



**February 2025**

**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](mailto:QIP-NJ@pcgus.com). Thank you!

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## DOH Corner

We are now approximately two months into MY 5 of QIP-NJ, which began in January and will run through the end of the year. DOH is currently working in collaboration with the Department of Human Services to secure the necessary federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approvals. More information regarding CMS approvals will be released once it becomes available.

As a reminder, DOH released MY3 payment letters in January and MY3 performance results in February. DOH continues to expect that hospitals will receive MY3 payments by the end of Q1 2025.

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](mailto:QIP-NJ@pcgus.com).

## Learning Collaborative Updates

### **Register for Learning Session 3 on 3/26 and 3/27 from 10AM to 1PM EST**

Learning Session 3 (LS3) is on **March 26 and 27, 2025 from 10AM to 1PM EST!** LS3 will provide a valuable opportunity for all participants to ask peers questions, brainstorm potential solutions, and connect with stakeholders across each domain of focus. The SDOHLC faculty highly encourages all team members to participate during LS3 to build from the progress you've made since September! You can **register for Learning Session 3** [here](#).

LS3 storyboard templates are due on **March 14, 2025**. You can find the storyboard template hyperlinked [here](#). It is also available on the Learning Session 3 tab of the SDOHLC portal.

### **Upcoming Request for Video Submissions for Highlight Video**

The SDOHLC faculty plans to create a highlight video recapping the important work accomplished since September. Teams will have the opportunity to submit brief videos on their successes throughout the Collaborative. We are excited to make this a fun and inspirational representation of the great work you've all done! More details on how to submit a video will be shared in the next SDOHLC program update.

### **NOW AVAILABLE: February Coaching Call Materials**

The SDOHLC February Coaching Call was a discussion-based session where attendees shared ideas and solutions in breakout groups. The materials from the session are hyperlinked below and available on the Coaching page of the SDOHLC portal:

- [Recording](#)
  - **0:00** Housekeeping & objectives
  - **8:03** January Data Recap
  - **18:55** Breakout group discussion recap
- [Slides](#)

### **February 2025 Data Submission due on March 14, 2025**

The next SDOHLC data submission, for the February 2025 data, is **Friday, March 14, 2025 at 5PM EST**. The link to the monthly data submission is copied below, and is available on the Program Materials page of the SDOHLC portal: <https://pcgus.jotform.com/242065631394153>

Teams may find it helpful to review the following materials when planning how to collect data for the SDOHLC monthly data submissions:

- July 31, 2024 data submission webinar materials (July 31, 2024 [recording](#) and [slides](#))
- Collaborative Measurement Review, Dak Ojuka and Christina Southey (45:32 in LS1 Day 2 [recording](#))
- Learning Session 2 Measurement Session, Dak Ojuka and Christina Southey (42:04 in the LS2 Day 2 [recording](#))

### **Late Data Submissions from Previous Months Allowed & Encouraged!**

The SDOHLC faculty is encouraging and allowing late submissions for previous months' data. If you need an extension to submit your **January 2025 data** (originally due on February 14), or retroactively submit data from September to December, please reach out to the SDOHLC faculty at [QIP-NJ@pcgus.com](mailto:QIP-NJ@pcgus.com).

### **Schedule a 1:1 Coaching Call with Christina During Action Period 3!**

Christina Southey, the SDOHLC improvement advisor, is available for 1:1 coaching calls with SDOHLC teams during Action Period 3 (March 2025 to May 2025)! The meetings are an opportunity to ask targeted questions and receive specific feedback on your team's SDOHLC strategy. If you would like to meet at any time during Action Period 3, please reach out to the SDOHLC faculty at [QIP-NJ@pcgus.com](mailto:QIP-NJ@pcgus.com).

