



September 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@pcqus.com. Thank you!

- [DOH Corner](#)
- [Learning Collaborative Updates](#)
- [MY3 Non-Claims Based \(NCB\) Patient-Level Reports Results to be Released](#)
- [MY3 Claims-based \(MMIS\) Appeals Under Review](#)
- [Quality Measures Committee \(QMC\) #11 Meeting](#)
- [Other State Initiatives and Programs](#)

DOH Corner

QIP-NJ is now approximately nine 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.

Next month, DOH will convene the QMC for meeting #11, which is intended to gather feedback on the measurement strategy for MY5. As QIP-NJ nears its final MY, DOH anticipates fewer changes to the measurement strategy to decrease the effort required to report data, support consistency across MYs, and ensure continued compliance with 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.

Learning Collaborative Updates

Learning Session 1 Materials

The SDOHLC Learning Session 1 (LS1) was held on September 25 and 26, 2024 from 10AM to 1PM EST each day! SDOH experts, fellow SDOHLC participants, and community-based organizations (CBOs) in New Jersey convened to share their insights and innovative approaches to increasing connections to care during LS1.

- 106 attendees from 32 individual hospital teams attended Learning Session 1—the SDOHLC faculty thanks each attendee for their participation and are very excited to track your improvements throughout the duration of the SDOHLC!
 - On Day 1, we reviewed case studies on primary drivers 1 (Patient Experience) and 2 (Leveraging Data Systems) and held the storyboard rounds session.
 - On Day 2, we reviewed a case study on primary driver 4 (Staffing & Coordination) and listened to the panel focused on how hospitals can align with CBOs to address housing needs.
 - **The SDOHLC would love to hear your feedback on each session. Please complete the LS1 evaluation form [here](https://pcgus.jotform.com/form/242665901087158):**
<https://pcgus.jotform.com/form/242665901087158>

- 14 teams completed the LS1 storyboard templates. Each storyboard is posted on the Participant Materials page in the Learning Session 1 section of the [SDOHLC portal](#).
- The SDOHLC faculty has identified that there are effective and ineffective ways to discuss potential support needs with patients that are usually related to
 - Lack of a clear introduction: patients do not know why they are being asked questions that uncover their need for social supports
 - Fear of consequences: patients may be apprehensive that responding honestly could lead to negative repercussions, or
 - Absence of trust: there is no sense of a relationship or trust with the staff member they are speaking to

To address these issues, it may be beneficial to reflect on Ren Pelley's presentation on Primary Driver 4: Staffing and Coordination. This presentation offers valuable insights for implementing trauma-informed and culturally competent care.

- Within 7-10 days of the session, the LS1 recording, and slides will be posted in [the SDOHLC portal](#). Participants will be notified when the complete package of LS1 materials is available in a future SDOHLC program update.
- Each team may sign-up for a one-on-one coaching session after LS1. The objective of these coaching sessions is to ensure that each team is ready for their initial test of change. We highly encourage teams to utilize the SDOHLC advisors! Teams can sign-up from the Coaching page in the SDOHLC portal or by going to this [link](#):

LS1 September Data Submissions due on October 15, 2024 & Resources for Testing Changes!

The first SDOHLC data submission, for the month of September, is due on **October 15, 2024 at 5PM EST**. The data submission form link has not yet been finalized, but teams can find the PDF of the most updated drafted [here](#), in [the SDOHLC portal](#), and on the [Learning Collaborative page](#) of the QIP-NJ website. The SDOHLC faculty will communicate with teams when the form is finalized and ready to accept data for the month of September ahead of the October 15 deadline and are excited to share the data visualization tool

during October as well. In the meantime, teams may find it helpful to review the data submission webinar materials (July 31, 2024):

[•Recording](#)

[•Slides](#)

Register for the October Coaching Call, on October 30, 2024 from 12 to 1PM EST & Mark Your Calendars!

The first SDOHLC coaching call is on October 30, 2024, from 12 to 1PM EST! This call will be focused on meal support and will include a hospital spotlight from the Inspira Health team. If your team is not focusing on increasing connections to meal support services during the Collaborative, the SDOHLC faculty still encourages your team to attend as we will be covering practice changes that are applicable across all domains.

