



## October 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

As you are likely aware, there are only about two months remaining in MY1 of QIP-NJ, which concludes on December 31<sup>st</sup>. 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, and as shared in the September edition of this newsletter, DOH is currently in the process of calculating information related to preliminary baseline (MY0) performance. Presently, DOH plans to share that information as well as patient-level reports (PLRs) with hospitals soon. Here, we would flag that this information will now be released as part of a larger offering of materials related to hospital-submitted MY0 non-claims-based measure data, as described more below. Please note that the information being released by DOH is preliminary and subject to change; however, DOH hopes that hospital partners will use this information to review and compare against their own

internal tracking to assess individual progress, as well as to make any needed adjustments relative to MY0 non-claims-based measure data. More information will be forthcoming in mid-November.

### **Update: Hospital-Submitted Non-Claims Based Measures Data**

Thank you to all of our hospital partners for submitting their non-claims-based measure data for the baseline period (Measurement Year (MY 0)). Internal review and analysis of all MY0 non-claims-based measure data is currently underway. DOH plans to release additional, hospital-wide guidance in mid-November relative to potential options going forward for any hospitals with significant MY0 data submission errors, so we encourage hospital partners to be on the lookout for more information soon.

### **Upcoming: QMC Meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup>**

The next meeting of the QMC will take place on November 10, 2021. As a reminder, for the duration of QIP-NJ, the QMC will meet on an annual basis to assess and review measure steward updates and Hospital Technical Contact suggested updates, as well as to provide recommendations to DOH on the inclusion and updates of QIP-NJ measures. For more information on the QMC, please visit the [QIP-NJ website home page](#).

### **Now Available: Databook FAQ v1.2**

Earlier in the month, DOH released an updated version of the Databook FAQ v1.2, which is also available for download from the [Documents & Resources](#) webpage on the QIP-NJ website. This FAQ document was created to support the QIP-NJ Databook and Value Set Compendium (VSC) and has been comprised of questions the DOH has received in the QIP-NJ inbox, Databook webinars, and Hospital Technical Contact Forums. Any new and/or revised questions or language from the prior version of the FAQ are denoted with bold and underlined text, e.g., "**Sample**". Please note this FAQ is a companion document to the QIP-NJ [Databook v1.2](#) and [QIP-NJ VSC 1.2](#), which are currently available on the QIP-NJ [Documents & Resources](#) webpage.

### **Reminder: Bridge Payment #2**

As hospitals may recall, on October 15, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved an interim, time-limited state directed payment, known as the QIP-NJ "Bridge" Payment, in response to the impact of the COVID-19 public health crisis and delayed start of QIP-NJ by one year to July 1, 2021. Hospitals received the first QIP-NJ "Bridge" Payment in March 2021. The second and final QIP-NJ "Bridge" payment, which covers the period from October 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021, is anticipated to be paid by the State's five contracted Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MMCOs) to hospitals by October 31, 2021. Please note that

MMCOs and hospitals have already received targeted communications with additional information, inclusive of payment breakdowns by MMCO.

For more information regarding how the QIP-NJ “Bridge” Payment is calculated, please refer to the NJ Hospital “Bridge” Payment Memo available on the QIP-NJ Resources webpage. If you have any questions regarding this payment or the QIP-NJ program, please email [QIP-NJ@pcgus.com](mailto:QIP-NJ@pcgus.com).

### **CDC Grant**

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](#).

### **BH LC October Update**

The QIP-NJ BH LC kicked off on September 22-23, 2021 with Learning Session #1, which was the first of three planned Learning Sessions. Over 200 participants attended and engaged in the educational program including a mix of front-line care workers and executive leadership from hospitals, patient representatives, and community partner representatives. The following is a summary of the program agenda and participant takeaways:

- Day #1: BH LC participants were able to hear Jonathon Murray, a CHW/CRS Recovery Coach at Centerstone and Victor Harp, the senior Director of Community Engagement & Capacity at the Camden Coalition, speak about engaging patients in care decisions and as partners in quality improvement. Emma Trucks, the BH LC Director, followed by giving an overview of the BH LC improvement strategy before the LC Faculty Chair, Dr. Scott Zeller, delivered the keynote presentation entitled “Behavioral Health Patients in the Emergency Department (ED): A Time for Optimism.” BH LC teams concluded the session by breaking out into groups to present self-created storyboards on their BH care delivery processes and areas for improvement.
- Day #2: The BH LC improvement coaches gave two separate presentations on the BH LC Model for Improvement targeted for executive leadership and frontline care workers. This was followed by a presentation on BH LC measurement and a chance for hospitals to meet on their own to discuss improvement strategies and planned tests of change. The session concluded with a panel presentation from members of the Camden Coalition consumer voices bureau Amplify, Oaks Integrated Care and Cooper Hospital.

Starting in October, the BH LC faculty hosted its first series of monthly group coaching sessions with participating hospitals. These one-hour group coaching calls are an opportunity for teams to present and hear from their peers on best practices, innovations, and overcoming challenges. In the first set of sessions, BH LC faculty engaged with participating hospitals to discuss opportunities and strategies for engaging patients in the BH LC work. The BH LC faculty looks forward to addressing the emerging and timely needs expressed by hospitals through these monthly sessions.

Looking forward, Learning Session #2 will take place on January 25-26, 2021. More detailed information will be available in the coming months.

### **Other State Initiatives and Programs**

DOH, like other NJ State departments, is constantly striving to streamline processes, reduce duplication, and ease administrative burdens, to the greatest extent possible, relative to our various state-lead initiatives and programs, and particularly when they focus on the same subject-matter and/or target populations. As a result, 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.

**Questions?**

If you have any questions, concerns, or to unsubscribe please email  
[QIP-NJ@pcqus.com](mailto:QIP-NJ@pcqus.com).

Thank you,

QIP-NJ Team



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