



October 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.

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DOH Corner

We are now approximately two months away from the close of MY2 of QIP-NJ, which began on January 1st, and will conclude on December 31st. As always, DOH continues to appreciate the dedication and perspectives that all our participating hospital partners bring to the program. To that end, DOH particularly wants to acknowledge the assistance from the Quality Measures Committee (QMC) members. Insight and recommendations from the QMC have allowed DOH to further refine and adjust certain measures to ensure they align more fully with clinical appropriateness and measure steward specifications, while also protecting against unintended consequences and downstream impacts. DOH wants to thank the QMC members for their time and reminds all hospital partners that the QIP-NJ team remains committed to continuing to work in close partnership throughout the remainder of MY2 and future years of the program.

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 November.

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.

MLC Update

Learning Session 1 (LS1) Materials

MLC LS1 was held on October 4th and 5th, from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM EST. Hospital teams may find the session materials below and on the [Participant Materials tab](#) of the LS1 page of [the MLC portal](#). Hospital storyboards are also located on the [Participant Materials page](#). On the [Resources tab](#) of the MLC portal, hospital teams may find a resource from Dr. Bingham on Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) bundles and information on the Doula Learning Collaborative.

November Group Coaching Call Information

The QIP-NJ MLC November Group Coaching Call will take place on **Tuesday, November 15, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM EST**. The topic of the session is Process Mapping, and it will include a case study.

Event	QIP-NJ MLC November Group Coaching Call
Date and Time:	November 15, 2022: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM EST
Zoom Meeting Link:	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85131850670?pwd=VINVU1podmIFL2IWWWWt1bDJRMUtuUT09
Meeting ID:	851 3185 0670
Passcode:	463848

MLC Data Submission

The MLC leadership team intends to measure improvement in the rate of severe hypertensive (SHTN) episodes treated with a first line agent within 30-60 minutes among birthing people, with a particular focus on reducing disparities for black birthing people. Hospitals participating in the MLC should strive to submit this data to the MLC team on a monthly or quarterly cadence, through an online survey. The data helps inform the MLC team on the types of resources hospitals need and will also inform the hospital teams about their progress in these areas.

Each submission will be due on the **15th of every month** with the first data report due on November 15, 2022. De-identified data will be used in the Action Period monthly coaching sessions. The MLC leadership team recognizes how busy participating hospital teams are and, as a result, sincerely appreciates your best efforts towards submitting data on a monthly basis. Additional instructions on data submission will be provided in a separate email.

MLC Schedule

November Coaching Call	November 15, 2022, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM EST
December Coaching Call	December 6, 2022, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM EST
LS2	January 31 to February 1, 2023, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM EST
Action Period #2	February 2023 to May 2023
LS3	June 20-21, 2023, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM EST
Action Period #3	June 2023 to September 2023

Upcoming: MY3 LOI Materials

For MY3 of QIP-NJ, DOH will follow the same LOI process that was deployed in advance of MY2. MY3 LOI materials are planned for distribution early next month and will require all NJ acute care hospitals to respond indicating whether or not they intend to participate in QIP-NJ MY3. In confirming or declining participation, hospitals will acknowledge and agree to the set of conditions listed in the LOI materials. The LOI materials will also be made available on the [Documents and Resources](#) page of the QIP-NJ website. Responses from hospitals will be due December 10th, 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 ninth QMC meeting for QIP-NJ, DOH invited QMC members to review additional codes for consideration in the Value Set Compendium (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 impact.

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 most recent public meeting was held on September 27, 2022, via Microsoft Teams, and included topics including but not limited to updates on NJMQC materials and workgroups, as well as public comment. As always, please continue to check the NJMCQC's website for more information and instructions on how to sign-up for future public meetings. 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@pcqus.com.

Thank you,

QIP-NJ Team

