

Clinician Update

September 28, 2023

New Bronchial Challenge Test Offered at Virtua Marlton

For your patients who are having persistent respiratory distress such as shortness of breath or cough, Virtua has a new diagnostic tool that offers a quick and easy alternative to the more demanding exercise testing.

The Virtua Marlton Hospital Pulmonary Function Lab is now offering a new bronchial challenge test utilizing Aridol, which is a form of Mannitol. This test is used to assess patients experiencing respiratory symptoms and suspected of having asthma or exercise-induced bronchoconstriction.

“Clinicians should consider this test to assess for asthma when spirometry is normal,” said Angel Rodis, MD, pulmonary/critical care medical director. “It’s also an option to determine the level of airway inflammation, or to monitor asthma treatment response.”

The Virtua Marlton Hospital Pulmonary Function Lab offers the full array of diagnostic services needed to address respiratory cases. To learn more about this bronchial challenge test, reach Kimberly Luca, director of respiratory at Virtua Marlton and Voorhees hospitals at kluca@virtua.org. To contact the lab directly, call 856-355-6567.

A Magnet Moment at Virtua Health

Virtua Marlton Hospital is proud to have achieved [Magnet Recognition](#) through the American Nurses Credentialing Center. This is the highest level of recognition a nursing program can achieve in the United States, with only [10% of the nation’s hospitals](#) having earned Magnet status. For our valued patients, this means the very best care, delivered by nurses who are supported to be the very best that they can be.

Practicing Excellence at Virtua

Thank you for your commitment to Practicing Excellence! This week, we invite you to focus on the invaluable insights provided in [Week 26 guide](#), our final set of tips in our *Patient Experience* journey.

Topics include *Conveying Compassion*, *Sending Home*, *Knowing your Flow*, *Discharge*, and *Finishing Strong*.

It is no surprise that confidence in the *Sending Home* portion of 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:

“You gave me the tools to be what I am right now, to feel like a new person. Can’t be more proud and happy to say that Dr. Sharma is my surgeon.” (Gaurav S. Sharma, MD)

“He was incredibly thorough and truly took his time in answering all our questions and concerns. His entire team in MFM made us feel incredibly welcome, and everyone went above and beyond. Very grateful and really looking forward to be working with him and his team throughout my pregnancy!” (Shailen Shah, MD)

(Translated from Spanish) “Excellent doctor, very happy to find someone like him. If I could, I would give him more stars. He makes you feel confident and looks for the solution. I have seen the change in my health after he treated my heart condition.” (Vasu Palli, DO)

As we near the end of the inaugural program, here’s what you can look forward to as we continue our journey.

What happens when we conclude the *Patient Experience* program?

We will take the first few weeks of October to celebrate the achievement. After all, it is truly exceptional to have thousands of health care professionals learn and grow alongside each other in this meaningful way. Then, beginning the week of Oct. 23, all colleagues will participate in a single, custom-built Practicing Excellence program that will run through the end of 2023.

How can I “share the good” about this accomplishment?

After you complete the final tip in your *Patient Experience* program, you will receive an email from Practicing Excellence via Credly (admin@credly.com). This email contains a link to the badge you have earned and provides an easy way for you to share the achievement on social media, including LinkedIn. Sharing is an outstanding way to demonstrate your commitment to yourself, your team, and to excellent experiences.

Will the fall-winter program have different learning tracks for different colleagues (such as emergency room staff, ambulatory nurses, etc.)?

No. Unlike the current *Patient Experience* program (in which nine learning tracks were created for different job functions/locations), this next program will be the same across all of Virtua. We will implement learning tracks in the future for more advanced, site-specific content—but that will be sometime in 2024.

Can I still catch up if I have fallen behind in the *Patient Experience* program?

Yes! Please catch up on tips you might have missed within your learning track. As always, you are welcome to view tips outside of your learning track too. Details can be found on the [Colleague Corner](#).

Thank you for your commitment to Practicing Excellence and the Patient Experience journey. We welcome your feedback. Email your thoughts to VirtuaClinician@virtua.org.

