



January 2023

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!

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DOH Corner

Happy New Year from the DOH! As you are aware, MY2 of QIP-NJ concluded on December 31, 2022. DOH wants to congratulate all of our hospital partners on completing another year of the program, which DOH hopes will show continued progress in terms of quality improvement and achievement of individual performance targets.

MY3 of QIP-NJ is now officially underway! MY3 began on January 1, 2023 and will run through the end of the year. DOH is pleased to announce that on

January 26, 2023, we received one-year approval from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for MY3 of QIP-NJ.

As a reminder, and as outlined in greater detail in this newsletter, final MY1 performance results and payment amounts have been released, along with MY2 targets. Overall, DOH is extremely pleased with the performance of our hospital partners during MY1, noting that most hospitals met the majority of their targets and will therefore receive the corresponding performance payments, which is reflective of the tremendous level of effort and engagement exhibited by hospitals throughout MY1. One thing to note is that the original batch of hospital payment notices, released the week of January 19th, contained a clerical error, which related to redistribution payments for behavioral health (BH). As a result, DOH subsequently reissued these notices to ensure hospitals have the most accurate information. Despite this error, the original payment timeline and notification to DHS' contracted Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MMCOs) remains unchanged and hospitals should continue to expect to receive their payments by the end of the first quarter (i.e., March 2023). Should you have any questions, please reach out to the QIP-NJ@pcqus.com email inbox.

MY1 Performance Results and Payment and MY2 Targets

In December, final (post-appeal) recalculated Measurement Year (MY) 1 results were communicated to participating hospitals along with hospital-specific MY2 targets and statewide targets. Individual hospital targets were calculated based on the hospital's baseline performance for each measure based on the federally approved QIP-NJ gap-to goal methodology, as described in the [QIP-NJ Databook](#). Additionally, a summary of the changes related to the MY0 and MY1 recalculations has also been posted to the QIP-NJ website. The document, called "[MY0 MY1 Recalc MY2 Target Appendix](#)" is under 'Protocols & Guidance'.

Earlier this month, hospitals received a notice containing their individual MY1 payment amounts. The notice provided a breakdown of Standard Performance Payments earned in conjunction with meeting MY1 targets for each QIP-NJ measure (maternal health, BH, or both). The notice also provided a breakdown of Redistribution Performance Payments, if any, that each hospital was entitled to additionally receive based upon success on the subset of measures (i.e., four measures in total—two from maternal health (M3 and M4); and two from BH (BH2 and BH7)) selected by DOH for redistribution to ensure an equitable distribution of funds. At a high-level, the redistribution methodology takes into consideration individual hospital attribution, total attribution for all hospitals that met a selected measure, and the total funds available for that measure. Since DOH has received questions about the redistribution methodology, DOH will be updating the QIP-NJ FAQ to help provide further clarity, and encourages hospitals to check back periodically for updates.

DOH, in coordination with DHS, communicated those same MY1 payment amounts and provided 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 MY1 payments by the end of the first quarter, i.e., mid-to-late March.

Update: QIP-NJ MLC

January Group Coaching Call Materials

The January Group Coaching Call took place on January 17, 2023, from 12:00 PM – 12:30 PM EST. During the session MLC hospital teams prepared for Learning Session 2 with a detailed overview of the agenda and a Q&A with the faculty team. You can find the information for the session below:

- [January Group Coaching Call Slides](#)
- [January Group Coaching Call Recording](#)

Data Submission Reminder

This is a reminder that the MLC data report for January data is requested by **February 15, 2023**. The de-identified data that hospitals submit will be used in the 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

LS #2	Jan. 31 – Feb. 1, 2023, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Action Period #2	February 2023 to May 2023
February Coaching Call	February 28, 2023, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
March Coaching Call	March 28, 2023, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
April Coaching Call	April 25, 2023, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
May Coaching Call	May 30, 2023, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
LS#3	June 20-21, 2023, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Action Period #3	June 2023 to September 2023
July Coaching Call	July 25, 2023, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
August Coaching Call	August 29, 2023, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
September Coaching Call	September 26, 2023, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
October Coaching Call	October 31, 2023, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
Final Celebration Event	December 1, 2023 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

* Please note that all times are in EST.

LS #2

This is a reminder that the QIP-NJ MLC LS #2 will take place on **January 31, 2023 and February 1, 2023, from 1:00PM - 4:00PM EST each day!** LS #2 sessions will focus on identifying and addressing disparities in the timely treatment of severe hypertension. Sessions will provide new knowledge along with examples of real-world application of the techniques and strategies discussed. All sessions are designed to inspire MLC teams to begin testing small changes in practice immediately after the conclusion of the event. MLC participants should register for the event [here](#).

All hospital teams will present storyboards at LS #2. [Storyboard templates](#) for LS #2 are available on the [Learning Collaborative page](#) of the QIP-NJ site. **Storyboards must be submitted to QIP-NJ@pcqus.com.**

Following LS #2, hospitals can sign up for a 1:1 coaching session with Christina Southey, the MLC improvement advisor. The signup sheet for the 1:1 coaching sessions can be found [here](#). This is a great opportunity to receive guidance on how to move your team forward!

Coming Soon: Databook and VSC Updates

In February, DOH will be working in close partnership with PCG to publish updates to the MY0-MY2 versions of the Databook and corresponding VSC. These updates are related to recalculated MY0-1 performance referenced earlier. Additionally, DOH will publish a draft MY3 version of the Databook and VSC in mid-Feb with the intent of having the final version of the same published by the end of March 2023. In the interim, and since MY3 is already underway, hospitals should work off Databook and VSC version 2.1 which can be found on the QIP-NJ Documents & Resources page. If hospitals have any questions/concerns, please reach out via email to QIP-NJ@pcqus.com.

MY3 LOI Submission

For MY3 of QIP-NJ, DOH used the same LOI process that was used for prior MYs. MY3 LOI materials were distributed in December and required all NJ acute care hospitals to affirmatively respond indicating whether or not they intend to participate in MY3 of QIP-NJ. In addition, the LOI process included a Medicaid ID/billing provider NPI validation piece and DOH has worked with DHS on this front to ensure appropriate IDs are captured for purposes of QIP-NJ. Responses from hospitals were due **December 9, 2022**. DOH has reviewed all LOI submissions for MY3 and has posting updated participation statistics to the QIP-NJ website.

Pre-Print Development and Submission to CMS

DOH, in partnership with PCG and DHS, received one-year approval from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for MY3 of QIP-NJ on January 26, 2023. The most notable updates to the Pre-Prints for MY3 included adjustments to certain measure targets based on MY0 (baseline) evaluation findings, as discussed with the QMC. In mid-December, CMS shared its first question set with the State for responses. DOH and DHS worked to develop responses, which were submitted back to CMS at the end of December 2022.

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 final public meeting for calendar year 2022 was held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022. Additional meeting information 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 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. 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 began on April 1, 2022 and will run through June 30, 2023. Performance Periods 2 and 3 (each 12 months) will run from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, and July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, respectively. 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.