

## Clinician Update September 26, 2024

Listen to an abbreviated [audio version](#) of this issue.

### Are You Ready for Epic Secure Chat?

Virtua Health is transitioning to Epic Secure Chat as part of the October Epic upgrade\* on **Thursday, Oct. 10** (downtime starts on Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 11 p.m.) for all person-to-person clinical secure messaging. Secure Chat will replace QliqCHAT for clinical communications and will be available in Epic on workstations as well as through Haiku and Rover. In preparation, any clinician who would like to use Secure Chat on their personal mobile device should download and activate Epic Haiku if they have not already done so. Please note that if you download/activate Haiku, Secure Chat will not be available until go-live on Oct. 10.

To download Haiku:

- **On the mobile device you wish to add Haiku on**, please visit the [Virtua Digital 411](#) site.
- Click on the "Virtua Haiku Activation Instructions" link in the right-hand column.
- Follow the instructions listed there.

Please note that you must have a minimum of Apple iOS version 16 or Android OS version 11 to use Haiku on your mobile device.

If you currently have Epic and Haiku Rover access, there is nothing you need to do. Secure Chat will be available to you after the upgrade is complete. Some helpful tip sheets regarding using Secure Chat are available below.

If you encounter any technical issues, please submit a ticket through the [IT Customer Portal](#). A dedicated tile is being set up for Secure Chat issues. To utilize it, click the link above, click "Go-Live Related Issues" and look for the tile labeled "Secure Chat."

#### **Tip Sheets**

[Tip Sheet Index for Secure Chat](#) (Contains all current Secure Chat tip sheets)

[Secure Chat Overview – Hyperspace Quick Start Guide](#)

[Secure Chat Overview – Haiku for iOS Users](#)

[Secure Chat Overview – Haiku for Android Users](#)

[How to Access Epic Remotely and On-Site](#)

### Virtua Pulmonology & Sleep Medicine Expands Services to Mullica Hill

Virtua Pulmonology & Sleep Medicine has opened a location at 412 Ewan Road, Suite E2-C, in Mullica Hill. The site now joins a growing cohort of pulmonology centers treating the lung and respiratory conditions of our community.

“Mullica Hill is yet another multidisciplinary practice, specializing in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine,” said Eric Szejman, MD, vice president of clinical operations for VMG. “Our pulmonary medicine specialists across Virtua use the latest, evidence-based treatment methods to identify and treat every lung condition.”

The services provided are the same as those at the other Virtua pulmonary locations— Cherry Hill, Marlton at Route 70, Marlton at Route 73, Bordentown, Moorestown, Willingboro, Hammonton, and Washington Township. “We evaluate, diagnose, and treat disorders of the lungs and sleep, including asthma, COPD, breathing difficulties, sleep disorders, and acute pulmonary problems such as pneumonia,” said Dr. Szejman.

Stay tuned for expansion into Linwood in Atlantic County later in October.

## Advancing the Patient Experience

We’re on Week 25 of our Practicing Excellence journey. Today’s tip can be found in the [Week 25 Guide](#).

This week, the organization shines a spotlight on *Track 5: Acute Care Staff*. They are watching the tip, [“Owning It When Things Go Wrong.”](#) This tip encourages reflection when things go wrong and rising to the challenge of owning, responding, and learning from difficult situations.

## 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:

“My visit to the facility was very nice. The staff was wonderful and professional. I was so happy to meet Dr. Delcine Sood, as she was very caring and informative. I couldn't have asked for a more pleasant doctor's visit.” (Delcine Sood, DO)

“I wanted to find a cardiologist to address some issues I was having and was very pleased to be scheduled with Dr. Sauerwein. He has a great bedside manner. He listened to me and shared his thoughts about my concerns. He ordered some tests and said he'd discuss the results with me when they were done. The entire staff was terrific! Highly recommend!” (Anthony Sauerwein, MD)

“She is outstanding, an excellent doctor with a gentle, caring manner. She diagnosed the problem and treated it effectively. I am very grateful.” (Alissa Brotman O'Neill, DO)

“Very informative, caring, and good bedside manner. Made us feel comfortable and treated us with kindness and concern.” (Erin M. Alpaugh, PA)

“She is a very caring, compassionate person and always explains everything carefully, in an easy-to-understand way. She is very encouraging and kind. Her staff is very friendly and accommodating. Appointments are on time; very little, if any, wasted time spent in the waiting room. The all-around best of the best!” (Parveen Verma, DO)

## Transform Trial Compares Strategies of Care for Cardiovascular Event Reduction

Virtua Research periodically shares trials for your consideration. The Transform trial is a prospective, controlled, randomized, open blinded endpoint, event-driven pragmatic trial in patients who are at increased risk for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (CVD) but with no known symptomatic cardiovascular disease. A brief synopsis of the eligibility criteria is listed below. Physician colleagues are vital to the success of the research program, even when they are not participating as investigators. Mark Finch, MD, medical director of Virtua Cardiac Imaging, is the principal investigator for this trial.

