



August 2022 Quality Improvement Program-New Jersey (QIP-NJ) Announcements & Updates

Dear QIP-NJ Program Participants,

Welcome to the QIP-NJ newsletter! 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.

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DOH Corner

We are now approximately eight months through MY2 of QIP-NJ, which began on January 1, 2022, and will continue through December 31, 2022. DOH appreciates all of the hard work and dedication that our hospital partners have already put into MY2, and looks forward to continuing to work in close partnership throughout the remainder of the MY.

As a reminder, it is very important to keep hospital contact information up-to-date. If there are any changes to primary and/or secondary contacts for your hospital, please immediately submit an updated [“Contact and Access” form](#) via the QIP-NJ website, or, alternatively, feel free to reach out to DOH via email to let our team know so that we can update our distribution lists and ensure you receive important information in a timely manner.

Important: Claims-Based Measure Appeals Process

As of August 15, 2022, hospitals can find details on their MY1 claims-based performance in their hospital-specific Inbound folder in the QIP-NJ [SFTP](#). Each hospital has received measure results and Patient Level Reports (PLR) for all claims-based measures. Hospitals should use the PLRs to help inform their population health improvement programs and targeted quality initiatives, as well as any appeals.

To initiate the claims-based measure appeals process, hospitals must submit all necessary documentation using the DOH-provided template via the QIP-NJ [SFTP](#) no later than 5:00 PM on **August 29, 2022**. Please email QIP-NJ@pcqus.com following submission to ensure receipt of the files. Hospitals must submit a completed MY1 Claims-Based Appeals Workbook (Workbook) and all necessary supporting documentation.

As a reminder, only reporting and computational errors may be appealed in QIP-NJ. Disputes related to CMS and DOH approved QIP-NJ protocols, including but not limited to program policy, formula designs or statewide targets, are not appealable and such requests will not be reviewed.

MY3 Call for Screening Tools

As previously announced via email on August 18, 2022, DOH is issuing a call for screening tools for use in MY3. It is the expectation of DOH that most hospitals are using one of the pre-approved tools listed in the [Databook v2.0](#) or have already received approval of hospital-specific tools for the purposes of QIP-NJ. **However, any additional screening tools must be submitted with scoring methodology via the QIP-NJ inbox no later than Monday, September 12, 2022 at 12:00 pm EST to receive approval for MY3. Late submissions will not be accepted, and extensions cannot be granted.**

As a reminder, if a hospital is not using a pre-approved tool or does not receive approval of a hospital-specific tool, it will not be able to perform on the measure in the corresponding MY (MY3). Once a tool has been approved, it can be used for all subsequent MYs of QIP-NJ. If your tool is denied, then your hospital must choose a pre-approved tool from the list in order to perform on the measure.

Quality Measures Committee (QMC)

DOH will convene the Quality Measures Committee (QMC) to assist in reviewing additional screening tools for clinical relevance in the fall of 2022. Screening tool decisions will be released by **no later than November 30, 2022**, to submitting hospitals via email. Approved tools will be listed in the latest version of the Databook. The content of hospital-specific tools will not be made public.

Reminder: One-Time, Targeted MY1 Bridge Payment

As a reminder, for MY1, in addition to the QIP-NJ BH and Maternal Health Performance-Based Section 438.6(c) Preprints, totaling \$168 million, DOH also submitted a one-time Targeted Bridge Payment 438.6(c) Preprint, for

Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) inpatient bed days at eligible acute care hospitals during the period of July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 (broken out by Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MMCO)), totaling \$42 million.

DOH, in partnership with the Department of Human Services (DHS), directed this one-time payment arrangement to help ensure that hospitals with a high Relative Medicaid Percentage (RMP) have funding for continued response and recovery resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to promote better access to care for MMC individuals in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. As of the date of this newsletter, the majority of eligible hospitals should have already received payments as the MMCOs were expected to distribute payments to hospitals by the end of August 2022. For more information, please refer to the [State's QIP-NJ "Bridge" Payment Memo](#).

Please note that there will not be a Targeted Bridge payment for MY2 and ongoing, and those previously allocated funds (\$42 million) will be rolled into the funding pool for performance payments (\$168 million), which means the total QIP-NJ annual available funding will remain \$210 million. To help ensure broader awareness and understanding amongst hospitals, DOH has updated our [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) document](#) on our QIP-NJ website.

BHLC August Update

BHLC Final Celebration

Mark your calendars for **September 15, 2022 from 1:00 to 2:30 PM EST** for the BHLC Final Celebration session! This will be an opportunity for BHLC participants to come together and share their accomplishments over the last year with State leadership. Celebration event [storyboard template](#), [syllabus](#), and [registration link](#) can be found on the [Program Materials page](#) of the BHLC Portal. Calendar invites and meeting details will be released closer to the date of the event.