[Virtua’s ASCs Members Gather for Milestone Retreat](#)

Virtua's Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) network this week hosted its first in-person annual retreat in four years. So much has evolved since this team last met in the fall of 2019. "As we all too well know, the medical community has heroically navigated the trials of a pandemic," said Barry Graf, senior VP of partnerships and business development. "Despite the challenges, here we are, and we have nearly doubled our network in size."

Virtua's ASC network comprises over 40 surgery centers in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware—all state-of-the-art health care facilities that transform the outpatient experience and provide the highest caliber care for diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and surgery.

The theme of the retreat was "Who are we and getting to know you." The members were welcomed by Virtua executive leadership, Dennis Pullin, president and CEO, as well as John Matsinger, DO, MBA, EVP and COO, and Bob Segin, EVP and CFO. The daylong event at the Barry D. Brown Health Education Center provided the opportunity for the leadership team of each center to look back at how far the network has grown, while also attaining support and resources on the latest in infection prevention, regulatory updates, IT and overall security, and online reputation.

"But most importantly," stressed Monte Goldstein, MD, ASC chief medical officer of the ASC network, "This retreat provided us all the personal reward of getting together as one, to meet the friendly faces we know virtually so well. Ours is truly a great group, a family, and it is so good to welcome everyone here."

Virtua's ambulatory surgery centers provide a safe and convenient alternative to hospital-based outpatient care, with a strong track record of positive patient outcomes and satisfaction. All the facilities are state licensed, nationally accredited and Medicare certified, ensuring adherence to the highest quality and safety standards. *Newsweek* recently recognized 14 Virtua ASCs in the top 26 ASCs in New Jersey.

Click [here](#) to see a map of all the ASCs in the Virtua network.

Virtua in the News

Dr. Topiel Shares Advice on Vaccinations

As we head into flu and cold season, Martin Topiel, MD, head of infectious diseases, offered his expert advice on the importance of getting vaccinated this fall against flu, COVID-19, and RSV. Last year, high levels of these viruses inundated hospitals. Read in [PhillyVoice](#).

Virtua Displays Mobile Health Fleet in Camden

About 150 guests spent a recent evening with Virtua's unique fleet of mobile health vehicles—including our innovative new cancer screening unit, Eat Well Mobile Grocery Store and Farmers Market, and pediatric mobile services van, as well as our high-tech emergency response and patient transport units. Guests included Virtua's generous donors, community leaders, and other loyal friends, as well as famed Philly chef and food access advocate Jose Garces. Watch on [PHL 17](#) and [Fox29](#).

Here for Good: Inside Edition Presents

Greg Pease: AVP, Officer, Dad, and Coach

At Virtua, Greg Pease holds the title of AVP of security, but his impact spreads far beyond the office walls—he's also a cornerstone of the Camden community. Joining host Dennis Pullin on "[Here for Good: Inside Edition](#)," Greg shares that his deep roots in Camden come from years of service in the sheriff's and police departments.

Still an active community member, he's known for beautifying the neighborhoods and advocating for residents' health and wellness. But that's not all. As a father of three and passionate about sports, Greg's influence reaches athletes at all levels, from little league to high school, serving as a mentor both on and off the field.

Click to [learn more](#) about Greg Pease.

Musicians on Call Back in Swing

Last night, the WXPB Musicians On Call program resumed at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, providing bedside performances by Dave Falcone and guided by longtime volunteer Liz Shaw. Patients, families, and staff on Virtua-Lourdes 3East/West and PCU were delighted.

A reminder for future stops, **volunteers are needed to escort the musicians**, communicate with staff and patients, and heighten the MOC experience. Volunteers know the protocols, policies, and expectations, and are responsible for making sure these guidelines are upheld during the shift. Guides must commit to volunteering once a month for at least one year. The in-person programs are usually held once a week in the early evening.

To learn more on how to apply, visit <https://www.musiciansoncall.org/most-important-gig/>.

While the in-person program is held at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes, know that every week there is an [ongoing virtual program](#)—with offerings in Spanish—that benefits all of the Virtua community. Use hospital code **lourdes** to access.

