

Clinician Update

September 29, 2022

Positive Results for Virtua Integrated Network

Great news from Virtua Integrated Network (VIN)! They successfully achieved shared savings from the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) for the full performance year 2021. VIN surpassed the minimum savings rate of 1.5%, with actual savings of 3.22%. This resulted in general savings of over \$3.4 million, with 50% of the earned savings approaching \$1.7 million.

The results include a quality score of 86.27%. When compared to peer accountable care organizations (ACOs), VIN outperformed them in the majority (59%) of metrics. Further, while VIN had more than double the number of metrics to follow in 2021 compared to 2022, it succeeded in improving year-over-year in 70% of those metrics. They achieved this result while navigating the pandemic.

“We have much to celebrate,” said Donna Antenucci, RN, BSN, senior vice president of Virtua’s Clinically Integrated Network and president of VIN. “These positive results are a reflection of our strong collaboration and the commitment of providers who have continued their careful attention to supporting our community’s health care needs through a coordinated-care approach, resulting in high-quality, person-centered care.”

Introducing a High-Reliability Communication Series, Just for Virtua Clinicians

Virtua Health has been on a journey to become a high-reliability organization, or HRO, and that would not be possible without the deep commitment of our clinicians. To support this effort, we are initiating a series of communications dedicated to your role in Virtua’s HRO journey. Everyone is at a different level of knowledge and experience. To create a level playing field, we’ll start with the basics.

First, **what is an HRO?** If you are unfamiliar with an HRO, they are organizations that operate in highly complex, hazardous domains (e.g. airlines, nuclear power plants, amusement parks, aircraft carriers, etc.), while going for extended periods of time without serious accidents or catastrophic failures.

An excellent example that parallels with the complexity of health care is that of a military aircraft carrier. On an aircraft carrier, aircraft take off and land every 48 to 60 seconds. They operate under significant production pressures. They have constantly changing conditions, yet they manage to avoid catastrophic failures. Aircraft carriers are able to do this because all personnel **consistently prioritize** safety over everything else, and they have the authority and responsibility to make real-time operational adjustments to maintain safe operations.

Health care is similar! We face production pressures every day. Providers see multiple patients, each with different and unique medical and personal needs. At the same time, society is ever-changing and the health care landscape and environment is dynamic. In essence, we are operating under constantly changing conditions. In order for us to achieve a safety record of an HRO, or similar to the team on the aircraft carrier we must embody the HRO principles outlined here. [Click here to read more.](#)

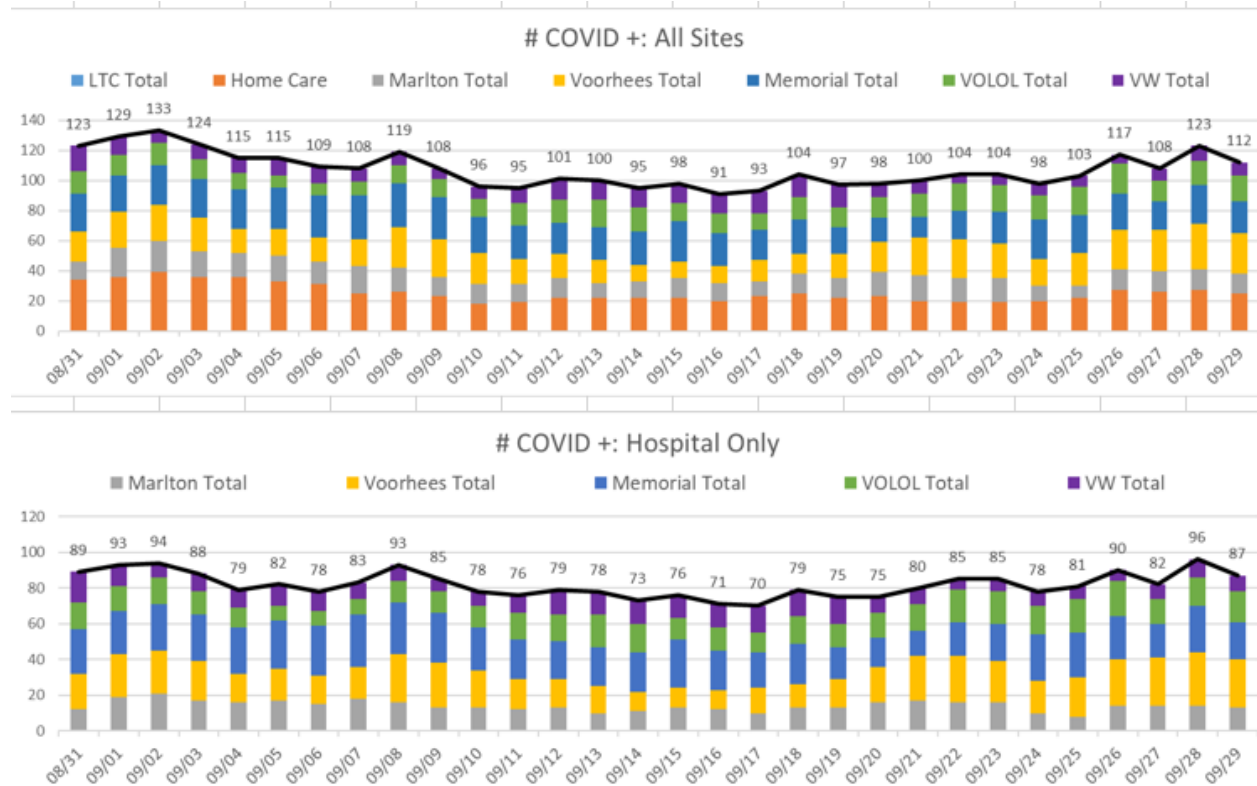
Kidney Transplant Recipient from NJ Meets their Donor from Texas