August 11, 2022 Group Coaching Call

The BHLC team faculty held a coaching session on **August 11, 2022**, focusing on the Social Determinants of Health & Homelessness. The session featured a presentation from the Camden Coalition that gave a brief overview of the organization and the Camden Housing First Program. The slide decks from the coaching call are located on the [Coaching page](#) of the [BHLC Portal](#). You can also find resources shared by the Camden Coalition in the Social Determinants of Health section of the [Resources page](#) of the BHLC Portal.

MLC August Update

As a reminder, the MLC is set to launch in October 2022! The MLC is a resource provided by DOH to help increase the likelihood of hospitals achieving QIP-NJ performance targets, share best practices, and accelerate

the implementation of systemic improvements in health outcomes for the maternal health population. Upcoming MLC events are listed below:

- Prework Webinar: September 13, 2022, 12:00PM to 1:00 PM EST
- Learning Session 1: October 4 & 5, 2022, 1:00PM to 4:00 PM EST

If your hospital is ready to join the MLC, please complete the [Participation Interest Form](#). You can also find the link to the Participation Interest form on the [MLC page of the QIP-NJ website](#). The form is due no later than **August 26, 2022 by 5:00 PM EST**. Once the form is completed, participating hospitals will receive the Pre-Work Handbook at a later date. If you have any questions and would like to discuss the opportunity to join the MLC with the MLC team, we are happy to set up a meeting with you as well. Please email QIP-NJ@pcgus.com with any questions about this process.

You can find more information on the MLC posted on the [QIP-NJ Website](#) under the “Maternal Learning Collaborative Program Information” section:

- [MLC Charter](#)
- [MLC Change Package](#)
- [MLC Info Sheet](#)
- [MLC Infographic](#)
- [MLC Recorded Information Sessions](#)
- [MLC Key Driver Diagram](#)
- [MLC Measurement Strategy](#)
- [MLC Participation Interest Form](#)

Other State Initiatives and Programs

- 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. Recently, the Nurture NJ team shared an update on New Jersey’s Universal Home Visiting (UHV) program implementation. In July 2021, Governor Philip D. Murphy signed into law S690 to create a statewide, UHV program for newborns. This will be only the second such program in the United States through which families with a newborn can have a specially trained nurse visit their home in the first few weeks after the child’s birth. If you have any questions regarding the UHV program, please email UHV@dcf.nj.gov.
- 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 most recent public meeting was held on June 28, 2022, via Microsoft Teams. As always, please continue to check the NJMCQC’s website for more information and instructions on how to sign-up for future public meetings. 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. Staffed with Tobacco Treatment Specialists, they offer an individualized treatment planning session, individual and group counseling, Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT), and information and materials about lung cancer screening all free of charge. Quit Centers can and do play an integral role in helping clinical facilities meet their goal of advancing statewide quality improvements for BH under Measure BH8: Substance Use Screening and Intervention Composite. Currently, Inspira Quit Center and RWJ Barnabas Health Institute for Prevention and Recovery (IFPR) Nicotine and Tobacco Recovery Program are actively providing screening services and connection to resources for their hospital systems. Quit Center contact information can be found here: <https://www.tobaccofreenj.com/quit-smoking>.
 - **Inspira Quit Center** provides every nicotine dependent ED patient with education about the availability of Inspira's free smoking cessation services. ED patients who express an interest in quitting during their visit are referred through Inspira's Cerner EMR referral system to the Inspira Quit Center. Inspira Quit Center information is also printed on current tobacco users' discharge paperwork.
 - **RWJBarnabas Health** has developed and implemented a system-wide automatic referral system which connects ED patients who report past-year tobacco use during the nurse-administered NIDA Quick Screen to the Institute for Prevention and Recovery Nicotine and Tobacco Recovery Program. The automatic triggers, which went live in RWJBH EHRs in July 2022, are designed to notify the program's Rutgers-certified Tobacco Treatment Specialists of patients post-discharge so they can connect with patients and provide evidence-based cessation services. This initiative not only satisfies portions of QIP-NJ's BH8 Measure but also improves the transition of care after discharge.
- **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), and also oversees NJ's adult system of community-based behavioral health 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. Clinicians who choose to participate in the EOC Pilot are financially incentivized to take on comprehensive responsibility for the quality and cost of their patients' care. The EOC pilot will tie incentives to improvements in quality and cost of maternity-related care, from the prenatal period to 60 days postpartum. In addition to eligibility for additional financial incentives, providers who participate in the EOC Pilot will receive detailed personalized feedback on their performance and will undertake specific quality improvement activities. The EOC

Pilot began on April 1, 2022, and the three Performance Periods are as follows (see [Key dates](#)):

- Performance Period 1 (15 months): April 1, 2022-June 30, 2023
- Performance Period 2 (12 months): July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024
- Performance Period 3 (12 months): July 1, 2024-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.

Questions?

If you have any questions, concerns, or to unsubscribe please email QIP-NJ@pcgus.com.

Thank you,

QIP-NJ Team

