



**January 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

Happy New Year! As you are aware, MY4 of QIP-NJ concluded on December 31, 2024. 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.

MY5 of QIP-NJ is now officially underway! MY5 began on January 1, 2025, and will run through the end of the year. As a reminder, and as outlined in greater detail in this newsletter, final MY3 payment amounts have been released. Next month, final MY3 performance results and MY4 targets will be released.

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 the February Coaching Call on 2/26 at 12PM**

The next SDOHLC coaching call is on **February 26, 2025, from 12 to 1 PM EST!** This interactive session offers SDOHLC participants dedicated time to connect with each other. Attendees will get the opportunity to share challenges, ask questions, and engage in meaningful discussions with peers. The SDOHLC faculty highly encourages all team members to attend and participate for a collaborative discussion.

You can register for the session [here](#).

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

The SDOHLC January Coaching Call featured a panel discussion with Michelle Gross from the Community FoodBank of NJ and Janelle Garcia from Fulfill NJ, two NJ CBOs that provide meal supports. The materials from the session are hyperlinked below and available on the Coaching page of the SDOHLC portal:

- [Recording](#)
- [Slides](#)

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

The next SDOHLC data submission, for the January 2025 data, is **Friday, February 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 **December 2024 data** (originally due on January 17), or retroactively submit data from September to November 2024, 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 2!**

Christina Southey, the SDOHLC improvement advisor, is available for 1:1 coaching calls with SDOHLC teams during Action Period 2 (December 2024 to February 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 2, please reach out to the SDOHLC faculty at [QIP-NJ@pcgus.com](mailto:QIP-NJ@pcgus.com).

### **SDOHLC Event Calendar**

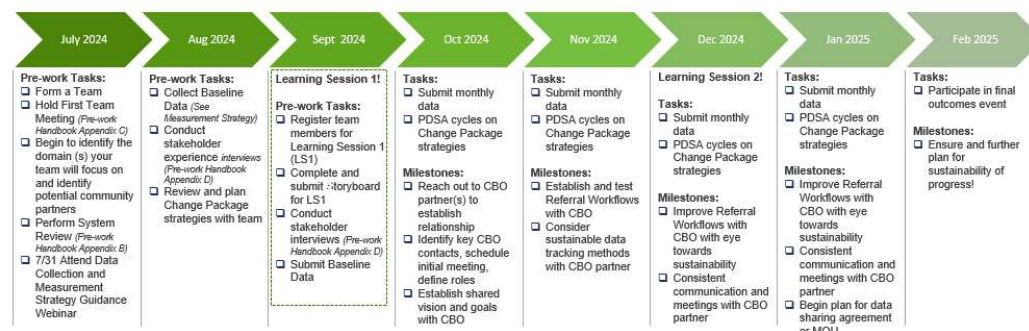
Action Period 2 and 1:1 coaching	December 2024 to February 2025
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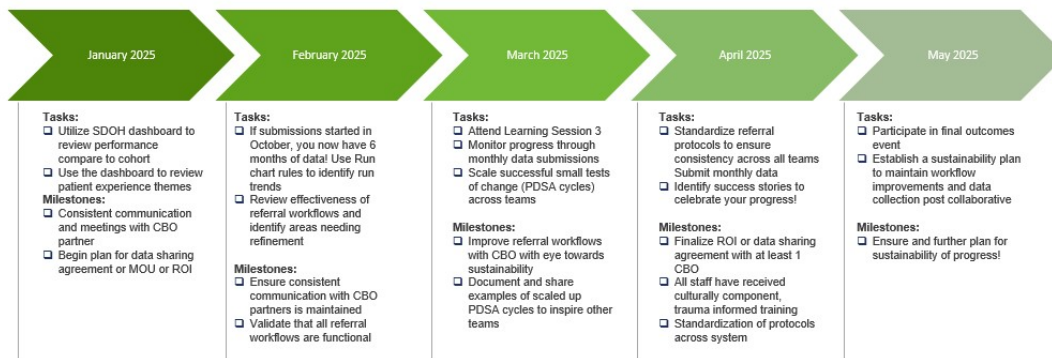
February Coaching Call	February 26, 2025, 12 - 1PM, register <a href="#">here</a>
<b>Extended Period &amp; 1:1 coaching</b>	<b>March 2025 to May 2025</b>
Learning Session 3	March 26 & 27, 2025 from 10AM - 1PM each day
April Coaching Call	April 30, 2025, 12 - 1PM
Final Celebration Event	May 28, 2025, 12 - 1PM

## Extended SDOHLC Roadmap and February 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





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In February 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 January 2025 data in February. Reviewing trends your hospital's data as a team will help with identifying successes, opportunities for improvement, and lessons learned.
- **Share progress with internal stakeholders:** Share the outcomes of your SDOH initiatives with stakeholders within your hospital to highlight the impact of your work and potentially identify internal stakeholders and clinical champions in your internal network.

### MY3 Payment Letters and Results

The Department has completed the review of MY3 claims-based and non-claims-based appeals. The Department prioritized the release of MY3 payment letters, which were placed in each hospital's SFTP folder on January 24, 2025. DOH has partnered with DHS to direct Medicaid Managed Care Organizations to render payments within the first calendar quarter of 2025.

A separate notice with final calculated MY3 results and MY4 targets will be released in early February.

### MY5 Preprints

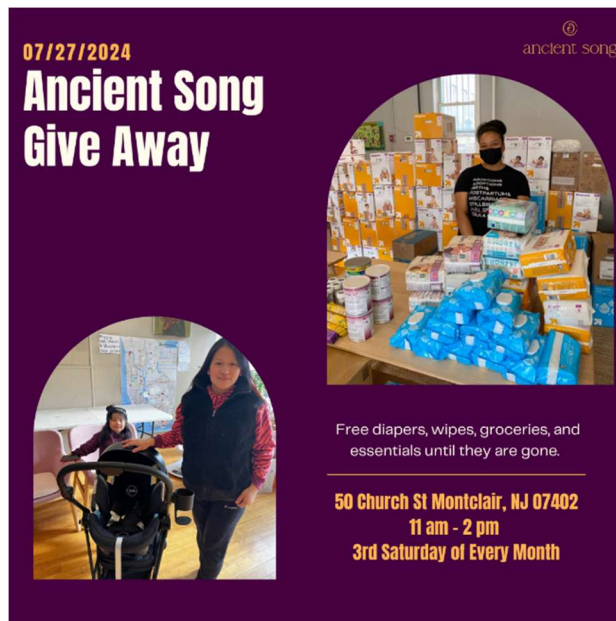
DOH and the Department of Human Services (DHS) submitted the MY5 Preprints under 438.6c for QIP-NJ to CMS last month. DOH will provide regular updates as our team works with CMS to secure necessary approvals.

**IMPORTANT: BH10/M008 Care Transition Measure (CTM)  
Survey Data for MY5**

**This update applies to MY5 data collection and reporting only:** 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**. 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. The cohort starts on February 26th at 12 PM EST. 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 February 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 latest 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).

