



March 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 approximately three months into MY2 of QIP-NJ, which 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 entire MY. DOH wants to remind our hospital partners that although MY2 started on January 1, 2022, DOH – in collaboration with the Department of Human Services (DHS) – continues to actively work to secure necessary federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approvals. DOH and DHS have already gone through several rounds of questions with CMS and our teams have a standing monthly call, so DOH hopes to receive approval soon. More information regarding CMS approval will be released once it becomes available.

Update: QIP-NJ All Hospital Meeting

DOH would like to thank all the hospitals who attended the QIP-NJ All Hospital Meeting, which was held on Thursday, March 17, 2022. As shared previously, the purpose of the meeting was to provide a brief overview of the themes and questions DOH has received regarding the MY0 NCB measure results. Hospitals were able to submit questions in advance via an online survey that was sent out on Thursday, March 10th, and DOH received many questions that were answered during the session. To the extent it is appropriate and necessary, and for any questions not addressed during the meeting, DOH is working to incorporate information into one or more of our existing Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) documents. A recording of the session will also be made available for those hospital partners who were unable to attend. Please reach out to QIP-NJ@pcgus.com if you have any additional questions.

Update: MY0 NCB Appeals Results Distribution

Following the passage of the March 9th deadline for hospitals to submit their NCB measure appeals, DOH is now actively working to review and anticipates sending out the appeal results by the end of the month. Please email QIP-NJ@pcgus.com if you have any questions or concerns when your hospital receives these results.

BH LC March Update

Earlier this month, on March 15th and 16th, DOH held the second BHLC Learning Session (LS #2), which was delayed from January due to the most recent COVID-19 surge. In LS #2, hospitals spent a total of eight hours, over the course of two four-hour afternoon sessions, listening to presentations from BHLC faculty and fellow hospitals on the work that they had been doing in the BH LC. Additionally, hospitals presented storyboards to their peers and discussed how they had been implementing their tests of change that were planned at the beginning of the BH LC. Participants will now enter the second Action Period of the BH LC in preparation for the third and final LS #3, which is presently planned to be held in June. Additional information regarding the specific meeting dates and times will be forthcoming.

Other State Initiatives and Programs

- 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 NJMCQC public meeting was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am EST. Please continue to check the [NJMCQC's website](#) for more information and instructions on how to sign-up for the upcoming as well as any future public meetings. For additional information about the MCQC, please email doh-mcqc@doh.nj.gov.
- DOH -- in partnership with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) -- has completed a comprehensive review of birthing hospital responses relative to the CDC **Levels of Care Assessment Tool**

(LOCATe) survey, which was released last summer to assess the maternal and neonatal care capabilities of hospitals in alignment with recommendations from the American College of Gynecologists, the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Based upon preliminary assessments for both maternal and neonatal levels of care, DOH is conducting targeted follow-up to the original survey responses. Each hospital that completed the survey last summer will receive an e-mail with their results by the end of the month. Hospitals will be given a month to review and correct any information regarding services available. To that end, please be on the lookout for an email message with the subject line, “*NJ LOCATe Survey Results, coming soon!*”. DOH appreciates your attention to this matter.

- 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.

Questions?

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

Thank you,

QIP-NJ Team



