



## September 2021 Quality Improvement Program – New Jersey (QIP-NJ) Announcements & Updates

### Dear QIP-NJ Program Participants,

Welcome to the QIP-NJ newsletter! Measurement Year (MY) 1 of QIP-NJ officially launched on July 1, 2021 and will run through December 31, 2021. 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

MY1 of QIP-NJ is almost halfway over! DOH recognizes and appreciates the diligent work of our hospital partners as they work towards driving systemic improvements in quality for the maternal and behavioral health (BH) populations. To that end, DOH is in the process of calculating information related to preliminary baseline performance and will be sharing it as well as patient-level reports (PLRs) with hospitals in November. Please note that the information being released by DOH in November 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. More information will be forthcoming soon.

As we progress through the remainder of MY1, DOH continues to actively work with hospitals to provide technical assistance both through email and ad hoc meetings to assist hospitals with overcoming any challenges and/or individual issues they may be experiencing. DOH is encouraged by and sincerely appreciates the level of engagement from hospital partners, relative to both the pay-for-performance and LC components of QIP-NJ and looks forward to continuing to work with hospitals relative to the various deliverables and deadlines associated with MY1.

### **Reminder: Non-Claims Based Measure Submission Deadline**

Non-claims-based measure submissions for the QIP-NJ baseline period (July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020) are due by 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST) on Monday, September 30, 2021. Hospitals are required to submit data for all non-claims-based measures via the Standard Reporting Template and/or flat file and upload the appropriate files to the hospital's "Outbound" folder on the QIP-NJ Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP). The Standard Reporting Template and Non-Claims-Based Performance Measure Data Submissions Guidance Document are available on the Participants & Stakeholders webpage of the [QIP-NJ website](#). Please email [QIP-NJ@pcgus.com](mailto:QIP-NJ@pcgus.com) with any questions about this process. While DOH expects hospital submissions by this deadline, the QIP-NJ team recognizes that occasionally individual hospitals may require additional time. As a result, individual hospital requests for extensions may also be submitted to [QIP-NJ@pcgus.com](mailto:QIP-NJ@pcgus.com), and will be considered on a case-by-case basis for approval.

### **Now Available: QIP-NJ FAQ v2.0**

On September 10, 2021, an updated version (v2.0) of the comprehensive QIP-NJ FAQ document was posted to the QIP-NJ [Documents & Resources](#) webpage. Any changes in v2.0 of the FAQ are denoted by bolded and underlined text. To that end, thank you to all of our hospital partners who submitted questions and feedback that helped inform updates to the FAQ. If you have additional questions about the FAQ and/or suggested changes for the next version, please email [QIP-NJ@pcgus.com](mailto:QIP-NJ@pcgus.com).

### **Reminder: Technical Contact Office Hours**

Over the last month, DOH has offered QIP-NJ Hospital Technical Contacts the opportunity to meet individually with quality measurement subject matter experts from the QIP-NJ team during a series of office hours. Fifteen hours were set aside between September 2, 2021 and September 20, 2021 to answer hospitals' questions about non-claims-based measures, provide guidance on data submission activities, and address remaining concerns relative to baseline attribution rosters. Individual hospitals were able sign up for 30-minute time slots. Sessions were scheduled on a first come, first serve basis.

Thank you to all the hospitals that signed up for and participated in Technical Contact Office Hours. The QIP-NJ team looks forward to continuing to provide technical assistance to all of our hospital partners as we progress through the remainder of MY1!

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

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.

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).

### **LC September 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. During a highly engaging Learning Session #1, which was held virtually, the Collaborative leadership team worked with over 200 LC participants, which included a mix of front-line care workers and executive leadership from hospitals, patient representatives, and community partner representatives. Presentations at Learning Session #1 included panels speaking on patient engagement, experience and connections to care, discussion of the LC measurement process, and a chance for hospitals to present individual, pre-prepared storyboards using a template provided by DOH. There was also a Keynote presentation by the LC Faculty Chair, Dr. Scott Zeller, entitled “Behavioral Health Patients in the Emergency Department (ED): A Time for Optimism.” Now LC teams move into Action Period 1, during which they will test changes in practice in an effort to improve the rate of follow-up visits for BH (inclusive of mental health and/or substance use disorder) patients within 30 days of an ED discharge. More details and takeaways from Learning Session #1 will be shared in next month’s newsletter.

### **Other State Initiatives & Programs**

As was shared last month, 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.

To this end, DOH continues to regularly engage with key partners and stakeholder groups (both internal and external) to promote alignment across both different NJ State departments and quality improvement initiatives and programs, while also always remaining cognizant of broader NJ State Leadership goals. 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 next NJMCQC public meeting is on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM EST. Please check the [NJMCQC's website](#) for more information and to sign-up for this and 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



