

Clinician Update November 27, 2024

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Happy Thanksgiving!

Clinician Update is coming out a day early in advance of the Thanksgiving holiday. As clinicians, you know all too well the needs of our community never take a holiday. You are all selfless professionals and irreplaceable. You serve on the frontlines each day, and that includes holidays.

But you too have parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, and others with whom you long to celebrate. To all Virtua clinicians, thank you for being you. We thank you for your hard work each and every day and wish you and your loved ones a safe and restful celebration.

Patients Share Their Thanks for Virtua Clinicians

In this time of gratitude, it is heartwarming to share the appreciation our patients have revealed for the care they have received from their clinicians. Fully realizing we can never capture the community's endless thankfulness for all of you, we share a few recent examples as a representation of the reviews that come in daily. The below is how the patient felt about the experience, and the clinician referenced:

"I am so fortunate to have him as my doctor. Besides being extremely smart, he is caring and patient. My quality of everyday living has improved significantly. My sincere thanks!" **(Steven Baumgarten, MD)**

"Dr. Mancuso is the best doctor I've ever had. She knows my medical history and is always on top of things that may be bothering me to help resolve those issues. A 10 out of 10. Thank you so much, Dr. Mancuso, for caring for your patients!" **(Alison Mancuso, DO)**

"Special thanks to Hailey, Ashley, and Dr. Patel. Another peace of mind visit. To all the dream team receptionists. With special thanks to my very first nurse from my very first visit years ago, Miss Valerie. Thanks everyone!" **(Bhavesh Patel, DO)**

"Floriya has been so attentive to my needs. I'm a little hard-headed, but she always finds a way to convince me to what's best for me and I really appreciate that. This is by far the best medical experience I've ever had. Floriya, I'm your patient for life if you'll have me! Thank you for everything!" **(Floriya Tkachuk-Mattioli, APN)**

"Dr. Acholonu has always provided me with a great experience, and I trust him with my health and my life. I'm grateful for him and all he's done for me." **(Emeka Acholonu, MD)**

Dr. Szejman and Virtua Continue Nourishing Thanksgiving Tradition

As part of our commitment to address food insecurity in our community, Virtua again distributed free Thanksgiving turkeys and produce at Virtua Willingboro Hospital and the Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Camden .

The annual giveaway is powered by Virtua’s philanthropic supporters. Among them is Eric Szejman, MD, pulmonologist and VP of clinical operations, who has become a champion of the program. For the past six years, Dr. Szejman and his family have rallied their friends, neighbors, and colleagues to join them in easing the burden of a Thanksgiving grocery bill for others in the region.

"Thanksgiving is a time for families to come together and reflect on what matters most over a hearty meal," said Dr. Szejman. "It is gratifying and humbling to support Virtua and help make that happen for our South Jersey neighbors."

Last Friday, Virtua’s Eat Well program and colleague-volunteers gave out 600 frozen birds, along with fresh celery, onions, carrots, sweet potatoes, and Idaho potatoes. This year’s events brought the total number of Virtua-provided turkeys to 6,625 since the tradition began in 2017.

Watch on [6 ABC](#) and [NBC 10](#).

If you would like to support this annual initiative, you can do so through Virtua’s colleague giving campaign – Give For Good. Visit GiveToVirtua.org/colleagues to participate in this year’s campaign.

Give for Good: Thankful for YOU!

Virtua is pleased to extend its gratitude to the more than 900 Virtua colleagues who have already participated in Give for Good this year — THANK YOU! Your generosity is a tremendous example of our shared Culture of WE, and you are making a powerful difference for our patients, the community we serve, and each other.

If you are still considering your participation in this year’s campaign or are planning to join us on a meaningful day such as Giving Tuesday next week, know that your gift is welcome and appreciated today, tomorrow, or any day. We wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving!

Learn more and make a gift at GiveToVirtua.org/Colleagues. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Philanthropy at 856-355-0830 or gratitude@virtua.org.

Congratulations to Our 2024 Physician Leadership Program Graduates

Virtua’s Physician Leadership Program (PLP) is a nine-month nomination-based program focused on the development of physician leaders. The program culminates with graduates presenting their strategic initiatives to executive leadership. Congratulations to the 2024 PLP Cohort: Drs. Diego Ortega, Kevin Curl, Chidi Arole, Navneet Kaur, Kathleen Coakley, Gaurav Sharma, Stefan Mathews, Krysta Johns-Keating, Doug Stranges, Theresa Adeliyi, Simona Rossi, and Tolu Agunbiade.

Cardiology Grand Rounds - Pulmonary Hypertension, Dec. 18

The next cardiology grand rounds will center on the topic of pulmonary hypertension. The virtual event will take place on Wed. Dec. 18, 7 to 8 a.m., and will feature Kerri Akaya Smith, MD. Dr. Smith is clinical director of the pulmonary hypertension/ pulmonary vascular disease program at Penn Medicine. The pulmonologist is an associate professor of clinical medicine specializing in pulmonary, allergy, and critical care.

