



**May 2024**

**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!

- [DOH Corner](#)
- [Learning Collaborative Updates](#)
- [MY3 Data Submission Webinar and Updated Reporting Guidance](#)
- [MY3 Attribution Reports and Non-claims-Based Data Reporting](#)
- [Other State Initiatives and Programs](#)

## DOH Corner

We are now approximately five months into MY4 of QIP-NJ, which began in January and will run through the end of the year. As we look forward, DOH continues to appreciate all the time, effort, and resources that participating hospitals are putting into QIP-NJ and looks forward to seeing continued quality improvement for both the maternal health and behavioral health (BH) populations.

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

### **Social Determinants of Health Learning Collaborative (SDOH LC) Information Session Materials**

The SDOH LC Information session was on Wednesday 22, 2024 from 12PM to 1PM EST. During the session, the faculty reviewed the Collaborative focus and measurement strategy and outlined the process to join the program. We are excited to create a space to share best practices and accelerate the implementation of systemic improvements in SDOH-related outcomes for the maternal and behavioral populations!

The materials from the session are hyperlinked below:

- Recording: [\[Link\]](#)
- Slides: [\[Link\]](#)

### **SDOH LC Kick-Off Webinar**

The SDOHLC will start in June with the Kick-Off Webinar (Pre-work Conference) on **June 26, 2024, from 12PM EST to 1PM EST!** The objectives of the session are to:

- Ensure common understanding of SDOH LC goals among participants.
- Provide teams support in executing pre-work tasks.
- Support teams in preparation for Learning Session #1 in September.

- Provide a platform for questions & answers about the SDOH LC.

Register for the SDOH LC Pre-work Conference here:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkdOqsrDorGtOG1GGv\\_X0rpqNisdJ8H0xy](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkdOqsrDorGtOG1GGv_X0rpqNisdJ8H0xy)

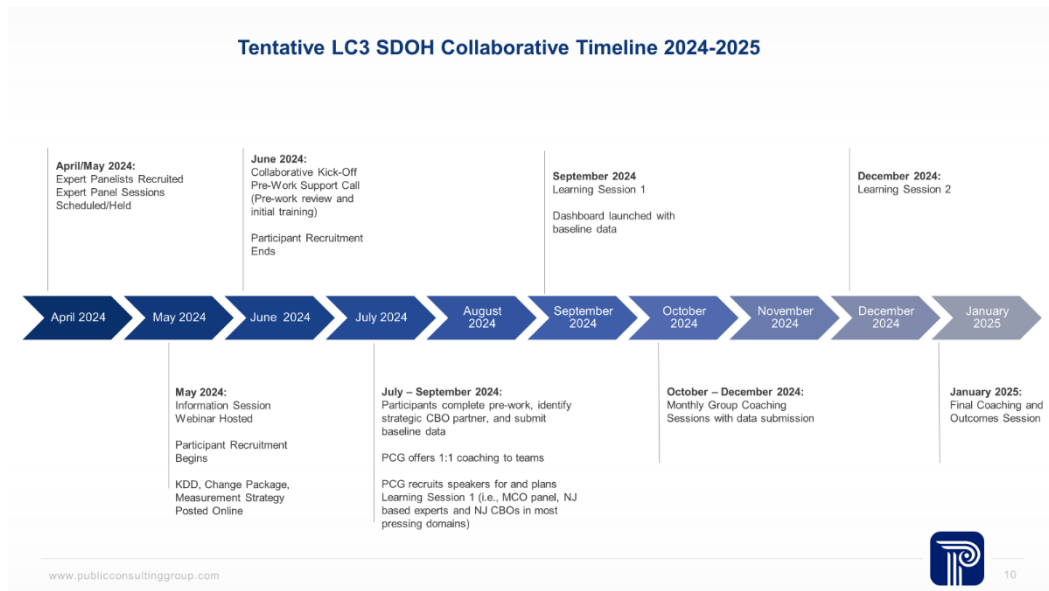
### **Extended Deadline for the SDOH LC Participation Interest Form**

The SDOH LC faculty has moved the deadline to submit the Participation Interest Form to **June 26, 2024 at 5PM EST**. Below please find details about the program to support your team in considering participation in the SDOH LC:

- Review the recording of the SDOH LC Information Session: [\[Link\]](#)
- Review the [Participation Interest Form \(PDF version\)](#) and note the **NEW** deadline to submit is **5:00 PM on June 26, 2024**.
- Review the preliminary [Key Driver Diagram](#), [Measurement Strategy](#), and [Infographic](#). [Please note that final learning collaborative materials will be posted on the QIP-NJ learning collaborative website in the second week of June.](#)
- Review the tentative timeline of the SDOH LC below (which will be a shorter Collaborative compared to the BHLC and MLC).

