



October 2023

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. Thank you!

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DOH Corner

QIP-NJ is now approximately ten months into MY 3, which began in January 2023 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 QIP-NJ and looks forward to seeing continued quality improvement for both the maternal health and behavioral health (BH) populations.

This month's newsletter contains important updates regarding the completion of the DOH's review of MY 2 claims-based measure appeals and the release of MY 2 NCB results next month. NCB results and PLRs will be made available to MY 2 participating hospitals via SFTP. Please see detailed information herein regarding these data and the appeals process.

Last month, DOH convened the QMC for meeting #10 to gather feedback on the measurement strategy for MY 4 and beyond. 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 MY 3 and future years to come.

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. Thank you.

Update: QIP-NJ Maternal Learning Collaborative (MLC)

October Coaching Call

This is a reminder that the QIP-NJ Maternal Learning Collaborative October Coaching Call will take place on **Tuesday, October 31, 2023, from 12:00PM to 1:00PM EST**. This is the **final coaching call**. Please come prepared to share challenges you've experienced while working to achieve the MLC goal. We will select some of your challenges to solve as a group. Feel free to join the MLC team by wearing a Halloween costume to this month's session!

We encourage teams to attend and participate during one of the last chances to collaborate with fellow participants. You can register for the coaching call [here](#).

Final Outcomes Survey

The MLC faculty would like each team to complete the MLC Final Outcomes Survey. Completing this survey will help the MLC team contextualize your

successes and areas of growth throughout the MLC, alongside each hospital's storyboard submissions, monthly data submissions, and midpoint assessments. Responses are due by **5:00 PM EST on November 3, 2023**.

Complete the final outcomes survey [here](#).

Data Submission Reminder

As a reminder, October 2023 MLC data submissions are requested by **Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 5:00 PM EST**. The de-identified data that hospitals submit will be used in the monthly coaching sessions. Hospital teams can submit the monthly data [here](#), and find the updated PDF version of the form [here](#).

The October and November submissions will be the final opportunities for teams to submit data for the Collaborative. The monthly data submissions allow the MLC team to track each team's progress towards the MLC goal. Please submit data during Action Period 3!

QIP-NJ MLC Schedule*

Action Period #3	September 2023 to October 2023
October Coaching Call	October 31, 2023, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
Celebration Event	December 1, 2023, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

* Please note that all times are EST.

MY 2 Claims-Based Measure Appeals Results Released

The Department has completed its review of MY 2 claims-based measure appeals for QIP-NJ. Hospitals that submitted appeals were sent an email directing them to the results posted to the [QIP-NJ Secure File Transfer Portal \(SFTP\)](#). See "DOH Materials" → MY 2". Results will be combined with non-claims-based (NCB) results, MY 3 targets, and payment amounts.

MY 2 NCB Initial Results to be Released

The Department is in the process of reviewing MY 2 NCB measure performance for QIP-NJ. Initial results will be made available early next month in each hospital's MY2 folder. Along with the release of NCB initial results, QIP-

NJ will publish NCB appeals guidance to the [Participants & Stakeholders page](#) of the QIP-NJ website.

To initiate the NCB measure appeals process, hospitals must submit all necessary documentation using the DOH-provided template via the QIP-NJ SFTP, with details forthcoming. **Upon submission of NCB appeals, please email the QIP-NJ@pcgus.com following your submission to confirm receipt of the files.**

As a reminder, only reporting and computational errors may be appealed in QIP-NJ. Disputes related to CMS and DOH-approved QIP-NJ protocols, including, but not limited to, program policy, formula designs, or statewide targets, are not appealable and such requests will not be reviewed.

If you have any questions, please email us at QIP-NJ@pcgus.com.

Quality Measures Committee (QMC) #10 Meeting

DOH, in partnership with PCG, convened the QMC for meeting #10 on Thursday, September 28, 2023. During the meeting, DOH and PCG provided programmatic updates, gathered targeted feedback on updates, and reviewed clarifying questions about the QIP-NJ measure portfolio. Feedback from QMC members is being reviewed by DOH. Further guidance and QMC outreach may be conducted over the coming weeks to finalize measurement policy decisions.

Other State Initiatives and Programs

- **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](#).
- DOH recently announced that it will be hosting an all-hospital webinar on **November 6, 2023 at 12:00 PM EST**, which will be hosted via Microsoft Teams and require registration. The webinar will provide hospitals with information about DOH's recent work in the hospital financial reporting and transparency space, which includes creation of a new, annual compilation report that utilizes financial data from annual, audited Acute Care Hospital Cost Report submissions. All hospital Chief Executive Officers and Chief Financial Officers received a "Save-the-Date" invitation to register for the event. Should you have any questions about the upcoming webinar, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Department via email at Financial.Reports@doh.nj.gov, or via phone at (609) 376-0964.
- 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 last public meeting was held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, and the next and final public meeting for this year will be held on December 12, 2023. Additional information, including meeting materials, will be published on the [NJMCQC website](#), 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 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) began on July 1, 2023 and will run through June 30, 2024. Performance Period 3 (12 months) will run from July 1, 2024 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.