



November 2021 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

While it may be hard to believe, there is approximately one month remaining in MY1 of QIP-NJ, which concludes on December 31st. To that end, given that MY2 starts on January 1, 2022, subject to federal approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), DOH is requesting that hospitals turn a portion of their attention to completing the MY 2 LOI process, as described in more detailed further in this newsletter.

Relative to CMS approval for MY2, DOH is pleased to report that, in partnership with the Department of Human Services (DHS), the MY2 Section 438(c) Pre-Prints were formally submitted to CMS on November 10th. Leading up to this submission, DOH and DHS have been having monthly technical assistance calls with CMS and hopes that this will help expedite the review and approval process. As a reminder, once approved by CMS, MY2 of QIP-NJ will run from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. More information will be released once it becomes available.

As always, DOH continues to appreciate the diligent work of our hospital partners as they work towards driving systemic improvements in quality for the maternal health and BH populations. To that end, DOH will continue to provide various avenues for technical assistance to our hospital partners as they work to finish MY1 and close out any remaining non-claims-based baseline (MY0) data submission requirements, as described in more detail below.

Thank you again, and – as we look ahead - DOH wishes all of our hospital partners a happy and healthy holiday season.

Update: QIP-NJ Baseline (MY0) Non-Claims-Based Measure Submissions and Technical Assistance Webinars

As our hospital partners are likely aware, on November 8th, DOH released a memo related to hospital baseline (MY0) non-claims-based data submissions, which outlined a detailed remediation strategy that affords impacted hospitals a one-time opportunity to resubmit their baseline (MY0) non-claims-based data to improve various significant and material issues with the vast majority of initial hospital submissions. To this end, DOH will then use any resubmissions in conjunction with the MY1 non-claims-based data to calculate individual hospital performance results tied to payment.

To assist hospitals with their one-time resubmission, by November 30th, DOH will release updated Standard Reporting Template (SRT) guidance, which will include more granular, measure-by-measure instructions on required data fields and elements, as well as provide individual error reports to all impacted hospitals, which will detail the inaccuracies of each hospital's initial submission. Further, DOH will be hosting a series of seven (7) live webinars to provide additional, targeted technical assistance for each non-claims-based measure. The schedule for these webinars, including links to each Microsoft Teams meeting, is as follows:

Measure	Webinar Date and Time
BH9 / M6: Timely Transmission of the Transition Record – NQF #0648	December 6, 2021, 10 – 11am EST
BH8: Substance Use Screening and Intervention Composite – NQF #2597	December 8, 2021, 11am – 12pm EST
BH7: Preventative Care and Screening: Screening for Depression and Follow-Up – NQF #0418 And M3: Postpartum Depression Screening – NQF #1401	December 8, 2021, 3 – 4pm EST
M2: PC-02 Cesarean Birth – NQF #0471	December 13, 2021, 10 – 11am EST
M7: Treatment of Severe Hypertension	December 15, 2021, 11am – 12pm EST
BH10 / M8: 3-Item Care Transitions Measure (CTM-3)	January 4, 2022, 1 – 2pm EST
BH11 / M9: Use of a Standardized Screening Tool for Social Determinants of Health	January 6, 2022, 2 – 3pm EST

All MY0 non-claims-based data resubmissions **MUST** be received by DOH **no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, February 4, 2022**. Prior to resubmitting any MY0 non-claims-based data, DOH strongly suggests that all impacted hospitals confirm they have done the following:

1. Reviewed their original MY0 non-claims-based data submissions against the updated SRT guidance;
2. Reviewed their own individual hospital error reports;
3. Attended the applicable/requisite technical assistance webinar(s); and
4. If/as needed, reached out to DOH via the QIP-NJ@pcgus.com email with hospital-specific questions.

