



December 2021 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

MY1 of QIP-NJ concludes on December 31st, which is only about two weeks away. To that end, DOH wants to sincerely thank all of our hospital partners as they work to complete MY1 and close out any remaining deliverables. DOH wants to also thank our hospital partners for participating in and availing themselves of our various MY1 technical assistance forums, which has helped to both provide much-needed guidance to hospital partners as well as allow DOH to make any necessary adjustments to MY1 QIP-NJ policies and/or procedures.

In addition, DOH wants to remind our hospital partners that MY2 starts on January 1, 2022, subject to federal approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). More information regarding CMS approval will be released once it becomes available. Nevertheless, DOH wants to extend a **big thank you** to our hospital

partners that have already submitted their MY2 LOI response, as described in more detailed further in this newsletter.

As we look ahead towards the new year, DOH wishes all of our hospital partners a happy and healthy holiday season!

Update: Databook v1.3 and New Materials

On November 30, 2021, DOH published updates to the Databook and VSC (v1.3), which are available on the QIP-NJ [Documents & Resources](#) webpage for hospital use in reporting Baseline MY0 and MY1. A change log was also included in the Databook v1.3 to show and describe all changes made from Databook and VSC v1.2 to v1.3. Thank you to all hospitals that have submitted questions and feedback on these new versions of the Databook and VSC via the QIP-NJ inbox, webinars, and technical contact forums.

Please note that the Databook and VSC for MY2 are currently in development and anticipated to be released in January 2022. More information will be released as it comes available. In the interim, hospital partners should continue to work from the most current version of the MY1 Databook and VSC, as it provides the most current information relative to QIP-NJ requirements leading up to MY2. If you have additional questions, please email QIP-NJ@pcgus.com.

Update: Standard Report Template and Guidance v1.2

On November 30, 2021, DOH published updates to the Standard Reporting Template (SRT) and Guidance Document (v1.2), which are available on the QIP-NJ [Participants and Stakeholders](#) webpage. This version of the SRT includes more granular, measure-by-measure instructions on required data fields and elements. The guidance document provides a resource for hospitals to utilize as they fill out the updated version of the SRT. If you have additional questions, please email QIP-NJ@pcgus.com.

Reminder: QIP-NJ Baseline Non-Claims Based Measures Submissions and Technical Assistance Webinars

On November 8, 2021, DOH released a memo related to hospital baseline (MY0) non-claims-based data submissions, which outlined a detailed remediation strategy that affords impacted hospitals a one-time opportunity to resubmit their baseline (MY0) non-claims-based data. To further support hospitals in this space, DOH scheduled a series of seven (7) live webinars starting in December 2021 and continuing through early January 2022, which provide additional, targeted technical assistance for each non-claims-based measure. To date, five (5) of the seven (7) scheduled webinars have been completed, and the schedule for the remaining two (2) webinars, including links to each Microsoft Teams meeting, is as follows:

Measure	Webinar Date and Time
BH10 / M8: 3-Item Care Transitions Measure (CTM-3)	January 4, 2022, 1 – 2pm EST
BH11 / M9: Use of a Standardized Screening Tool for Social Determinants of Health	January 6, 2022, 2 – 3pm EST

In the event that a representative from your hospital was unable to attend one or more of the live sessions or if you simply want to listen again, please note that recordings of all of the technical assistance webinars are available on the QIP-NJ website on the [Documents and Resources](#) webpage.

As a reminder, all MY0 non-claims-based data resubmissions **MUST** be received by DOH **no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, February 4, 2022**. Prior to resubmitting any MY0 non-claims-based data, DOH strongly suggests that all impacted hospitals confirm they have done the following:

1. Reviewed their original MY0 non-claims-based data submissions against the updated SRT guidance;
2. Reviewed their own individual hospital error reports;
3. Attended the applicable/requisite technical assistance webinar(s) and/or listed to the recordings available on the QIP-NJ website; and
4. If/as needed, reached out to DOH via the QIP-NJ@pcgus.com email with hospital-specific questions.

