



August 2023 Quality Improvement Program - New Jersey (QIP-NJ) Announcements & Updates

Dear QIP-NJ Participating Hospitals,

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!

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DOH Corner

QIP-NJ is now approximately eight months into MY 3, which began in January and will run through the end of the year. 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 described in greater detail later in this newsletter, due to some identified issues and errors with hospital MY 2 NCB data submissions, DOH made the decision to afford all participating hospitals a courtesy, one-time opportunity to review and amend their submissions. Amended MY 2 NCB data submissions are due no later than 5:00 PM EST on September 1, 2023. Hospitals should submit all data via their Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) and send a separate email notice to QIP-NJ@pcgus.com.

Claims-based results and PLRs were made available to MY 2 participating hospitals earlier this month via SFTP. Please see detailed information herein regarding these data and the appeals process.

Next month, DOH will convene the QMC for meeting #10, which is intended to gather feedback on the measurement strategy for MY4 and beyond. As QIP-NJ nears its final MYs, DOH anticipates fewer changes to the measurement strategy to decrease the effort required to report data, consistency across MYs, and ensuring continued compliance with CMS requirements.

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. Thank you.

Update: QIP-NJ MLC

August Group Coaching Call

The QIP-NJ MLC August Group Coaching Call will take place on Tuesday, August 29, 2023, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM EST. During the call, hospitals will have the chance to have direct conversations with their peers in various topic specific breakout groups. You can register for the session [here](#).

Learning Session (LS) #3 Registration

The QIP-NJ MLC LS #3 will take place on **September 26 and 27, 2023 from 1:00PM - 4:00PM EST each day!** LS #3 will focus on how to sustain successful changes and how to create action plans to close identified disparities. LS #3 will also include a patient presentation, multiple presentations from MLC hospital teams, and workshops from the MLC faculty team. All sessions are designed to inspire MLC teams to begin testing changes in practice immediately after the conclusion of the event.

MLC participants should register for the event [here](#). Make sure to complete both parts of the registration form. Teams can also find the templates for the storyboard and special topic sessions on the [Learning Collaborative page](#) of the QIP-NJ website, as well as on the Participant Materials page of the LS #3 tab of the [MLC portal](#). Storyboards are due on **September 19, 2023, at noon EST**. We look forward to next month's session!

MLC Data Submission Reminder

This is a reminder that the MLC data report for the month of August is requested by **5:00 PM EST on Friday, September 15, 2023**. The de-identified data that hospitals submit will be used in the MLC Action Period monthly coaching sessions. Hospital teams can submit the monthly data [here](#), and find a PDF version of the form [here](#).

QIP-NJ MLC Schedule*

Action Period #2	February 2023 to August 2023
August Coaching Call	August 29, 2023, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
Action Period #3	September 2023 to October 2023
LS #3	September 26 & 27 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
October Coaching Call	October 31, 2023, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
Celebration Event	December 1, 2023, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

* Please note that all times are EST.

[MY 2 NCB Review Opportunity](#)

All MY 2 participating hospitals were contacted earlier this month in response to initial MY 2 NCB data submissions. While DOH observed an overall improvement in the quality of data submitted compared to MY 1, our QIP-NJ team still identified some issues and errors with many hospital initial submissions (e.g., corrupted files, invalid entries/formats, missing data, failure to use the required template, etc.), which would not be appealable per QIP-NJ policy and would cause at least some of the measures to be ineligible for payment calculation.

As DOH's goal is ultimately to support hospitals relative to their quality improvement efforts, DOH afforded **all** hospitals a courtesy, one-time opportunity to review and amend MY 2 NCB data submissions. To this end, hospitals were informed under separate cover of this one-time opportunity to submit amended/revised data, which must be received by the QIP-NJ team **no later than 5:00 pm EST on September 1, 2023**.

Please note DOH does not anticipate any significant impacts to other QIP-NJ processes and/or timelines, and the QIP-NJ team is still anticipating that MY 2 payments will be made no later than the first quarter of 2024, which is consistent with the overall timeline for MY 1.

Important: MY 2 Claims-based PLRs

As of August 28, 2023, MY 2 participating hospitals can find details on their MY 2 claims-based performance in their hospital-specific Inbound folder in the QIP-NJ [SFTP](#). Each hospital has received measure results and PLRs 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 EST on September 12, 2023**. Please email QIP-NJ@pcgus.com following submission to confirm receipt of the files. Hospitals must submit a completed MY 2 Claims-Based Appeals Workbook (Workbook) and all necessary supporting documentation.

QMC Meeting #10

Next month, on September 28, 2023, DOH will convene the QMC for meeting #10 to review evaluation study results from MY 1, review requests and clarifying questions about measure compliance and gather targeted feedback on potential updates to the QIP-NJ measure portfolio.

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.
- 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 next public meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023. 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 \(nj.gov\)](https://www.nj.gov/dhs/episode-of-care-pilot). For questions, please send an email to the DHS team at mahs.maternityepisode@dhs.nj.gov.