



NEW JERSEY  
HEALTH CARE  
QUALITY  
INSTITUTE



Quality  
powered.

## Symptoms & Cures

A bi-weekly look at the Business & Politics of Health Care in New Jersey

AUGUST 16, 2018

A graphic with a blue background. On the left, a white medical chart frame contains a photo of a woman with dark hair, smiling. Above the photo are fields for 'PATIENT NAME' and 'ADDRESS'. Below the photo are fields for 'SIGNATURE' and 'DATE'. To the right of the photo, the words 'Schwimmer's Script' are written in a white, cursive, hand-drawn font. A white pen nib is positioned at the end of the word 'Script'. Below the graphic, the text 'A PRESCRIPTION FOR BETTER HEALTHCARE IN NEW JERSEY' is written in white, uppercase letters.

## Connect Quality and Payment to Create Lasting Improvement to Maternity Care

Every day Maternity Care is in the news, as interest and focus on this topic continually grows. In our state, the Murphy administration and others are investing in improving maternal and child health. With so many different grants, quality collaboratives, and competing priorities we need an effective path forward to create sustainable change. That's why I want to point you toward the recently released [National Partnership of Women & Families Blueprint for Advancing High-Value Maternity Care Through Physiologic Childbearing](#). At the Quality Institute, we're using this Blueprint to guide our work in maternal child health.

The Blueprint contains six strategies that we'll be sharing more on in the future, but today I want to focus on Strategy 1: Improve Maternity Care Through Innovative Delivery and Payment Systems and Quality Improvement Initiatives. Behind the lengthy title are key strategies to connect quality improvements to the payment system.

Right now in New Jersey, there are statewide quality improvement initiatives at the health system level, as well as, through the [New Jersey Perinatal Quality Collaborative](#), a statewide partnership of committed stakeholders working together to improve the quality and safety of care provided to New Jersey's mothers and babies, which is funded by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). The Quality Institute is also participating in their work. Additionally, with support from the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, we have been partnering with the Greater Newark Healthcare Coalition to use best practices learned from high-performing hospitals around the state to improve maternity care in Newark.

This is all valuable work. But very little is happening in New Jersey to link quality improvement to the payment system.

About a year ago, I met with the benefits manager for a large New Jersey pharmaceutical company who was concerned that the cesarean section rate for her employees was around 40%. As a follow-up, she shared data on the number of employee births and the hospitals where the births took place. The total for the year was less than 20 births. While each birth is important, and while the costs to employers can be significant for each birth, 20 or even fewer births does not create the market power needed to create lasting change.

But if an even larger purchaser, the largest purchaser in the state, demanded change and built that change into its benefit designs and contracts then change and improvements to maternity care would happen across all hospital systems and communities. We've seen exactly that happen in California and other places.

We could see that change here as well.

I encourage you all to read the National Partnership Blueprint Strategy #1 and to also review the Quality Institute's [Medicaid 2.0 Blueprint for the Future](#), Recommendation #21 a., where we call for similar payment reforms, such as building a maternity episode of care and supporting programs such as Strong Start, maternity medical homes, community health workers, and other supports for improving maternity care.

Our traditional fee-for-service payment models foster care that generates payments regardless of quality outcomes or the value or need for services. Well-designed payment models will support higher quality and value care. The State, through Medicaid and the State Health Benefits Program, pays for over half of all births in New Jersey. Our state is a payer with some serious leverage. Let's get going. I encourage you to join me in this call to action and to read these blueprints.

## **Take Five with Adelisa Perez, BSN, RN-BC, Director of Quality**

Adelisa Perez, a Registered Nurse, is the Quality Institute's new Director of Quality.

### ***Can you outline the focus of your role?***

I will oversee all of our quality initiatives, such as our work with the Leapfrog Group, and I will work with Linda Schwimmer on the National Quality Forum. I'll also oversee the Mayors Wellness Campaign (MWC) and Conversation of Your Life (COYL).