To join the event, click [here](#).

It's National Handwashing Awareness Week

Dec. 1 to 7 is National Handwashing Awareness Week. It is dedicated to helping people remain healthy—one hand wash at a time. As you well know, practicing good hand hygiene is a simple yet effective way to prevent infections.

Reviewing ACCME Integrity Standards

Standard 5: Manage Ancillary Activities Offered in Conjunction With Accredited Continuing Education (CE)

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 5.

Standard 5 applies only when there is marketing by ineligible companies or nonaccredited education associated with accredited education. Accredited providers are responsible for ensuring that education is separate from marketing by ineligible companies—including advertising, sales, exhibits, and promotion—and from nonaccredited education offered in conjunction with accredited continuing education. This standard covers live, print, online, and digital educational activities, as well as educational materials that are part of accredited education.

Click [here](#) on Digital 411 for further elaboration on Standard 5, 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.

Important Apple Device Security Update Is Available Now

Keeping your software updated is essential for maintaining the security, performance, and compatibility of your devices. Virtua Information Technology requires everyone using an Apple device, whether personal or Virtua issued, to apply the latest update released from Apple to patch a critical vulnerability. Please refer to [Apple security releases - Apple Support](#) to see the Apple devices and their latest software version. If your device software version is **earlier** the version shown, then **YOUR DEVICE IS AT RISK FOR COMPROMISE**.

Virtua in the News

Pertussis Spreading at Fastest Rates in a Decade

Whooping cough continues to spread rapidly in our area.

“The cough is severe,” explained Virtua emergency medicine physician Jeffrey Polansky, DO. “You can get fractured ribs, collapsed lungs, all sorts of complications from it.”

Watch on [CBS 3](#).

Rowan-Virtua Nursing School Partners With North Jersey Hospital

The Rowan-Virtua Rita & Larry Salva School of Nursing and Health Professions has joined forces with Holy Name Medical Center to enhance educational opportunities for the hospital’s nursing staff.

“The agreement creates an affordable and seamless pathway for Holy Name Medical Center nurses with a diploma or an associate’s degree (RN) to earn their bachelor of science in nursing (BSN),” a statewide business magazine reported.

“This partnership with Holy Name ... reflects our commitment to elevating nursing excellence through advanced education,” said Angela Ruckdeschel, PhD, the Salva School’s undergraduate program director. “Together, we’re empowering nurses with the skills and knowledge needed to deliver exceptional patient care and meet the evolving demands of the health care landscape.”

Read in [New Jersey Business Magazine](#).

Ronald McDonald House Provides Comfort to NICU Families

A special “Family Room” at Virtua Voorhees Hospital serves as a refuge for parents when their newborn must stay in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). Provided by Ronald McDonald House Charities, the peaceful room—outfitted with comfy furniture, snacks, and a partial kitchen—gives families a private place to relax and regroup between time spent at their baby’s bedside.

Lauren Poulson and Dan Krut’s first baby, Charlotte, was in the Virtua NICU this fall after her premature birth at just 22 weeks and 6 days. The couple regularly went to the Ronald McDonald House Family Room on the NICU floor each day while Charlotte had “little procedures done,” said Lauren.

“Sometimes we get to see other families who are going through similar things,” she added, noting that these connections can help parents feel less alone.

Watch on [CBS 3](#) as part of the station’s annual telethon benefitting Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Practicing Excellence: Keys to Lifting Teammates

As we continue our Practicing Excellence "Best of the Best" series, we're excited to highlight another valuable tip. This week, we turn our attention to fostering positive team dynamics and recognizing the power of kind words.

Tip 2: The Power of Positive Reinforcement

Angela McNichol, director of talent and engagement, shares her insights on the importance of uplifting our colleagues:

"Throughout my career, I have seen how words of reinforcement can instantly elevate someone's mood and outlook. That is why I selected [What Teams Say About Each Other Tip #3: Keys to Lifting Teammates](#) for this week's Practicing Excellence tip.

"As the video demonstrates, kindness has a scientifically proven ripple effect. Regardless of role or setting, all of us can be 'team lifters.' Sometimes, it's just a matter of pausing and recognizing excellence when we see it."

Upcoming Events

Virtua Holiday Gatherings

As December brings in the cheer of the holiday season, Virtua is excited to invite you to our Holiday Gatherings. Join us for a joyful celebration—check out the [detailed schedule](#) and save the dates. We look forward to everyone coming together to connect, share, and enjoy a festive meal. Feel free to attend the gathering at the campus closest to you. Let's come together as one big Virtua family and make the season memorable.

World AIDS Day

Dec. 1 marks World AIDS Day, an annual event commemorating those lost to AIDS and raising awareness about AIDS and HIV. HIV remains a global health challenge, with an estimated 40 million people living with the virus. This year's theme, *Collective Action: Sustain and Accelerate HIV*, underscores the importance of continued efforts to bridge the gap toward equitable care for all. Learn more about the action plan to address [HIV service equity gaps among key populations](#).

[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](#).