



**November 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!

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## DOH Corner

QIP-NJ is now approximately eleven months into Measurement Year (MY) 4, which began in January and will run through the end of the year. DOH continues to appreciate all the time, effort, and resources that participating hospitals are putting into the program and looks forward to seeing continued quality improvement for both the maternal health and BH populations.

Last month, DOH convened the Quality Measures Committee (QMC) for the eleventh and final meeting. DOH would like to thank the QMC members for their time and feedback.

Please note, MY3 appeals and results are currently under review, with results and payments related to MY3 on schedule to be rendered no later than the first quarter of 2025. Additionally, DOH has been collaborating with the NJ Department of Human Services to prepare the MY5 Preprints for submission to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

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

### **SDOHLC Extension to May 2025**

Following the review of responses to a poll to gauge interest in an extension of the SDOHLC, DOH and SDOHLC faculty have decided to extend the Collaborative **from February 2025 until May 2025**.

If your team anticipates challenges with continuing participation, the SDOHLC faculty would like to work with you to explore ways to overcome these challenges. Please email [QIP-NJ@pcgus.com](mailto:QIP-NJ@pcgus.com) to schedule a meeting or discuss potential solutions.

You can find the updated SDOHLC event calendar below and on the Event Calendar page of the portal. Thank you for your dedication to this important work!

Action Period 1 and one-on-one (1:1) coaching	September 2024 to December 2024
<a href="#">Learning Session 2</a>	December 11 & 12, 2024, 10AM - 1PM on each day, register <a href="#">here</a>
Action Period 2 and 1:1 coaching	December 2024 to February 2025
January Coaching Call	January 29, 2024, 12 - 1PM
February Coaching Call	February 26, 2024, 12 - 1PM
Extended Period & 1:1 coaching	March 2025 to May 2025
Learning Session 3	March 26 & 27, 2025 from 10AM - 1PM each day (Wednesday and Thursday)
April Coaching Call	April 30, 2025, 12 - 1PM
Final Celebration Event	May 28, 2025, 12 - 1PM

**Register for Learning Session 2 on December 11 and 12, 2024, from 10AM to 1PM EST**

The SDOHLC Learning Session 2 (LS2) will take place on **December 11 and 12, 2024 from 10AM to 1PM EST each day!**

You can expect to hear from experts in the domains of focus, fellow SDOHLC participants, and community-based organizations in New Jersey that will share their unique insights and progress towards the SDOHLC aim during LS2! By collaborating and actively participating in each session, you can learn how to build off of the progress that your team has made since LS1 in September and incorporate best practices into your own hospital's setting.

Participants can register for the learning session [here](#) or using the link below:

<b>Event</b>	QIP-NJ SDOHLC Learning Session 2
<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	December 11 & 12, 2024, 10AM - 1PM EST each day



down menu. The “Program Materials” page will also be located within this dropdown menu.

Each participating team’s designated Tableau license-holder received an email from the QIP-NJ team on November 20, 2024, with instructions on how to access the dashboard. We recommend accessing the dashboard with Chrome or Microsoft Edge. **If you experience issues with the two-factor authentication process, please contact Tableau directly.**

The following dashboard pages/views are available to support your team’s performance in the SDOHLC:

- The Summary Dashboard tab serves as the central command center to quickly assess performance trends for the SDOHLC, offering a comprehensive snapshot of our monthly performance. It is a tool for tracking domain-specific outcomes, exploring emerging patient feedback themes, and monitoring CBO relationship development through SDOHLC interactive roadmap.
- The Qualitative Dashboard brings the SDOHLC partnerships to life through an interactive map of SDOHLC participating hospitals. This visual tool not only displays the geographical spread of the SDOHLC network but also provides a detailed inventory of the participating teams’ community partnerships across housing, meal, and transportation supports. The dashboard offers a clear view of organizational SDOH training progress and helps identify potential partnership opportunities within your region.
- The Quantitative Dashboard allows teams to view individual hospital performance for Measure 1: Completion rate for Follow Up Services after SDOH screening. Teams can also compare their performance with other hospitals through customizable views and filtering capabilities.

