



October 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. Thank you!

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DOH Corner

QIP-NJ is now approximately ten 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.

This month, DOH convened the Quality Measures Committee (QMC) for the eleventh and final meeting and 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.

DOH has received outreach from some hospitals requesting revisions to foundational program designs and policies. The Department wishes to reiterate that as the QIP-NJ demonstration project is approaching its final years, any foundational changes to measure specifications, statewide goals, funding schemas, and the attribution model pose risk to the CMS authorization for the project, and, as such will not be authorized.

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.

Learning Collaborative Updates

REMINDER: Submit Data to the Monthly Data Collection Form Before November 15

The next SDOHLC data submission, for the month of October, is due on **November 15, 2024 at 5PM EST**. The link to the monthly data submission is copied here, and is available on the Program Materials page of the SDOHLC portal: <https://pcgus.jotform.com/242065631394153>

Teams can also find the PDF of the SDOHLC Data Collection Form [here](#), in [the SDOHLC portal](#), and on the [Learning Collaborative page](#) of the QIP-NJ website.

Teams may find it helpful to review the following materials when planning how to collect data for the SDOHLC monthly data submissions:

- Collaborative Measurement Review, Dak Ojuka and Christina Southey (45:32 in LS1 Day 2 [recording](#))
- July 31, 2024 data submission webinar materials ([recording](#) and [slides](#))

Engagement Opportunity with PFCCpartners

PFCCpartners will hold a Listening Session at Learning Session 2 where they invite patients and family caregivers who have experienced being screened for or accessing resources related to SDOH to participate! The SDOHLC faculty invites hospitals to share the interest form engagement opportunity with patients and family caregivers that would be interested in participating in a session where they share their experience with hospital staff to improve their screening processes and strategy towards addressing SDOH for others.

The engagement opportunity template, which includes the interest form (also hyperlinked [here](#)) is attached to this email. Don't hesitate to reach out to QIP-NJ@pcgus.com if you have questions about the opportunity. Please hurry, as space for participation is limited! Responses to the interest form are due on **November 8, 2024**.

SDOHLC Dashboard Available Next Month & Identifying or Confirming Designated SDOHLC Tableau License Holder

The SDOHLC dashboard will be launched in November 2024. It will be located inside the SDOHLC portal, as an option in the new "Participant Materials" tab drop-down menu. The former tab "Program Materials" will also be located within this dropdown menu. The SDOHLC faculty will reach out to each team lead to identify or confirm their hospital's designated Tableau license holder (one per team) in a future email.

Schedule a 1:1 Coaching Call with Christina!

Christina Southey, the SDOHLC improvement advisor, is available for 1:1 coaching calls with SDOHLC teams during Action Period 1! These meetings are an opportunity to ask targeted questions and receive feedback on your team's SDOHLC aim and strategy.

Please email QIP-NJ@pcgus.com to set up a 1:1 coaching call to meet with Christina any time during the Action Period.

Mark Your Calendars: Action Period 1 Coaching Calls and Learning Session 2 Dates

Please hold your calendars for the following dates for future SDOHLC coaching calls and learning sessions (EST):

Action Period 1 and one-on-one (1:1) coaching	September 2024 to December 2024
November Coaching Call	November 20, 2024, 12 - 1PM
Learning Session 2	December 11 & 12, 2024, 10AM - 1PM on each day
Action Period 2 and one-on-one (1:1) coaching	December 2024 to February 2025
January Coaching Call	January 29, 2024, 12 - 1PM
February Coaching Call	February 26, 2024, 12 - 1PM

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, are not appealable and such requests will not be adjudicated.

Quality Measures Committee Meeting (QMC) #11

DOH convened the QMC for the eleventh and final meeting of the committee on Wednesday, October 23, 2024. During the meeting, the QIP-NJ evaluator reviewed highlights from the MY2 performance period, and DOH and the QIP-NJ Team provided program updates and reviewed measure specification adjustment and clarification requests for MY5. 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,

which will ultimately be shared as updates to the Databook and associated documents.

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.

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 November 16, 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.

- 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 next meeting will be held on November 22 from 10am to 12pm ET. 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.tobaccofreej.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.

