



July 2022 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

We are now over halfway through MY2 of QIP-NJ, which began on January 1, 2022, and will continue through December 31, 2022. DOH appreciates all of the hard work and dedication that our hospital partners have already put into MY2, and we look forward to continuing to work in close partnership throughout the second half of the MY.

As a reminder, DOH strongly encourages all hospitals to review the generalized guidance posted to the QIP-NJ website, which is updated regularly, as well as the more detailed, hospital-specific information provided through the Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) site. Through both the QIP-NJ website and the SFTP site, DOH communicates information intended to assist and provide guidance to hospitals as they move through the MY.

Update: NCB Measure Submission

With the release of MY1 attribution, the QIP-NJ MY1 NCB Performance Measure Submission began on June 3, 2022 and was due on July 22, 2022. The results of the MY1 NCB performance measure results will be combined with the MY1 claims-based performance measure results and determine MY1 performance payments. DOH is now actively working to review and hospitals will be notified as soon as results are ready.

Reminder: One-Time, Targeted MY1 Bridge Payment

As a reminder, for MY1, in addition to the QIP-NJ BH and Maternal Health Performance-Based Section 438.6(c) Preprints, totaling \$168 million, DOH also submitted a one-time Targeted Bridge Payment 438.6(c) Preprint, for Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) inpatient bed days at acute care hospitals during the period of July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 (broken out by Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MMCO)), totaling \$42 million.

DOH, in partnership with the Department of Human Services (DHS), is directing this one-time payment arrangement to help ensure that hospitals with a high Relative Medicaid Percentage (RMP) have funding for continued response and recovery resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to promote better access to care for MMC individuals in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. DOH anticipates releasing the MY1 Targeted Bridge Payment by August 2022. For more information, please refer to the [State's QIP-NJ "Bridge" Payment Memo](#).

Please note that there will not be a Targeted Bridge payment for MY2 and ongoing, and those previously allocated funds (\$42 million) will be rolled into the funding pool for performance payments (\$168 million), which means the total QIP-NJ annual available funding will remain \$210 million. To help ensure broader awareness and understanding amongst hospitals, DOH has updated our [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) document](#) on our QIP-NJ website.

Updated Governing and FAQ Documents

DOH would like to note that the [FAQ](#) and [Governing Document](#), available on the QIP-NJ website as program guidance resources, have been recently updated. As a reminder, the QIP-NJ FAQ document provides additional guidance and clarification to key partners and stakeholders relative to QIP-NJ and covers topics including but not limited to general information, eligibility and participation, attribution, measure selections and updates, measurement and payment calculations, hospital funding and payments, Learning Collaboratives, and program support. The QIP-NJ Governing Document provides a high-level overview of all aspects of QIP-NJ, which may be helpful for hospitals as well as other stakeholders.

BHLC July Update

- In July, the BHLC faculty held a monthly group coaching session open to all participating hospitals. The topic of the coaching session was "The

Psychology of Change” with guest faculty Kate Hilton facilitating the session. The session had multiple teams sharing how they have applied strategies to implement change and sustain improvements in BH practices. The FAQ from this session can be found [here](#).

- Mark your calendars for **Thursday, August 11th, 2022, from 12:00 to 1:00 PM EST** for a BHLC Coaching Session focusing on the Social Determinants of Health & Homelessness via Zoom. The storyboard template will be released closer to the date of the session. Please register [here](#).
- Mark your calendars for **September 15, 2022 from 1:00 to 2:30 PM EST** for the BHLC Final Celebration session! This will be an opportunity for BHLC participants to come together and share their accomplishments over the last year with State leadership. More information will be shared about this session in the coming weeks.