### **Schedule a 1:1 Coaching Call with Christina after LS2**

Christina Southey, the SDOHLC improvement advisor, is available for 1:1 coaching calls with SDOHLC teams after LS2! These meetings are an opportunity to ask targeted questions and receive feedback on your team’s SDOHLC aim and strategy after you reflect on Action Period 1 and LS 2. The link to the sign-up link for 1:1 coaching calls with Christina will be shared at LS2.

### **MY3 Appeals Under Review**

The Department is in the process of reviewing MY3 Claims-based and Non-claims-based (NCB) appeals. As a reminder, only reporting and computational errors were appealable, and claims-based results rely on the presence of final paid claims in order to substantiate any appeals.

Disputes related to CMS and DOH-approved QIP-NJ protocols, including, but not limited to, program policy, attribution, formula designs, or statewide targets, were not appealable and such requests were not adjudicated.

### **Reminder: MY5 LOI Materials Due**

For MY5 of QIP-NJ, DOH used the same LOI process that was used for prior MYs. MY5 LOI materials were distributed via email earlier this month and require all NJ acute care hospitals to affirmatively respond indicating whether they intend to participate in MY5 of QIP-NJ. In confirming or declining participation, hospitals must have acknowledged and agreed 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 at **5:00 PM EST on December 20, 2024**. While the QIP-NJ LOI is a formal indication to DOH of a hospital's intention, it is not a legally binding document.

### **MY5 Preprints**

DOH and the Department of Human Services (DHS) have submitted the MY5 Preprints under 438.6c for QIP-NJ to CMS this month. DOH will provide regular updates as our team works with CMS to secure necessary approvals.

### **BH10/M008 Care Transition Measure (CTM) Survey Data**

Some QIP-NJ participating hospitals have noted challenges accessing identifiable results from CTM surveys. Identifiable results are necessary to match responses to patients/members on attribution rosters. In preparation for MY4 data submission next summer, if your hospital has been having this difficulty, DOH and the QIP-NJ would like to remind you to begin conversations with survey vendors as soon as possible to ensure that you can identify QIP-NJ attributed patients in those results before the reports are issued to the hospital. Hospitals can email the QIP-NJ team at QIP-NJ@pcgus.com to connect with other hospitals who were able to work through challenges on this matter.

## Other State Initiatives and Programs

- The **CDC's Million Hearts® Hypertension in Pregnancy Action Forum (HPAF)** is a national collaborative for clinical, public health, and community-based partners to exchange best and promising practices, identify solutions to common obstacles, and share resources related to improving hypertension management for women during and after pregnancy. This program has ongoing forum sessions that can promote new knowledge and share best practices nationally. Additionally, the program website has some resources that QIP-NJ maternal health teams might find useful, including resources for treating hypertension in the prenatal period and some resources for postpartum blood pressure monitoring.
- The **Ancient Song Give Away** is a monthly event where caregivers can receive free diapers, wipes, and baby essentials. The next giveaway is on December 21, from 10 AM to 2 PM, at 50 Church St., Montclair, NJ 07402, on the 1st floor. These events recur every 3rd Saturday of the month.



- **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.snjpc.org/alma](http://www.snjpc.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)** has transitioned to the **New Jersey Maternal Health Innovation Authority (NJMIHIA)**. Please visit their [website](#) for updates and additional information. The NJMIHIA is governed by a 15-member Board and an appointed President and Chief Executive Officer and support staff. The Board will adopt recommendations for action to reduce maternal mortality, morbidity, and disparities from the NJMCQC. The Board also coordinates with a Community Advisory Committee to support and inform its work. The 11-member Community Advisory Committee will represent diverse community groups with relevant experience as providers or recipients of maternal, infant, and child health services.
  - NJMIHIA's meetings are open to the public and the next meeting will be held on December 18th from 10am to 12pm ET. Additional information, including meeting materials, will be published on the [NJMIHIA website](#), so please continue to check



back regularly. For additional information about the NJMIHIA, please feel free to email the team at [info@njmihia.gov](mailto:info@njmihia.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 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) ran from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Performance Period 3 (12 months) began on July 1, 2024 and will run 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).