The current primary CVD prevention strategy relies upon risk stratification using population health markers such as age, sex, diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia, and tobacco use, with preventive therapy intensified in higher-risk strata. Since these risk factors are indirect surrogate markers of the underlying disease, atherosclerosis, this strategy leads to the treatment of individuals with risk factors who do not have atherosclerosis and failure to treat those with significant atherosclerosis who lack risk factors.

The trial tests the hypothesis that a Cleerly Coronary Artery Disease (CAD) Staging System-based care strategy reduces CV events compared with risk factor-based care. The Cleerly CAD Staging System uses coronary computed tomography angiography (CCTA)-based visualization and quantitative analysis to categorize individuals' atherosclerosis severity. This trial is designed to address the unmet need for more accurate risk stratification of asymptomatic individuals at increased risk for CV events and to personalize their treatment based on CV risk estimates using CAD visualization and quantification. CCTA is a noninvasive imaging modality that enables the visualization and quantitative analysis and staging of the extent and severity of coronary atherosclerosis.

Here are just a few of the inclusion/exclusion criteria:

- Inclusion—Men > 55, women > 65 years of age, type 2 diabetes mellitus requiring pharmacologic therapy
- Exclusion—History of symptomatic CVD defined as prior MI, exertional or unstable angina, ischemic stroke, claudication, arterial revascularization for atherosclerosis, or other CVD being actively managed by a cardiologist, e.g. heart failure

The remaining inclusion/exclusion criteria are extensive and can be shared by reaching out to our research team.

If you have a patient who meets the criteria above, please contact the Virtua Research team at [research@virtua.org](mailto:research@virtua.org) and a research coordinator will review their eligibility with you.

## Internal Audit of Continuing Medical Education (CME) Programs

The Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine and Virtua Health's Continuing Nursing Education Department are on the journey to obtain Joint Accreditation (JA). JA is a designation for interprofessional continuing education. Preparations are under way with the goal of submitting the self-study by June 1, 2025. This designation is highly desirable and creates a more collaborative, team-based approach to continuing education and, in turn, clinical practice.

Virtua's Continuing Education Department is conducting an internal audit of our current CME programs that are categorized as Regular Scheduled Series (RSS) to ensure these programs are compliant with current policies. **If you are the program lead of a CME program that is a RSS, our CE team is asking that you please send the following documents to [cme-cne@virtua.org](mailto:cme-cne@virtua.org) by October 1.** These documents include:

- An updated RSS tracker form—this form identifies dates, speakers, and topics
- Program outcomes—all programs identify their own set of metrics which they hope to move
- The last few months of minutes from these meetings—we need to determine if the credits awarded are still appropriate

If you have any questions, please contact [cme-cne@virtua.org](mailto:cme-cne@virtua.org).

## Meet The Mind Behind Woebot

Alison Darcy, PhD, is driven by her passion for the intersection of mental health, psychology, and technology. She founded Woebot—an AI-driven app designed to be your pocket-sized emotional support companion.

In the latest episode of "Here for Good," Virtua President and CEO Dennis Pullin sits down with Dr. Darcy to discuss how this groundbreaking tool is making mental health support more accessible.

Click to [view the video](#) or to listen on your favorite podcast platform.

## LAST CALL: Vote for Virtua in the NJBIZ 2024 Reader Rankings

Statewide business magazine *NJBIZ* has released the finalists for its annual Reader Rankings. Virtua is a nominee in five categories within the health care division. They are:

- Family Medicine Practice(s): Virtua Medical Group
- Health Care System: Virtua Health
- Home Care Agency: Virtua Home Health Services
- Hospital(s): Virtua Health
- Physician Group: Virtua Medical Group

**Individuals can vote once a day in each category through Sunday, Sept. 29.** Please note: You will need to supply an email address to vote. Learn more and cast your votes here: [Reader Rankings 2024 - NJBIZ](#)

