [Patient Communication Challenges Tip #1: Dealing with Patient Communication Barriers](#).

Dr. Weiner said, "Did you know that, collectively, our Virtua team has watched nearly one million Practicing Excellence tips? A number that big demonstrates an undeniable commitment to continuous improvement and a shared desire to remain connected with purpose.

"In addition to my role as the chief medical officer for VMG, I maintain patient hours in primary care, and the Practicing Excellence journey has helped both aspects of my professional life. Given how busy I am—how busy we all are!—it's nice to have unlimited access to simple, actionable tips that give focus to what matters most."

Virtua in the News

Virtua Physician Address Care for Women and the LGBTQ+ Community

With all three branches of the federal government soon to be under Republican control, many women and members of the LGBTQ+ community are worried about having continued access to certain medical treatments.

Shanin Gross, DO, lead physician at Virtua Pride Primary Care, discussed the medical community's commitment to providing gender-affirming care, which is considered medically necessary and life-saving for those who need it.

"There's no reason for panic," said Dr. Gross. "The majority of the country and certainly all of the major medical organizations fully believe this is important care, and we are not going to abandon them."

Watch on [NJTV](#).

How Digital Therapy Benefits Mental Health Support

Thanks to an emerging class of digital tools, people experiencing anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges can now have better access to the support they need. Tarun Kapoor, MD, SVP of clinical integration and digital transformation, discussed the advantages of such technology. Virtua, for instance, offers an A.I.-powered app called Woebot to provide support when a human therapist isn't immediately available. Read in [Jersey's Best](#).

Virtua Expanding Outpatient Care in Delaware

Christiana Spine Ambulatory Surgical Center (CSASC) has announced its partnership with Virtua, which expands Virtua's already-notable ASC footprint in Delaware. CSASC is located in Newark and specializes in minimally invasive spinal and pain management procedures. Read more at [EIN Presswire](#).

Virtua Earns DEI Award from Business Associations

Two statewide trade groups recently honored Virtua for its leadership in diversity, equity, and inclusion. Virtua was among eight New Jersey organizations to receive “DE&I Trailblazer” awards presented jointly by the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey and the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce.

Virtua’s recognition focused on its board of trustees, which “boasts a diverse composition—41% people of color and 35% women,” the chambers stated. They noted that Virtua’s “DE&I success is striking in another way. Their senior leadership team is 55% women and 22% people of color.”

Read in [ROI-NJ](#) and [NJBiz](#).

Medtronic Highlights Virtua’s Healthy Neighbor Program

Medical device company Medtronic recently released its Impact Report for fiscal year 2024. The report includes information about the early success of the Healthy Neighbor program offered in partnership with Virtua. Launched in 2023, Healthy Neighbor trained a team of dedicated community health workers and a registered nurse at Virtua to provide tailored support using Medtronic technology. Read the announcement [here](#).

Health Care Leaders Reflect on Big Wins for the Year

Ryan Younger, VP of strategic marketing, is one of several health care leaders nationwide to describe notable 2024 achievements with *Becker's Healthcare Review*. Ryan cites "growing tertiary programs, enhancing quality outcomes, improving the experience, advancing health equity, and creating new models of care," and how the marketing and communications team supports these advancements through research and strategy. Read in [Becker's](#).

Virtua Continues Thanksgiving Tradition of Turkey Giveaways

As part of its commitment to address food insecurity in neighborhoods with limited affordable, healthy options, Virtua is once again distributing 600 frozen turkeys and fresh produce in Willingboro and Camden. Read in the [Courier-Post](#).

Virtua Health Gala Benefits Food Access for South Jersey

The 2024 Virtua Health Gala was an inspiring evening celebrating the power of gratitude, our philanthropic partners, and our shared commitment to be here for good. More than 85 generous sponsors and 750 guests joined us at this year's event to support Virtua's Eat Well food access programs. Hear from clinicians, see the celebration, and learn about this year's honorees and beneficiary in our [event highlights video](#).

Dancing with the Mummers and Saving Lives

Michele Legenski, BSN, RN, is an assistant nurse manager, a recent Rowan graduate, a blood drive champion, a fantastic teammate, a devoted military mom, and perhaps most colorful of all—a Mummer!

In this episode of "Here for Good: Inside Edition," Dennis Pullin and Michele sit down to chat about her inspiring journey, her impactful work within and beyond the hospital, and what lies ahead in her health care career.

Click to [view the video](#).

Upcoming Events

[Pickleball With a Virtua Doctor](#)

Nov. 24, 1 to 5 p.m.

Players Courtyard Pickleball Club, Moorestown

Join Marc I. Harwood, MD, of Virtua Reconstructive Orthopedics, for pickleball and an information session on how to avoid sports injury while playing this popular sport. There will also be a pickleball instructor to help anyone looking to learn the sport or improve their game. Attendees are encouraged to wear loose-fitting clothing and sneakers appropriate for pickleball. This is a free event, and registration is required. To learn more, click this [flyer](#). Space is limited. To register click [here](#).

[Colleague Community Event: ¡HOLA! Empowerment Panel](#)

Dec. 4, 5 to 7 p.m.

Join the ¡HOLA! Colleague Community for an inspiring and empowering panel event to learn about the experiences and achievements of diverse leaders within Virtua.

[Cooks Tour \(Holiday House Tour\)](#)

Dec. 4, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Moorestown, NJ

The Virtua Memorial Auxiliaries are hosting their 58th Cooks Tour of Moorestown. Tickets are now on sale for this beloved house tour featuring five Moorestown-area homes, all beautifully decorated for the

holidays. New to the tour this year is the Smith-Cadbury Mansion, home of the Moorestown Historical Society and a witness to the American Revolution. Proceeds from the event will help Virtua's Mobile Health & Cancer Screening Unit provide free cancer screenings to our communities in need. Learn more and buy tickets [here](#).