Virtua Hand Surgeon Comments on Arts and Healing

A new study backs up the rewards of Musicians on Call. It shows how engaging with arts and culture has proven to improve mental and physical well-being. Research from the University of Florida Center for Arts in Medicine's EpiArts Lab shows that—across age groups and demographics—people who engage in the arts live longer, healthier lives. For example, going to a museum or concert just once or twice a month has a similar protective value to health as exercising for an hour or two per week, according to [EpiArts Lab](#) which compiles research and discussion on the impact of art on health.

For hand surgeon and ballroom dancer Eric Strauss, MD, the impact of arts and healing is a natural. "While I would not say 'Take 2 dance classes and call me in the morning' to heal a certain hand ailment," said Dr. Strauss, who was not part of the study but is an advocate for the arts, "I would be a proponent of dance as art if it's physically an option. I'd suggest any art, for that matter, to be worthwhile. And as seen in this study, there are potential health benefits to just appreciating art. Arts have a way of creating a positive aura for a patient, ever important in the healing process."

Dr. Strauss is a competitive swing and salsa dancer. For him, the arts are a great asset in bringing about the well-being of an individual. "Maybe it's the expression as a healthy release from deep within, or the shared expression of that experience with others, or the joy of creativity, of 'doing' and appreciating the 'welcoming' of art, that brings so much good out of us. So, yes, it can be a real positive."

Upcoming Events

Last Call: All Clinicians Invited to Learn from Liver Disease Experts, Sept. 30

Where do you begin with fatty liver disease? That topic is just one of several that clinicians can learn more about in an upcoming CME opportunity. "At Virtua, we provide comprehensive care for all types of liver disease," said Chief of Hepatology Simona Rossi, MD. "This education session is designed to empower you to confidently evaluate and care for patients with this multifaceted disease, from the most common to the most complex."

Virtua Advanced Transplant & Organ Health invites all clinicians to learn from the experts as they speak on a variety of topics across the spectrum of liver care at "The Non-Hepatologist's Guide to Caring for Patients with Liver Disease" at the Barry D. Brown Health Education Center (HEC) on Saturday, Sept. 30, with collaborative sessions 8 to 11:15 a.m.

Click [here](#) to register. For CME information and details, click to [view the flyer](#). For the day's agenda, click [here](#). For more information, please contact Natalie Frament at NFrament@virtua.org or 215-528-1195.

Spread the Word: "Walk with a Virtua Doctor"

Denne (Donee) Thomas-Patterson, MD, of Virtua Primary Care will be walking with the community on Saturday, Oct. 7 from 8:30 to 10:15 a.m. The event will feature a wellness discussion and guided stroll through Croft Farm on Bortons Mill Road in Cherry Hill. Dr. Thomas-Patterson will lead a discussion about healthy living, including fitness, nutrition, stress and more, followed by the wellness walk.

We urge you to share this information with your patients and friends. Registration is not needed. Click [here](#) for more information, including address and parking details.

Haddon Avenue Street Festival *This Saturday*

The annual Haddon Avenue Street Festival is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 30, 12 to 6 p.m. Virtua is a proud supporter of the street festival, which lines Haddon Avenue just a few blocks north of Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital between Kaighn Avenue and Mechanic Street.

Presented by Parkside Business & Community in Partnership (PBCIP), the free annual event features musical performances, giveaways, social services, and family fun. There will be food, clothing, jewelry, music, and art, as well as a kid's fun zone with moon bounce, video game truck, pop-up basketball games, face painting, and a children's book festival. Virtua's Community Health Engagement colleagues will be on hand with health screenings and wellness education, seated chair massages, as well as with exhibits from Virtua Home Health and Virtua Heart Failure. To learn more, click [here](#).

Relay for Life, This Saturday in Moorestown

The Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Cancer Program is proud to support the Relay For Life of Moorestown this Saturday, Sept. 30, from 8 to 9 p.m. The event includes a beautiful luminaria ceremony that will light up the Moorestown High School track in honor of every life touched by cancer. Learn more at relayforlife.org/moorestownregion.

