



September 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!

- [DOH Corner](#)
- [Update: QIP-NJ Maternal Learning Collaborative \(MLC\)](#)
- [Important: Measurement Year \(MY\) 2 Non-Claims Based \(NCB\) Results to Be Released](#)
- [MY 2 Claims-Based Measure Appeals Under Review](#)
- [Quality Measures Committee \(QMC\) #10 Meeting](#)
- [Other State Initiatives and Programs](#)

DOH Corner

QIP-NJ is now approximately nine 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.

As you are likely already aware, claims-based results and PLRs were made available to MY 2 participating hospitals last month via the Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP). The appeals period of claims-based results closed on September 12th. The QIP-NJ team is currently reviewing and adjudicating timely appeals received from participating hospitals relating to MY 2 results.

This month, DOH convened the QMC for meeting #10, which was intended to gather feedback on the measurement strategy for MY 4 and beyond. As QIP-NJ nears its final MYs, DOH anticipates fewer changes to the measurement strategy to decrease the effort required to report data, consistency across MYs, and ensuring continued compliance with federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requirements.

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) Claiming Continuing Medical Education (CME) Credits for Action Period 2

To claim CME credits for all the coaching calls during Action Period 2 from February – August 2023, participants should complete the Rutgers credit claiming survey. [Click here](#) to access the survey. The deadline to claim credits is **October 15th**. Any questions and/or concerns regarding CME accreditation can be directed to cce@ubhc.rutgers.edu.

QIP-NJ MLC Schedule*

Action Period #3	September 2023 to October 2023
Learning Session #3	September 26 & 27 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
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.

Important: Measurement Year (MY) 2 Non-Claims Based Results to be Released

The Department is in the process of reviewing MY2 NCB measure performance for QIP-NJ. Results will be made available early next month in each hospital's MY2 folder, in the DOH Materials folder in the [QIP-NJ Secure File Transfer Portal \(SFTP\)](#). Along with the release of NCB results, QIP-NJ will publish NCB appeals guidance to the [Participants & Stakeholders page](#) of the QIP-NJ website. Upon submission of NCB appeals, please email the QIP-NJ@pcqus.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@pcqus.com.

MY2 Claims-Based Measure Appeals Under Review

The claims-based measure appeals process began on August 28, 2023, and ended on September 12, 2023. Each hospital received measure results and Patient Level Reports (PLRs) for all claims-based measures. DOH is now actively reviewing claims-based measure appeals and hospitals will be notified of results in mid-October.

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 addressed clarifying questions about the QIP-NJ measure portfolio. Specifically, the agenda included, but was not limited to, the following:

- Reviewing overall goals of QIP-NJ and associated timelines.
- Sharing program updates, including measure updates based on the full evaluation of MY 1;
- Reviewing requests and clarifying questions about measure compliance and possible adjustments for MY 4; and

- Discussing next steps for the QMC and expected communications in preparation for updates to the MY 4 Databook and Standard Reporting Template guidance.

Other State Initiatives and Programs

- 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.