## SDOHLC Event Calendar

Extended Period & 1:1 coaching	March 2025 to May 2025
Learning Session 3	March 26 & 27, 2025 from 10AM - 1PM each day, register <a href="#">here</a>
April Coaching Call	April 30, 2025, 12 - 1PM
Final Outcomes Event	May 28, 2025, 12 - 1PM

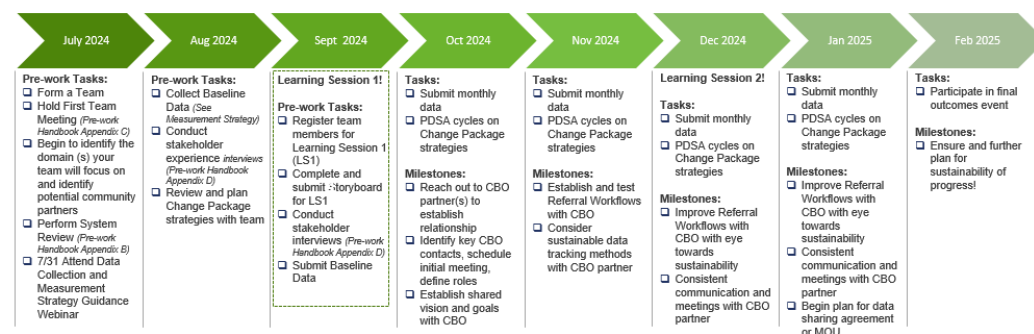
## Extended SDOHLC Roadmap and March Focus

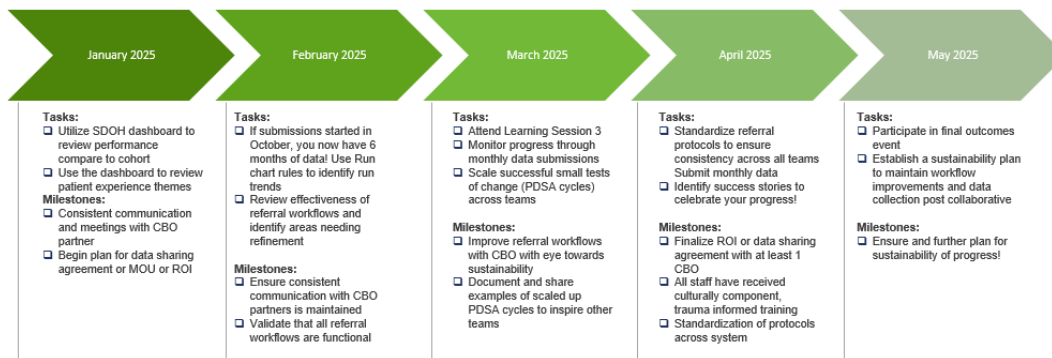
The extended roadmap below outlines key milestones and activities over the course of the SDOHLC. A large version of the image is also included in the Measurement Strategy. This is not a strict timeline; teams may use this roadmap as a resource to guide their progress.

## SDOHLC Tasks and Relationship Building Roadmap



\*Adapted from Oaks Integrated Care "Building Effective Relationships with Community Partners- Key Steps From the Field" presentation from the QIP-NJ Behavioral Health Learning Collaborative in 2021 (Session Recording Available for SDOHLC Participants Upon Request).





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In March 2025, teams should plan to:

- **Review your hospital's run charts in the SDOHLC dashboard:** If your hospital has submitted data since October 2024, you will have 6 months of data after submitting February 2025 data in March. Reviewing trends your hospital's data as a team will help with identifying successes, opportunities for improvement, and lessons learned.
- **Brainstorm ideas for SDOHLC Highlight Video:** Reflect on your team's progress, achievements, and plans for sustainability to brainstorm ideas for the highlight video! Details on how to participate will be shared in a future SDOHLC program update.
- **Participate in Learning Session 3:** Attend LS3 and share progress, learn from peers, and gain insights from expert speakers. This session will focus on sustaining improvements and scaling successful strategies.
- **Engage in the Virtual Resource Fair:** Participate in the virtual resource fair to connect with various stakeholders. Use the opportunity to connect to gather best practices and explore new partnerships.
- **Refine Sustainability Plans:** Work closely with your internal and external partners to refine your sustainability plans. Identify key areas where additional resources may be needed.