Please note that hospitals that choose not to resubmit their non-claims-based baseline data or resubmit but fail to correct the errors identified in their individual reports in alignment with QIP-NJ requirements, DOH will use the originally submitted MY0 non-claims-based data, along with MY1 non-claims-based data, to calculate performance payments. ***To that end, please also note that failing to resubmit corrected MY0 non-claims-based data, consistent with the clarified SRT guidance and additional technical assistance, may result in hospitals not meeting performance targets and thus not earning payment for the corresponding measure(s).***

Following the resubmission deadline of February 4, 2022, DOH will calculate individual hospital performance results and publish an appeals guidance document and workbook to the QIP-NJ [Participants & Stakeholders](#) webpage. Appeals guidance documents and workbooks will be updated annually. As a reminder, only computational and systemic reporting errors may be appealed; disputes related to DOH- and CMS-approved QIP-NJ protocols, program policy, formula designs, or measure baselines, are not appealable. Additionally, hospitals cannot appeal results based on non-claims-based data submitted incorrectly. Please note that there will be a separate but consistent appeals process for claims-based performance results. More information and guidance will be forthcoming on that process soon.

DOH appreciates your attention to this important matter and looks forward to receiving resubmissions for hospital-submitted MY0 non-claims-based data early next year. In the interim, should you have any questions about the contents of this memorandum and/or the resubmission process, please reach out via email at QIP-NJ@pcgus.com.

November 10th QMC Meeting Recap

The QMC, established to support DOH in the policy design of QIP-NJ, met on Wednesday, November 10th to review and provide targeted feedback on proposed programmatic and measure steward updates for MY2. DOH presented recommendations to the QMC on proposed measure updates and shared additional feedback from Hospital Technical Contacts, which was collected via an online survey in the weeks leading up to the meeting. QMC members also reviewed additional screening tools, identified by hospital partners in MY0, which are being proposed for inclusion in MY2 and ongoing. Following conclusion of the meeting, DOH also provided for an additional written comment period from QMC members with all feedback due by 5:00 PM on November 17th. As always, DOH will take the QMC's recommendations into consideration as it works to finalize MY2 of QIP-NJ and will denote any program modifications in the latest version of the Databook and additional programmatic communications.

Now Available: MY2 LOI Materials

For MY2 of QIP-NJ, DOH is reimplementing a “Letter of Intent” process, which requires all NJ acute care hospitals to actively respond indicating whether or not they intend to participate in QIP-NJ MY2. In confirming or declining participation, hospitals will acknowledge and agree to the set of conditions listed in the LOI materials, which are available on the [Documents and Resources](#) page of the QIP-NJ website. The LOI must be completed by an approved hospital representative and signed by the hospital Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Chief Medical Officer (CMO), or Chief Quality Officer (CQO). While the QIP-NJ LOI is a formal indication to DOH of a hospital’s intention whether or not to participate in QIP-NJ, it is not a legally binding document. All NJ hospitals have received emails containing the MY2 LOI guidance document and associated templates and are expected to complete and submit the signed QIP-NJ MY1 LOI to DOH no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, December 10th. Please email QIP-NJ@pcgus.com if you have any questions about the MY2 LOI process.

BH LC November Update

In November, the BH LC held its second set of coaching sessions for participating hospitals. These sessions focused on community partner engagement and involved presentations from representatives from Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) such as Oaks Integrated Care and Acenda Counseling and Wellness Center. The representatives discussed action steps that hospitals teams and community partners should take to build a working relationship. Hospital teams met in breakout groups afterwards to discuss strategies for building community partner relationships. The LC team will be hosting one more group coaching session in December for all participating hospitals before Learning Session #2, which will take place on January 25th and 26th, 2022. More detailed information about Learning Session #2 will be available in the coming weeks.

Other State Initiatives and Materials

DOH continues to encourage hospital partners to stay informed and engaged relative to the work of DOH, as well as other NJ State departments, through their various state initiatives and programs, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The NJ Maternal Care Quality Collaborative (NJMCQC), which aims to achieve a significant and sustained improvement in overall maternal and infant morbidity and mortality rates statewide. The last NJMCQC public meeting was held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021. Please check the [NJMCQC’s website](#) for more information and to sign-up for future public meetings.
- 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.

- DOH was recently awarded a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Community Health Workers (CHW) for COVID Response and Resilient Communities (CCR) grant. This award is a \$9 million grant over the span of three years, which will be used train, engage, and deploy CHWs to combat the ill effects of COVID-19 and disparities that have been exacerbated by the COVID pandemic. For more information about the grant, please review the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and award recipients on the [CDC's website](#).

Questions?

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

Thank you,

QIP-NJ Team

