



April 2024

**Quality Improvement Program - New Jersey
(QIP-NJ) Announcements & Updates**

Dear QIP-NJ Program Participants,

The Department of Health (DOH) encourages hospitals and other interested parties to review this newsletter to help ensure your teams stay up-to-date on important news and announcements regarding QIP-NJ. As always, all newsletters will be posted to the QIP-NJ Documents & Resources webpage within approximately one week of distribution. If you have any questions, concerns, or to unsubscribe from this newsletter, please email QIP-NJ@pcgus.com. Thank you!

- [DOH Corner](#)
- [Learning Collaborative Updates](#)
- [Updated MY 2 Payment Advice](#)
- [Updated MY2 Results and MY3 Targets](#)
- [MY3 Data Submission Webinar](#)
- [Other State Initiatives and Programs](#)

DOH Corner

We are now approximately four months into MY4 of QIP-NJ, which began in January and will run through the end of the year. As we look forward, DOH continues to appreciate all the time, effort, and resources that participating hospitals are putting into QIP-NJ and looks forward to seeing continued quality improvement for both the maternal health and behavioral health (BH) populations.

As always, should participating hospitals have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the QIP-NJ team via email at QIP-NJ@pcgus.com.

Learning Collaborative Updates

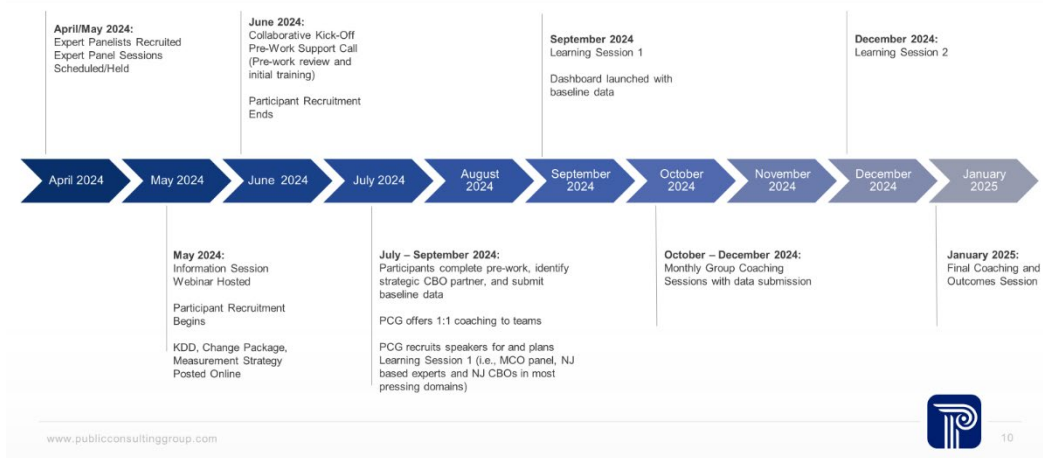
Social Determinants of Health Learning Collaborative (SDOHLIC) Participation Interest Form

The SDOH Learning Collaborative will be starting in June with a Pre-work Conference! Below please find preliminary details about the program to help your team begin to consider participation. Specifically, we ask that you:

- Register for the SDOHLIC information session on May 22, 2024 (details below).
- Review the Participation Interest Form and note the deadline to turn it in is by **5:00 PM on June 3, 2024**.
- Review the tentative timeline of the SDOHLIC (which will be a shorter Collaborative compared to the BHLC and MLC).

The participation interest form for the upcoming QIP-NJ Social Determinants of Health Learning Collaborative Sprint (referred to as the SDOHLIC) is available [here](#) and is due on June 3rd. The form will give QIP-NJ hospitals an opportunity to confirm their participation in the SDOHLIC. PCG will use submission of this form to identify participating hospitals, plan the necessary level of support for teams, and tailor the pre-work conference in June for the collaborative sprint. As you consider participation, please do not hesitate to reach out to the team with questions (qip-nj@pcgus.com and etrucks@pcgus.com). For your planning and preparation purposes, please review the tentative timeline for the upcoming SDOHLIC below:

Tentative LC3 SDOH Collaborative Timeline 2024-2025



The June kick-off and summer months will be focused on pre-work and preparing teams for success. The learning and coaching sessions will begin in September.

SDOH Learning Collaborative Information Session

The DOH is hosting the SDOH LC Information Session on **Wednesday, May 22, 2024 from 12PM to 1PM EST**. DOH encourages all hospitals to attend the information session to learn more about this opportunity!

Register for the session here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82898324071>

As a component of QIP-NJ, DOH is hosting a voluntary Collaborative Sprint (from June 2024 – January 2025), using the Breakthrough Series Collaborative model to share best practices and accelerate the implementation of systemic improvements in SDOH-related outcomes for the maternal and behavioral populations.