Virtua Clinicians Share Expertise in Real Talk! Women's Health Chats

Virtua primary care advanced practice nurse Heather Guiliano, APN, and Laurie Greene, an anthropologist, yoga expert, and owner of Yoga Nine Studios, recently shared the benefits of mind-body workouts for overall health and wellness in a Real Talk! Health Chat entitled "Yoga for the Mind-Heart Connection." Click [here](#) for a recording.

Two more chats are scheduled for 2023. If you know any individuals who may benefit from the following discussions, pass it on:

Breaking The Silence: 3 Hidden Health Issues Women Often Face Alone

Date: Thursday, Oct. 19

Time: 7 p.m.

Virtua OB/GYNs and minimally invasive GYN surgeons Geoffrey Bowers, MD, and Minda Green, MD, will reveal how and when to talk to your GYN provider about your symptoms and share solutions that can give you your life back.

Many women "go it alone" when they experience life-interrupting symptoms like heavy bleeding, pelvic pain, and pain with sex. It's common to think it's nothing or feel embarrassed talking about it. But it's not nothing, and you're not alone.

Feeling Fabulous Over 60

Date: Thursday, Nov. 16

Time: 7 p.m.

Virtua cardiologist Maria Duca, MD, and Virtua women's primary care physician Liesl Miles, MD, will break down everything you need to know about feeling your best at any age, from screenings to diet, nutrition, and more.

Your body goes through many changes as you get older. Your skin feels different. Your joints ache. And you have an expanding waistline that doesn't shrink no matter how hard you try. It's important to know that these changes are typical for most women, and there are things you can do to help.

[Register for free for one or both of these events.](#)

Family Shares Their Gratitude for Virtua's NICU Team

As NICU Awareness Month wraps up, we are especially honored to share this heartfelt [video](#) of a grateful family who was inspired to give back to Virtua in honor of their extraordinary NICU team who so lovingly cared for their baby boy.

Kaitlin and Wes Johnson spent 67 days visiting their son, "Little Wes," in the NICU at Virtua Voorhees Hospital after he was born prematurely at 31 weeks. This summer, the new parents hosted a Christmas in July fundraising event held at their family farm, Johnson's Locust Hall. By building awareness about premature birth and giving back to support other babies like theirs, the Johnsons are putting their gratitude into action and creating a lasting impact.

Today, Little Wes is thriving and getting ready to celebrate two new milestones: his second birthday and becoming a big brother! To view the video, click [here](#).

Learn more about The Lasting Impact Project and see our most recent list of honorees at www.virtua.org/gratitude.

Virtua Health to Host its Annual Gala on Nov. 4

The 2023 Virtua Health Gala is set for Saturday, Nov. 4 at the Borgata Hotel, Casino, and Spa in Atlantic City. The annual black-tie event promises to be an inspiring and uplifting evening celebrating the power of philanthropy. Medtronic Chairman and CEO Geoff Martha will be honored at the event as Virtua's 2023 Humanitarian of the Year. We will also present George F. Lynn, Virtua Health trustee, with a Distinguished Service Award. Proceeds from the gala will benefit Virtua's Eat Well food access programs, which bring fresh, healthy food to under-resourced communities in southern New Jersey.

To join us as a sponsor of the gala or to purchase tickets, please visit www.GiveToVirtua.org/Gala.

IDEA – Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity for All

October is Global Diversity Awareness Month, which recognizes various cultures, traditions, and benefits of diversity. Each week in October, we will share facts and resources to grow your Global Diversity Awareness knowledge. We share below some upcoming events.

Raise a Brush to Our Culture

Date: Oct. 3, 5 to 8 p.m.

Place: Virtua Barry D. Brown Health Education Center (106 Carnie Boulevard, Voorhees)

Book your seat today: [Raise a Brush to Our Culture](#)

Haddon Township Pride Events, Supported by OUT at Virtua

Date: Oct. 5 and 6

Place: Haddon Township

Participate with your OUT at Virtua colleagues: [Sign up for details](#)

Exploring Culture and Career Paths, Presented by VirtuAsia

Date: Oct. 19, 5 to 7 p.m.

Place: Be Well Bistro, 303 Lippincott Drive, Marlton

Click to register: [Exploring Culture and Career Paths, presented by VirtuAsia](#)