## Upcoming Events

### **Hepatology and Gastroenterology Updates: Closing the Gaps, Oct. 5**

In this CME session at the Virtua Barry D. Brown Health Education Center on **Saturday, Oct. 5**, participants will be able to:

- Diagnose, evaluate, and treat alcoholic hepatitis
- Recognize updates on new advanced and endoscopic techniques, such as transgastric liver biopsy
- Understand nonsurgical treatment options for liver tumors by interventional radiology
- Create a platform that allows the providers within the network to manage patients with hepatobiliary and GI diseases collaboratively, as well as empower communication with advanced care

Speakers include Simona Rossi, MD; Charles Snyder, MD; Ashraf Malek, MD; Nyan Latt, MD; Joseph Broudy, MD; Ely Sebastian, MD; Raman Battish, MD; and Brian Colangelo, LCSW.

For more details, including CME accreditation, registration information, the agenda, and more, [click here](#).

### **Virtua's Heart Health Fair, Oct. 5, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

401 Young Avenue, Moorestown

Spread the word about this free event open to the public, rain or shine, under tents in the employee parking lot at the Virtua Health & Wellness Center — Moorestown.

The public can:

- Tour our facilities and learn about our services
- Participate in health screenings
- Relax with a chair massage
- Let the kids enjoy face painting and balloon artists
- Enjoy healthy snacks and giveaways and enjoy music from our live DJ
- Join a short fitness session with our instructor
- Meet clinicians and practitioners for heart-healthy information sessions
- Take a "walk with a doc" to get your steps in for the day
- Check out our EMS and mobile screening vehicles

To learn more and register for activities, [click here](#).

### **Slicer-Dicer for Researchers, Oct. 8, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

303 Lippincott Drive, Marlton, Training Rooms 1 & 2

This is an interactive session with researchers to learn how to use the Slicer-Dicer in Epic to obtain information for feasibility or sponsored research studies, as well as how to find and collect data for investigator-initiated studies. Click to [view the flyer](#).

### **Interprofessional Critical Care Symposium, Oct. 18**

The Virtua Center for Nursing Excellence and Innovation, in collaboration with Virtua critical care leadership, will be hosting its [first critical care symposium](#). This interprofessional, accredited event will include presentations on advanced heart failure, cardiovascular surgery, organ transplantation, complex technology in the ICU setting, and much more. The target audience is physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice nurses, medical fellows, nurses, pharmacists, and medical residents.

Participants will be able to:

- Discuss strategies for improving patient outcomes, including respiratory management of ARDS, hemodynamic management, and pharmacological interventions
- Foster collaboration of the interprofessional team to promote best practices in the care of complex patients
- Explore technological advances in critical care and their practical applications

Presenters will include Gary Weissman, MD, MSHP; Emilio Mazza, MD, PhD; Tolulope Agunbiade, MD; Dan Choi, MD; Michael Lee, MD; Janine Vallen, MSN, RN, CCTN, APN-C; Ann Thompson, DO; Mikel Shea Ehnholt, MD; Joanne Phillips, DNP, RN, CPPS, NEA-BC, FCNS; Kavitha Dalal, PharmD; and Donna Wixted, MS, RD.

The event will take place **Friday, Oct. 18, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**, at the Barry D. Brown Health and Education Center (the HEC) in Voorhees. For more details, including CME accreditation, registration information, the agenda, and more, click [here](#).

## **IDEA – Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity for All**

Throughout October, Virtua joins the world in celebrating [Global Diversity Awareness Month](#). We recognize the power of respecting and connecting with people from diverse backgrounds.

### **National Disability Employment Awareness Month:**

Originally a week-long event, [National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#) has become a month-long celebration since 1998. This year's theme, set by the U.S. Department of Labor, is "Access to Good Jobs for All." Virtua is committed to highlighting employment opportunities and solutions for people with disabilities.

In fact, we're excited to welcome a new colleague community: Virtua is Achieving Better Life Equity (VisABLE). Their mission is to empower colleagues who are neurodivergent, differently-abled, or have special needs. VisABLE provides a space for sharing knowledge, stories, and experiences, fostering respect, support, and inclusion.

**Cultural Celebrations:**

- [Polish American History Month](#): October recognizes the significant contributions of Polish Americans.
- [LGBT History Month](#): Established in 1994, this month raises awareness about the history of the LGBTQ+ community in the U.S.
- [Rosh Hashanah](#): Shana Tova! We extend our wishes to those observing Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, which begins at sunset on **Oct. 2** and ends on **Oct. 4**. This significant holiday marks the world's creation and is a time for reflection and renewal.