October 2026

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!

- DOH Corner
- MY5 Measure Appeals Under Review
- Request for Updated Team Lead and Hospital Signatory Information
- QIP-NJ Evaluation
- MY6 Preprint Submission
- Other State Initiatives and Programs

DOH Corner

DOH continues to appreciate the time and effort that participating hospitals are putting into QIP-NJ and looks forward to seeing continued quality improvement

for both the maternal health and behavioral health populations. 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.

MY5 Measure Appeals Under Review

DOH is currently reviewing both claims-based and non-claims-based (NCB) measure appeals. Hospitals will be notified when results are available.

As a reminder, for both claims-based and NCB measures, only reporting and computational errors are appealable. 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 adjudicated.

Request for Updated Team Lead and Hospital Signatory Information

It's important that DOH maintains accurate and up-to-date contact information for all key personnel involved in QIP-NJ. If there have been any changes to these contacts—or if changes occur at any point during the program year—please notify DOH as soon as possible. Keeping this information current ensures that all relevant communications, updates, and program materials are delivered to the appropriate individuals.

To submit updates, please email the revised contact information to **QIP-NJ@pcgus.com**

QIP-NJ Evaluation

The QIP-NJ Evaluation Team has begun evaluation activities. Over the remainder of summer and this fall, the team will conduct key informant interviews with select hospital staff from the participating QIP-NJ hospitals. Additionally, a hospital survey was sent out last month to gather valuable feedback. Your participation in both will help DOH gain a better understanding of hospitals' perspectives on QIP-NJ.

MY6 Preprint Submission

DOH and the Department of Human Services have submitted preprint requests to CMS for an additional year of QIP-NJ and are engaging with the agency. The QIP-NJ Team will keep hospitals apprised of the status of CMS' review.

Other State Initiatives and Programs

- The Center for Continuing Health Education is offering **Board Certification in Telemental Health (BC-TMH) provider training.** The training is a NBCC 9.0-hour continuing education self-paced curriculum-planned online course that integrates into your patient care and keeps participants up to date with competency and licensure board requirements. To learn more about this opportunity, please visit the program webpage.
- On December 4 the **March of Dimes and CMQCC** held the first of a three-part series, "Understanding Preeclampsia Risk & Low-Dose Aspirin: A Global and US Perspective." December's webinar reviewed the global and US prevalence, outcomes, and disparities for preeclampsia and introduce our new co-authored resource, "Low-Dose Aspirin for Preeclampsia Prevention: Implementation Guide for Clinical Teams."
- The **Maternal Mortality & Morbidity Advocates (MoMMAs Voices) team has created a comprehensive resource hub**. This hub includes valuable information from healthcare systems, Perinatal Quality Collaboratives (PQCs), non-profits, and quality improvement initiatives to support maternal health efforts. Teams can find resources on national and local SUD support, as well as information on opioid, alcohol, cannabis, tobacco, and stimulant use. It also covers best practices for screening and reporting, along with patient education and advocacy. You can access the hub here.
- 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 19, 2026, from 11 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 **New Jersey Maternal Health Innovation Authority (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. 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 last meeting was held on September 23, 2026. 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.

- NJMIHIA has introduced a new **NJ FamilyCare Rubric Tool** to simplify the approval process for doula training organizations. The tool guides programs in submitting an Approval Packet outlining their curriculum and training requirements, which is reviewed against statewide standards for NJ FamilyCare approval. Once approved, trainees become eligible for NJ FamilyCare community doula enrollment, enabling them to serve families across New Jersey and receive Medicaid reimbursement for doula services. You can find more information here.

- 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 BH08: 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-centers.

- **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.

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