You can register for the session [here](#)

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

Action Period 1 and one-on-one (1:1) coaching	September 2024 to December 2024
October Coaching Call	October 30, 2024, 12 - 1PM EST ET
November Coaching Call	November 20, 2024, 12 - 1PM EST
Learning Session 2	December 11 & 12, 2024, 10AM - 1PM EST 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 EST
February Coaching Call	February 26, 2024, 12 - 1PM EST

Logging into the SDOHLC Portal

The SDOHLC portal is now available to all registered hospitals' team leaders and team members listed in each submitted Participation Interest Form! The portal is a centralized location for all SDOHLC program materials and resources. To set up your account and log onto the [SDOHLC portal](#), use the "Forgot Password" feature on the log-in page of the portal. After typing in your email, you should receive an email from noreply@pcqus.com with a temporary password. After logging in with the temporary password, but before logging into the portal, you should be prompted to update your password. Following this, you should gain full access to the portal. If your team has already submitted a Participation Interest Form but would like to include additional members of their team in the portal, please reach out to QIP-NJ@pcqus.com.

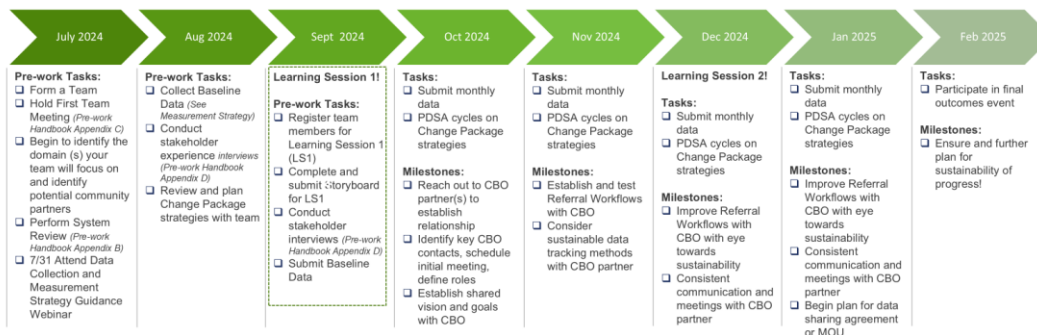
Updated Collaborative Sprint Timeline

The updated timeline below outlines key milestones and activities over the course of the SDOHLC. This image is also included in the Measurement Strategy.

SDOHLC Tasks and Relationship Building Roadmap



*Adapted from Oaks Integrated Care "Building Effective Relationships with Community Partners- Key Steps From the Field" presentation from the QIP-NJ Behavioral Health Learning Collaborative in 2021 (Session Recording Available for SDOHLC Participants Upon Request).



47

Teams should start working through the October tasks:

- **Submit the Learning Session 1 evaluation form:** Ensure your team completes the [LS1 evaluation form](#) to help the faculty maximize opportunities for peer learning during Action Period 1 in preparation for Learning Session 2 in December.

- **Start PDSA cycles:** Start or continue evolving your team's Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles to incorporate what you learned during LS1 into your tests of change.
- **Submit the data collection form:** Submit September data. You can find the most updated draft of the SDOHLC data submission from [here](#). The SDOHLC faculty will communicate with participants when the form is finalized and ready to accept data for the month of September (due October 15)!

MY3 Non-Claims Based (NCB) Patient-Level Reports Results to be Released

The Department is in the process of reviewing MY3 NCB measure performance. Results in the form of Patient Level Reports (PLRs) will be made available next month in each hospital's MY3 SFTP folder.

Along with the announcement of the release of NCB PLRs, QIP-NJ will share MY3 NCB appeals guidance on the [Participants & Stakeholders page](#) of the QIP-NJ website. **Upon submission of NCB appeals, hospitals must email the QIP-NJ@pcgus.com to confirm receipt of the files.**

MY3 Claims-Based (MMIS) Measure Appeals Under Review

As of August 15, 2024, MY3-participating hospitals could access MY3 claims-based PLRs in their hospital-specific DOH Materials folder in the QIP-NJ [SFTP](#).

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.

Quality Measures Committee Meeting (QMC) #11

On October 23, 2024 from 1PM to 2PM EST, DOH will convene the QMC for meeting #11 to review the results from the MY2 evaluation, measure specification adjustment requests for MY5, and clarifying questions about measure compliance.

Please note DOH will also review the potential inclusion of additional LCSW billing codes per the Department of Human Services Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services Newsletter Vol. 34 No. 66 (June 2024).

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 October 19th, 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.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) 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.