Benefits:

Hospitals participating in the SDOHLC will receive the following benefits:

- ✓ Support to meet performance targets on some QIP-NJ pay-for-performance measures, several of which can be improved by adequate assessment and connection to SDOH-related services;
- ✓ Training for frontline care team and hospital leadership from state-based and national experts in the field;
- ✓ Personalized one-on-one and group coaching from improvement advisors;
- ✓ Increased quality improvement capacity across team members;
- ✓ Access to a peer learning network; and
- ✓ Continuing professional education credits (the info session is not accredited, but the SDOHLC sessions will be).

Information Session Objectives:

By the end of the information session, hospitals participating in the SDOHLC should be able to:

- ✓ Describe how the SDOHLC can support your team;
- ✓ Identify the benefits of participation;
- ✓ Understand the program design and expectations; and
- ✓ Decide to participate!

Target Audience:

Hospital quality leadership, quality analysts, maternal health or behavioral health leaders, social workers, and frontline care team members.

Updated MY2 Payment Advice

Earlier this month, QIP-NJ Program Leads at participating hospitals received updated final notices containing their individual MY2 payment amounts. The notice was placed in each hospital's SFTP and provides a breakdown of Performance Payments and Redistribution Performance Payments, if applicable, by Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MMCO), that each hospital will receive.

DOH, in coordination with the Department of Human Services (DHS), communicates MY2 payment amounts and provides guidance and instructions to MMCOs to disburse funds to individual hospitals within 30 days

upon receipt of the funds. DOH anticipates that all hospitals will receive MY2 payments in May.

Updated MY2 Results and MY3 Targets

Along with the aforementioned updated MY2 payment notices, updated final MY2 measurement results and MY3 targets were placed in each participating hospital's SFTP.

MY3 Data Submission Best Practices Webinar and Guidance

As MY2 processes conclude, the QIP-NJ team is preparing a webinar on best practices and requirements for participating hospitals prior to MY3 data submission. Program Leads should watch for an invitation from QIP-NJ@pcqus.com for the webinar which will be on **May 23, 2024 from 1:30 PM – 2:15 PM EST.**

Other State Initiatives and Programs

- **Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO)** training is an evidence-based training used by birthing providers and interprofessional maternity care teams to handle obstetric emergencies. NJ DOH encourages teams to look into the components of the training. You can find more information on the training program [here](#).
- **Alma Program for Southern Jersey Hospitals: Nurture NJ** has announced the availability of the Alma Program, a free, evidence-based, peer-to-peer mentoring program designed to help make the parenting journey a little easier. The program connects expecting mothers and recently postpartum moms experiencing feelings of depression, anxiety, and stress with trained professionals that have faced similar challenges. Through weekly meetings, participants receive support and share skills that have the potential to make a big difference as they step into a new chapter in their lives.

The Alma program is currently offered in South Jersey but has plans to expand to Central and North Jersey later this year. To learn more about the Alma Program, to enroll, or to refer a mom, visit www.snjpc.org/alma.

- The **Nurture NJ Strategic Plan**, which aims to make NJ the safest and most equitable place in the national to deliver and raise a baby. Please check the [Nurture NJ website](#) for more information and to discover new ways to become engaged.
- The **NJ Maternal Care Quality Collaborative (NJMCQC)** aims to achieve a significant and sustained improvement in overall maternal and infant morbidity and mortality rates statewide. The last meeting was held on March 26th and the next meeting will be held on June 25th. Additional information, including meeting materials, will be published on the [NJMCQC website](#), so please continue to check back regularly. For additional information about the NJMCQC, please also feel free to email the team at doh-mcqc@doh.nj.gov.
- Funded by DOH, **NJ Quit Centers** provide residents of New Jersey with resources and support to stop or reduce their use of tobacco including e-cigarettes, disposables, pouches, and other related products. Quit

Centers can and do play an integral role in helping clinical facilities meet their goal of advancing statewide quality improvements for BH under QIP-NJ Measure BH8: Substance Use Screening and Intervention Composite. More information regarding Quit Centers, including contact information for the Inspira Quit Center and RWJ Barnabas Health Institute for Prevention and Recovery (IFPR) Nicotine and Tobacco Recovery Program, can be found here:

<https://www.tobaccofreenj.com/quit-smoking>.

- **DHS' Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)**, which serves as the Single State Agency (SSA) for Substance Abuse and the State Mental Health Authority (SMHA), as designated by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), also oversees NJ's adult system of community-based BH services. Please [check DMHAS' website](#) for more information and discover new ways to become engaged.
- **DHS' Episode of Care (EOC) Pilot** is a three-year pilot to test a new alternative payment model for prenatal, labor, and postpartum services statewide. More information regarding the EOC Pilot can be found on DHS' [website](#) at the link below. Performance Period 1 (15 months) of the EOC Pilot ran from April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Performance Period 2 (12 months) began on July 1, 2023 and will run through June 30, 2024. Performance Period 3 (12 months) will run from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. For more information about the EOC Pilot, please visit DHS' website at: [Episode of Care Pilot \(nj.gov\)](#). For questions, please send an email to the DHS team at mahs.maternityepisode@dhs.nj.gov.