Please note that hospitals that choose not to resubmit their non-claims-based baseline data or resubmit but fail to correct the errors identified in their individual reports in alignment with QIP-NJ requirements, DOH will use the originally submitted MY0 non-claims-based data, along with MY1 non-claims-based data, to calculate performance payments. ***To that end, please also note that failing to resubmit corrected MY0 non-claims-based data, consistent with the clarified SRT guidance and additional technical assistance, may result in hospitals not meeting performance targets and thus not earning payment for the corresponding measure(s).***

Following the resubmission deadline of February 4, 2022, DOH will calculate individual hospital performance results and publish an appeals guidance document and workbook to the QIP-NJ [Participants & Stakeholders](#) webpage. Appeals guidance documents and workbooks will be updated annually. As a reminder, only computational and systemic reporting errors may be appealed; disputes related to DOH- and CMS-approved QIP-NJ protocols, program policy, formula designs, or measure baselines, are not appealable. Additionally, hospitals cannot appeal results based on non-claims-based data submitted incorrectly.

DOH appreciates your continued attention to this important matter and looks forward to receiving resubmissions for hospital-submitted MY0 non-claims-based data early next year. In the interim, should you have any questions about the resubmission process, please reach out via email at QIP-NJ@pcgus.com.

Reminder: MY0 Claims-Based Measure Appeals Submission Deadline

The QIP-NJ MY0 Appeals Guidance and Workbook for claims-based measure appeals are now available on the QIP-NJ [Participants & Stakeholders](#) page. If you wish to submit an appeal, hospitals must submit all necessary documentation using the DOH-provided template via the QIP-NJ SFTP no later than 5:00 PM on December 20, 2021. Please email QIP-NJ@pcgus.com following submission to ensure receipt of the files.. Please email QIP-NJ@pcgus.com with any questions or concerns that you might have regarding this process.

Reminder: MY2 LOI Submission

For MY2 of QIP-NJ, DOH reimplemented a LOI process, which required all NJ acute care hospitals to affirmatively indicate whether or not they intend to participate. In confirming or declining participation, hospitals acknowledged and agreed to the set of conditions listed in the LOI materials, which are available on the [Participants & Stakeholders](#) page of the QIP-NJ website. All NJ hospitals received emails containing the MY2 LOI guidance document and associated templates in early November 2021, and responses were due to DOH no later than 5:00 PM on last Friday, December 10th. Thank you to those hospitals that already submitted their LOI materials, and we look forward to continuing to partner with you relative to QIP-NJ. If your hospital has not completed and submitted its MY2 LOI, please do so as soon as possible but no later than **5:00 EST on December 20th, 2021** to QIP-NJ@pcgus.com in order to be considered for participation in MY2. Please note that failure to submit your MY2 LOI by this deadline may affect your ability to participate in the program.

BH LC December Update

In December, the BH LC held its second set of coaching sessions for participating hospitals. The December Monthly Group Coaching Sessions focused on helping teams work through their most pressing challenges. Collaborative faculty ran a group discussion “capsule” activity that promoted peer connection, shared learning, and reflective listening. The faculty also discussed the upcoming second Learning Session, which will take place from January 25-26. Registration for this session is now live and the link can be found in the participant portal or in the recently distributed program update.

Other State Initiatives and Programs

DOH continues to encourage hospital partners to stay informed and engaged relative to the work of DOH, as well as other NJ State departments, through their various state initiatives and programs, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The NJ Maternal Care Quality Collaborative (NJMCQC), which aims to achieve a significant and sustained improvement in overall maternal and infant morbidity and mortality rates statewide. Please check the [NJMCQC's website](#) for more information and instructions on how to sign-up for future public meetings.
- 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 Department of Human Services' 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.

- A recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Community Health Workers (CHW) for COVID Response and Resilient Communities (CCR) grant award, totaling \$9 million over the span of three years, which will be used by DOH to train, engage, and deploy CHWs to combat the ill effects of COVID-19 and disparities that have been exacerbated by the COVID pandemic. For more information about the grant, please review the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and award recipients on the [CDC's website](#).

Questions?

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

Thank you,

QIP-NJ Team