MLC July Update

As a reminder, the Maternal Learning Collaborative (MLC) is set to launch in October 2022! The MLC is a resource provided by DOH to help increase the likelihood of hospitals achieving QIP-NJ performance targets, share best practices, and accelerate the implementation of systemic improvements in health outcomes for the maternal health population. Upcoming MLC events are listed below:

- Info Session #2: August 9, 2022, 11:00AM to 12:00 PM EST
- Participation Interest Forms: Due August 12, 2022, 5:00 PM EST
- Prework Webinar: September 13, 2022, 12:00PM to 1:00 PM EST
- Learning Session 1: October 4 & 5, 2022, 1:00PM to 4:00 PM EST

You can also find more information on the MLC posted on the [Learning Collaborative page](#) of the QIP-NJ website under the “Maternal Learning Collaborative Program Information” section:

- [MLC Charter](#)
- [MLC Change Package](#)
- [MLC Info Sheet](#)
- [MLC Infographic](#)
- [MLC Recorded Information Sessions](#)
- [MLC Key Driver Diagram](#)
- [MLC Measurement Strategy](#)
- [MLC Participation Interest Form](#)

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. Recently, the Nurture NJ team shared an update on New Jersey’s Universal Home Visiting

(UHV) program implementation. In July 2021, Governor Philip D. Murphy signed into law S690 to create a statewide, UHV program for newborns. This will be only the second such program in the United States through which families with a newborn can have a specially trained nurse visit their home in the first few weeks after the child's birth. If you have any questions regarding the UHV program, please email UHV@dcf.nj.gov.

- 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 most recent public meeting was held on June 28, 2022, via Microsoft Teams. [As always, please continue to check the NJMCQC's website](#) for more information and instructions on how to sign-up for future public meetings. For additional information about the MCQC, 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. Staffed with Tobacco Treatment Specialists, they offer an individualized treatment planning session, individual and group counseling, Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT), and information and materials about lung cancer screening all free of charge. Quit Centers can and do play an integral role in helping clinical facilities meet their goal of advancing statewide quality improvements for BH under Measure BH8: Substance Use Screening and Intervention Composite. Currently, Inspira Quit Center and RWJ Barnabas Health Institute for Prevention and Recovery (IFPR) Nicotine and Tobacco Recovery Program are actively providing screening services and connection to resources for their hospital systems. Quit Center contact information can be found here: <https://www.tobaccofreenj.com/quit-smoking>.
 - **Inspira Quit Center** provides every nicotine dependent ED patient with education about the availability of Inspira's free smoking cessation services. ED patients who express an interest in quitting during their visit are referred through Inspira's Cerner EMR referral system to the Inspira Quit Center. Inspira Quit Center information is also printed on current tobacco users' discharge paperwork.
 - **RWJBarnabas Health** has developed and implemented a system-wide automatic referral system which connects ED patients who report past-year tobacco use during the nurse-administered NIDA Quick Screen to the Institute for Prevention and Recovery Nicotine and Tobacco Recovery Program. The automatic triggers, which went live in RWJBH EHRs in July 2022, are designed to notify the program's Rutgers-certified Tobacco Treatment Specialists of patients post-discharge so they can connect with patients and provide evidence-based cessation services. This initiative not only satisfies portions of QIP-NJ's BH8 Measure but also improves the transition of care after discharge.
- **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), 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.

- **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. Clinicians who choose to participate in the EOC Pilot are financially incentivized to take on comprehensive responsibility for the quality and cost of their patients' care. The EOC pilot will tie incentives to improvements in quality and cost of maternity-related care, from the prenatal period to 60 days postpartum. In addition to eligibility for additional financial incentives, providers who participate in the EOC Pilot will receive detailed personalized feedback on their performance and will undertake specific quality improvement activities. The EOC Pilot began on April 1, 2022, and the three Performance Periods are as follows (see [Key dates](#)):
 - Performance Period 1 (15 months): April 1, 2022-June 30, 2023
 - Performance Period 2 (12 months): July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024
 - Performance Period 3 (12 months): July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025For 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.

Questions?

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

Thank you,

QIP-NJ Team