On **June 8**, Roy McIntosh, age 48, of Mays Landing underwent a kidney transplant at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. His new kidney came from a living donor he had never met: a woman from Texas named Heather Schaefer, who saw and seized an opportunity to help a stranger. And just a few weeks

after surgery, Roy and Heather finally met for the very first time. See their touching meeting and learn more about the remote transplant process that brought them together in this [video](#).

Click for [more information about transplant services at Virtua Advanced Transplant & Organ Health](#).

COVID-19 Census



Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey is currently 1.16.
- The total number of cases reported as of 3 p.m. today:
 - Atlantic County 65,354 cases
 - Burlington County: 103,651 cases
 - Camden County: 125,752 cases
 - Gloucester County: 64,335 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, and Atlantic counties: 4,877.
- The state's Vaccination Overview dashboard reported 18,842,993 doses of vaccine have been administered.

Accolades in Order:

- In case you missed it, Virtua posted and celebrated **Syed Riaz, MD, and his 100th robotic bronchoscopy surgery** on the [Virtua Facebook page](#). This minimally invasive procedure allows us to access and biopsy small, hard-to-reach growths in the lungs. We can now reach up to 90% of suspicious nodules—versus 60% with traditional bronchoscopies. Congrats to our pulmonology team on this important milestone.

- **Another First in State for Virtua Cardiac Team!** Last week, the Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes cath lab team performed the first-in-state, percutaneous lead vegetation extraction—*without* general anesthesia or the need for heart-lung pump. You can read the details direct from the team by checking out [Dr. Ibrahim Moussa's LinkedIn post here](#). The procedure was followed by a laser lead extraction by Virtua's heart rhythm experts. Great teamwork!
- Kudos to Virtua cardiologist **Ramneet Wadehra, DO, for being honored with the Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine's Volunteer Faculty Teaching Award**. Dr. Wadehra noted that the award reflects the dedication of all his cardiology colleagues who spend much time teaching and mentoring RSOM's fellows, residents, and medical students.
- Congratulations to Virtua Orthopedic Surgeon Sean McMillan, DO, FAOAO, FAAOS, FAANA, who co-authored [For Your Consideration: Bridge Enhanced ACL Restoration \(BEAR\): Why, How, and When](#) published this month in the *Journal of Orthopaedic Experience and Innovation*.

Virtua in the News

- **Virtua Pride Primary Care Offers Monkeypox Vaccine**—Virtua Pride Primary Care—dedicated to the health needs of LGBTQ+ people and allies—is among a limited number of local sites offering the vaccination. Available at no cost to recipients, the shot can prevent monkeypox in those at high risk for exposure. It also can lessen symptoms in those with a confirmed diagnosis—especially when given quickly after the appearance of symptoms, ideally within four days. Read in [The Trentonian](#). (FYI: The total number of monkeypox cases in New Jersey reported as of today: **706**.)
- **Adults Should Get Routine Anxiety Screenings, Panel Says**—The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force has recommended that primary care doctors regularly screen all adult patients under age 65 for anxiety. Dr. Sam Weiner, vice president and chief medical officer of Virtua Medical Group, discussed the importance of such screenings in this [KYW Newsradio](#) story.
- **Virtua Leader Dennis Pullin Honored by Statewide Publication**—Business magazine *ROI-NJ* has named Virtua President and CEO Dennis W. Pullin to its “People of Color Influencers – Top 20” list for 2022. The publication cites Virtua's partnership with Rowan University among Pullin's “many big wins of late.” View the full list [here](#) and Dennis' profile [here](#). A digital replica, with a cover photo of Dennis and other honorees, is available [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Registration Now Open! Proton Therapy: Advancements and Applications

Oct. 19, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

The Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Cancer Program will be hosting an educational event for community physicians. The program will showcase the latest applications in proton therapy treatment. This will be a “hybrid” event, available both in-person at Virtua Voorhees Hospital and online. Onsite attendees will have an opportunity to personally tour the Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Proton Therapy Center at the conclusion of the event.

Program speakers include:

- Catherine Kim, MD, Medical Director, Radiation Oncology, Penn Medicine | Virtua Health
- James Metz, MD, Chair, Radiation Oncology, Penn Medicine
- Graeme R. Williams, MD, MBA, Radiation Oncology, Penn Medicine | Virtua Health
- J. Nicholas Lukens, MD, Assistant Professor, Radiation Oncology, Perelman School of Medicine

[Click here to register](#). Questions? Email VirtuaClinician@virtua.org.