## MY3 Payment Letters and Results

In January DOH released MY3 payment letters, which were placed in each hospital's SFTP folder on January 24, 2025. DOH and DHS have directed Medicaid Managed Care Organizations to render payments within the first calendar quarter of 2025. A separate letter with final calculated MY3 results

and MY4 targets was placed in each hospital's SFTP folder on February 4, 2025.

### **MY4 Attribution Pending**

Following receipt of MY5 Letters of Intent, DOH and DHS are verifying hospital-provided Medicaid IDs and NPIs. These IDs will be used to tabulate MY4 Attribution totals following MY4 claims runout. Thereafter, DOH will provide hospital-specific and aggregate cohort attribution totals.

### **MY4 and MY5 Databook, SRT, and VSC Updates**

The MY4 Databook, Standard Reporting Template (SRT) and SRT Guide, and Value Set Compendium (VSC) have been published to the QIP-NJ [website](#). These documents will be necessary for MY4 reporting later this year.

MY5 draft versions of the Databook and VSC have also been published to the QIP-NJ website. Those will be required for MY5 reporting. For all of these updates, the QIP-NJ Team recommends reviewing the change logs of each of each as a starting point.

### **MY5 Preprints**

DOH and the Department of Human Services (DHS) submitted the MY5 Preprints under 438.6c for QIP-NJ to CMS in December 2024. DOH and DHS provided supplemental analyses and clarification following questions from CMS and DOH will provide regular updates as our team works with CMS to secure necessary approvals.

### **BH10/M008 Care Transition Measure (CTM) Survey for MY5**

**As originally communicated in the January 2025 newsletters:** In light of CMS' removal of the CTM-3 questions from the HCAHPS survey for calendar year 2025, which would cause potentially significant administrative challenges to hospitals' collection of CTM-3 results **for MY5**, DOH will make the submission of these data **optional for MY5**. While hospitals are strongly encouraged to collect and report these data, hospitals that are unable to do so for either BH10 or M008 must indicate this on their Standard Reporting Template (SRT) for MY5.

### Other State Initiatives and Programs

- The **Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM)** is partnering with **Maternal Mortality & Morbidity Advocates (MoMMAs Voices)** to offer a 4-week virtual coaching class. This class will guide hospital QI teams on building a patient engagement culture and integrating patients and those with lived experience into Patient Support Bundle implementation and QI work. Register here: [AIM Community of Learning Registration](#)
- The **CDC's Million Hearts® Hypertension in Pregnancy Action Forum (HPAF)** is a national collaborative for clinical, public health, and community-based partners to exchange best and promising practices, identify solutions to common obstacles, and share resources related to improving hypertension management for women during and after pregnancy. This program has ongoing forum sessions that can promote new knowledge and share best practices nationally. Additionally, the program website has some resources that QIP-NJ maternal health teams might find useful, including resources for treating hypertension in the prenatal period and some resources for postpartum blood pressure monitoring.
- The **Ancient Song Give Away** is a monthly event where caregivers can receive free diapers, wipes, and baby essentials. The next giveaway is on March 15th, from 10 AM to 2 PM, at 50 Church St., Montclair, NJ 07402, on the 1st floor. These events recur every 3rd Saturday of the month.



- **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](http://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)** has transitioned to the **New Jersey Maternal Health Innovation Authority (NJMIHIA)**. Please visit their [website](#) for updates and additional information. The NJMIHIA is governed by a 15-member Board and an appointed President and Chief Executive Officer and support staff. The Board will adopt recommendations for action to reduce maternal mortality, morbidity, and disparities from the NJMCQC. The Board also coordinates with a Community Advisory Committee to support and inform its work. The 11-member Community Advisory Committee will represent diverse community groups with relevant experience as providers or recipients of maternal, infant, and child health services.
  - NJMIHIA's meetings are open to the public and the last meeting was held on December 18th from 10am to 12pm ET. Additional information, including meeting materials, will be published on the [NJMIHIA website](#), so please continue to check back regularly. For additional information about the NJMIHIA, please feel free to email the team at [info@njmihia.gov](mailto:info@njmihia.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) ran from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Performance Period 3 (12 months) began on July 1, 2024 and will run 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](mailto:mahs.maternityepisode@dhs.nj.gov).

