



November 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.

- [DOH Corner](#)
- [Measure Year \(MY\) 1 Claims-Based Measure Appeals Under Review](#)
- [Update: MY1 Non-Claims-Based \(NCB\) Appeals Results Distribution](#)
- [Update: MY1 Performance Results and Payment, and MY2 Targets](#)
- [Update: QIP-NJ Maternal Learning Collaborative \(MLC\)](#)
- [Important: MY3 Letter of Intent \(LOI\) Submission](#)
- [Update: Quality Measures Committee \(QMC\) Meeting](#)
- [Update: Pre-Print Development and Submission to the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#)
- [Other State Initiatives and Programs](#)

DOH Corner

We are now approximately one month away from the close of MY2 of QIP-NJ, which began on January 1st, and will conclude on December 31st of this year. As always, and especially with the holiday season around the corner, DOH continues to appreciate the dedication that all our participating hospital partners have brought and continue to bring to QIP-NJ. QIP-NJ would not be successful without all of your hard work and contributions.

This month's newsletter contains important updates regarding the finalization of MY1 performance calculations and payments, as well as the release of MY2 targets. In response to discussions with members of QIP-NJ's Quality Measurement Committee (QMC) and individual hospitals regarding MY1 performance as well as determinations to substantiate hospital appeals, DOH has been working diligently with our colleagues at Public Consulting Group (PCG) to implement clinically appropriate measure specification and value set compendium (VSC) changes.

Due to the implementation of these changes and additional required calculations, the MY1 payment timeline has shifted, as described in this newsletter. Ultimately, DOH believes that the changes being made are in the best interests of individual participating hospitals as well as QIP-NJ overall. More details on the specific timing for various notifications and QIP-NJ MY1 payments are provided below. DOH again thanks all participating hospitals for their ongoing and continued partnership as we wrap up MY2 and look forward to MY3.

MY1 Claims-Based Measure Appeals Under Review

Each hospital received MY1 measure results and Patient Level Reports (PLRs) for all claims-based measures. DOH is actively reviewing claims-based measure appeals and hospitals will be notified of results in early December.

Update: MY1 NCB Appeals Results Distribution

The deadline for MY1 NCB appeals was October 14th. DOH is now actively reviewing appeals and anticipates the release of appeal results by mid-November.

MY1 Performance Results and Payment and MY2 Targets

As indicated in the DOH Corner above, the payment schedule for MY1 is shifting such that MY1 performance results and payment amounts, including guidance to Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) relative to MY1 payments as well as MY2 targets will be released in mid-January. As MCOs have 30 days to disburse funds to hospitals, DOH expects that all hospitals will receive MY1 funds by the end of the 1st quarter of 2023 (mid-to-late March 2023). Please note that there are many payment-related activities that must occur before payment is distributed, which includes but is not limited to: claims run out, performance calculations, hospital reporting periods, appeals periods, and the MCO transfer and distribution of payments.

Update: QIP-NJ MLC

November Group Coaching Call Information

The QIP-NJ MLC November Group Coaching Call was held on **Tuesday, November 15, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM EST**. The topic of the session was Process Mapping, which included a case study. Participating hospitals and their respective teams can find the materials from the session below:

- [MLC November Coaching Call Recording](#)
- [MLC November Coaching Call Slides](#)

Learning Session (LS) #1 Certificates

QIP-NJ MLC participants that have claimed continuing medical education (CME) credits for LS #1 should have received their certificates for attending the session. If there are any questions and/or concerns regarding CME accreditation, and/or if you have not received your certificate, please directly contact the Rutgers team via email at cce@ubhc.rutgers.edu.

QIP-NJ MLC Schedule

December Coaching Call	December 6, 2022, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
January LS2 Overview Call	January 17, 2023, 12:00 PM to 12:30 PM
LS #2	January 31 to February 1, 2023, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Action Period #2	February 2023 to May 2023
February Coaching Call	February 28, 2023, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
March Coaching Call	March 28, 2023, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
April Coaching Call	April 25, 2023, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
May Coaching Call	May 30, 2023, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
LS #3	June 20-21, 2023, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Action Period #3	June 2023 to September 2023
July Coaching Call	July 25, 2023, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
August Coaching Call	August 29, 2023, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
September Coaching Call	September 26, 2023, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
October Coaching Call	October 31, 2023, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
Final Celebration Event	December 1, 2023 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

* Please note that all times are in EST.

Important: MY3 LOI Materials

For MY3 of QIP-NJ, DOH is using the same LOI process that was used for prior MYs. MY3 LOI materials were distributed earlier this month and require all NJ acute care hospitals to affirmatively respond indicating whether or not they intend to participate in MY3 of QIP-NJ. In confirming or declining participation, hospitals must acknowledge and agree to the set of conditions listed in the LOI materials. The LOI materials are available on the [Documents and Resources](#) page of the QIP-NJ website. Responses from hospitals are due **December 10, 2022**. 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, it is not a legally binding document.

Update: QMC Meeting

Following the most recent convening of the QIP-NJ QMC, DOH invited QMC members to review additional codes for consideration in the VSC and Databook for MY3. Feedback from QMC members is being incorporated into the final MY3 VSC and Databook that will be disseminated in early 2023, pending CMS approval of the program design. Additionally, engaging with the QMC and stakeholders has enabled QIP-NJ to identify opportunity to make one-time retrospective changes to MY0 and MY1 that reflect clinically appropriate service capture that is consistent with measure specifications and will not introduce issues with CMS approval nor unintended downstream impacts.

Update: Pre-Print Development and Submission to CMS

DOH, in partnership with PCG and the Department of Human Services (DHS), submitted the Pre-Prints to CMS in late October. The most notable updates to the Pre-Prints for MY3 included adjustments to certain measure targets based on MY0 (baseline) evaluation findings, as discussed recently with the QMC. DOH/PCG will provide regular updates as our team works with CMS to secure necessary approvals.

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.
- 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 final public meeting for calendar year 2022 will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022. Additional meeting information will be published on the NJMCQC website as the meeting draws closer, 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.
- 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 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. 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 began on April 1, 2022 and will run through June 30, 2023. Performance Periods 2 and 3 (each 12 months) will run from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, and July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, respectively. 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.

Questions?

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

Thank you,

QIP-NJ Team