Technology-Enabled Care Virtual Conference: Maximizing the Technology Toolkit

Nov. 5, 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This free conference is open to all Virtua employees and medical staff. It is geared toward clinicians, providers, allied health roles, IT professionals, and leaders across the organization. The conference's focus is to showcase how technology-enabled care has transformed clinical settings across the health care industry. This conference offers two concurrent tracks, Technology and Clinical. Agenda items include Voice-Enabled Technology, Epic's Clinical Pathways, and Cybersecurity. Click to [view the flyer](#).



New Epic Playground Now on Workstations

Virtua Information Technology has added the Epic Playground environment onto clinical workstations throughout the organization. Colleagues can use these environments to practice Epic and Dragon workflows in a safe space without utilizing real patients or real patient data. To access this environment, click on the Epic PLY Hyperspace icon located on the desktop. Please note that you cannot log in with your current Epic credentials. To see a list of log-ins for this tool (PLY), select the "Forgot your password" link on the login screen.

Annual Mandatory Conflict of Interest Disclosure Available on Virtua Works

Virtua Health colleagues, who are supervisor level and above, and all employed health care providers (physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants) are required to complete the annual Conflict of Interest Disclosure Attestation by **Monday, Oct. 31**. Conflict of interest is any relationship which is (or appears to be) not in the best interest of Virtua Health and those we serve. This would include any personal business or financial benefit received from any decision or action taken for Virtua Health. Please click [here](#) for the Conflict of Interest policy.

The Conflict of Interest Disclosure Attestation will be available on the home page of Virtua Works beginning **Monday, Oct. 3**. Please click on the Compliance announcement in Virtua Works. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ryan Peoples, Compliance Manager (856-355-0729) or Raquel Ravelo, Corporate Compliance Auditor, (856-355-0739).

Global Diversity Awareness Month Celebrations Begin Oct. 1

In October, we observe and celebrate Global Diversity Awareness Month by highlighting, honoring, and learning more about the diverse customs, cultures, and experiences that make up our communities and workforce. By doing so, we gain a greater awareness of and appreciation for the unique backgrounds and identities that define our Culture of WE and can better leverage our diverse perspectives for greater innovation, problem-solving, productivity, and collaboration.

This month, you are invited to participate in a variety of opportunities to further explore all that we share, as well as what uniquely contributes to our full sense of self. Weekly communication will include education, resources, and opportunities to participate.

Here is a highlight of what to expect:

Week 1 (Oct. 2 to 8):

Oct. 1 is CROWN Day. New Jersey is one of 16 states that have passed the CROWN Act (Create a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair-being).

The Black and African American Colleague Community and Women of Virtua invite all colleagues to proudly display their natural “crowns,” post photos to our [Virtua Colleague Facebook page](#), and be entered into our prize raffle. Selected pictures and education will be showcased in the Oct. 6 issue of *By Design*.

Week 2 (Oct. 9 to 15):

Oct 11 is National Coming Out Day. Discrimination thrives in silence; join us in shining a light to raise awareness, celebrate, and accept our differences.

OUT at Virtua invites you to share your story or take this opportunity to actively support others. Pick up a Pride flag at a pop-up table in the hospital cafeterias and post a photo of you and your colleagues on the [Virtua Colleague Facebook page](#). Highlights will be shared in our Oct. 13 issue of *By Design*.

Week 3 (Oct. 16 to 22):

Celebrate International Pronoun Day on Oct 19. Pronouns are an important part of our identities—the foundation on how we define ourselves. Using preferred pronouns creates a safe and respectful space for everyone. Learn more about pronouns and how you can contribute to our Culture of WE by adding your pronouns to your email signature and within Virtua Works.

Meet our Colleague Communities this week! Visit our table at our hospital sites this week (Virtua Marlton on Monday; Virtua Mount Holly on Tuesday; Virtua Willingboro on Wednesday; Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes on Thursday; and Virtua Voorhees on Friday). Members of the Black and African American Colleague Community, Women of Virtua, OUT at Virtua, VirtuAsia, and WE Serve are excited to meet you!

Week 4 (Oct. 23 to 29):

Join our special Speaker Series on Oct. 25 and Oct. 27. The Black and African American Colleague Community and VirtuAsia will host a virtual session on Oct. 25 to address mental health and well-being with Dr. Erika Dawkins, and an in-person session on Oct. 27 to discuss Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity with Dr. Randal Pinkett.

Additionally, celebrate the Diwali Festival of Lights with VirtuAsia on Oct. 24. Learn more about celebrating the triumph of light over dark and good over evil, as well as the blessings of victory, freedom, and enlightenment.

To learn more about Global Diversity Month and ways your team can celebrate, check out these resources:

- [Global Diversity Awareness Month is October](#)
- [Diversity and Inclusion Activities and Ideas for the Office](#)