The participation interest form for the upcoming QIP-NJ Social Determinants of Health Learning Collaborative Sprint (referred to as the SDOH LC) is available [here](#) and is **now due on June 26, 2024**. The form will give QIP-NJ hospitals an opportunity to confirm their participation in the SDOH LC. PCG will use submission of this form to identify participating hospitals, plan the necessary level of support for teams, and tailor the pre-work conference in June for the collaborative sprint. As you consider participation,

please do not hesitate to reach out to the team with questions ([qip-nj@pcgus.com](mailto:qip-nj@pcgus.com) and [etrucks@pcgus.com](mailto:etrucks@pcgus.com)). For your planning and preparation purposes, please review the tentative timeline for the upcoming SDOH LC below:



*The June kick-off and summer months will be focused on pre-work and preparing teams for success. The learning and coaching sessions will begin in September.*

### **Preeclampsia Awareness Month**

May is Preeclampsia Awareness Month! We want to acknowledge the effort made by the QIP-NJ teams who participated in the Maternal Learning Collaborative to improve the timely treatment of SHTN, and effectively making a difference for pregnant women and birthing people impacted by preeclampsia and other hypertensive issues. We know that, although the Collaborative has formally ended, teams are working to sustain the efforts and improvements achieved during the Collaborative.

Preeclampsia is a serious disease during pregnancy, where high blood pressure and other complications can put women and birthing people, as well as the baby, at risk. It affects about 4% of pregnancies in the United States and accounts for 6% of preterm births. Black birthing individuals are

at greater risk for developing preeclampsia, due to heightened experiences of racism, further exacerbating disparities in maternal health outcomes. Thank you to the QIP-NJ teams for working to improve this outcome for patients in New Jersey!

There are local organizations in New Jersey advocating for reproductive justice and supporting birthing people at risk of pre-eclampsia and even helping to provide blood pressure cuffs and outreach support. One such organization is the New Jersey based [Perinatal Health Equity Initiative](#), led by Dr. Dr. Nastassia K. Harris. Teams should continue to connect with community-based organizations like this to increase their awareness of valuable resources available in the communities you serve.

### **MY3 Data Submission Webinar Feedback and Updated Guidance**

Thank you to the numerous hospital teams and other individuals who attended the MY3 Data Submission Best Practices Webinar and Guidance session held on May 23, 2024. During the session, the QIP-NJ Team reviewed best practices, the estimated timeline, and FAQs in advance of MY3 reporting. The slides can be found [here](#).

Following the webinar, there were minor updates made to reporting guidance, such that the current documents to consult for reporting compliance are:

- Standard Reporting Template (SRT) v3.1 (no changes)
- SRT v3.1 for BH12 and M010 (no changes)
- SRT Guidance Document v3.2
- Measurement Specifications and Submission Databook v3.2
- Value Set Compendium (VSC) v3.3.

**Please note:** the QIP-NJ website will also maintain the redlined versions of SRT Guidance Document v3.1 and Databook v3.1 as well so that hospitals can more easily review updates for MY3 reporting across all documents.

### **MY3 Attribution Reports and Non-Claims-Based Data Reporting**

Hospitals can expect to receive MY3 Attribution Reports by June 3, 2024. As reviewed at the MY3 Data Submission Webinar, and as described in greater

detail in the QIP-NJ Governing Document, these retrospective reports are used to assign Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) enrolled individuals to each hospital for inclusion in performance calculation.

Additionally, hospitals will find a letter containing the statewide total number of MMC-enrolled individuals attributed for the behavioral health (BH) and maternal health components of QIP-NJ for MY3. This information is provided to all participating hospitals to assist hospitals with estimating their share of total attribution for MY3.

Accordingly, with the release of MY3 Attribution Reports, the Non-Claims-Based (NCB) data submission window is open, and **NCB submissions are due by 5pm on August 7, 2024.**

## Other State Initiatives and Programs

- **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.snipc.org/alma](http://www.snipc.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)** aims to achieve a significant and sustained improvement in overall maternal and infant morbidity and mortality rates statewide. The last meeting was held on March 26<sup>th</sup> and the next meeting will be held on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Additional information, including meeting materials, 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](mailto: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.tobaccofreej.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) began on July 1, 2023 and will run through June 30, 2024. Performance Period 3 (12 months) will run from July 1, 2024 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).