### ***Your background is clinical and not in the policy world. Can you tell us about your experience and why you joined the Quality Institute?***

I am a Registered Nurse with about ten years of clinical experience and I hold a Cardio-Vascular Certification. Right now, I'm enrolled in the Master of Science program with specialization in Nursing Leadership at Rutgers University and I'll finish up in the fall. As part of the program, I interned with the Quality Institute, and that experience, along with my studies, showed me how nurses can have real impact outside hospital walls. Through my internship, I participated in the COYL initiative and continued to volunteer on the Monmouth County COYL task force.



### ***How will your nursing background strengthen your policy work at the Quality Institute?***

I think my hospital experience gives me a unique perspective. I have advocated on behalf of my patients and saw firsthand how quality initiatives work inside hospitals. I've worked on Leapfrog quality measures internally and on audits regarding infection control as well as other quality improvement data. Having been on the other side of Leapfrog, I can help our hospitals with questions they may have about how to improve.

### ***Will your clinical background support the Quality Institute's community-based programs?***

Yes, absolutely. There is widespread understanding that health outcomes are greatly influenced by the communities in which people live. My clinical expertise and insight gives me the ability to make connections between our members, such as hospitals and insurers, and our programs, such as MWC. I can encourage our members to leverage our community programs to advance their population health initiatives. We support many community programs, for example, walking school buses, nutrition and exercise programs, and Mental Health First Aid Training, which aim to improve the health and well-being of New Jersey communities.

### ***Can you share some of your passions outside your professional work?***

I am definitely an outdoors person. I love hiking, kayaking, and paddling. I also love to read, as well as travel outside the

country several times each year ... Spain, Amsterdam, Paris, Ireland, Scotland ... lots of places.

## Save the Date!

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**\*September 13th 5:30 – 8:00 PM:** Quality Institute Annual Open House at our offices in Princeton (Stone House at Carnegie Center, 3628 Route 1, Princeton, NJ). [Register now!](#)**September 25th 8:00 – 10:00 AM:** Catalyst for Payment Reform (CPR) and the Quality Institute Scorecard 2.0 Release at the Trenton Country Club. Are value-based payments gaining traction and yielding desired effects in New Jersey? Join the Quality Institute and Catalyst for Payment Reform to find out during the official release of CPR's Payment Reform Scorecard 2.0. [Register now!](#)

**\*September 27th 12:00-1:00 PM:** Garden Practice Transformation Network webinar series presented by the QI Collaborative. Dr. Stephen Goldfine, the Chief Medical Officer of Samaritan Healthcare and Hospice, will address "Talking with Your Seriously Ill Patients about Their Goals of Care, and Accessing Palliative or Hospice Care." These webinars are free CE credit opportunities for eligible physicians and nurses.

**October 18th 8:30 – 10:00 AM:** Quality Institute Southern Regional Membership Engagement Event hosted by Jefferson Health at Jefferson Cherry Hill Hospital. [Register now!](#)

**October 25th 9:30 – 11:00 AM:** Quality Institute Northern Regional Membership Engagement Event hosted by Atlantic Health System at Morristown Medical Center. [Register now!](#)

**\*November 13th – November 15th:** Quality Institute's Mayors Wellness Campaign at the NJ State League of Municipalities in Atlantic City, NJ.

*\*Open to the public; all other events are for Quality Institute members and invited guests only. For more information about membership, please contact Virginia Tesser at [vtesser@njhcqi.org](mailto:vtesser@njhcqi.org).*



## New Member

Please welcome [PatientPing](#)! PatientPing is a Boston-based care coordination platform that reduces the cost of healthcare by seamlessly connecting providers to coordinate patient care. The platform allows providers to collaborate on shared patients through Pings, which are real-time notifications when patients receive care, as well as Stories, which are important patient context at the point of care allowing provider organizations, payers, governments, individuals and the organizations supporting them to leverage this real-time data to reach their shared goals of improving the efficiency of our healthcare system.



## Medicaid 2.0

### *Patient Centered Medical Home for Medically Complex Children Work-Group*

The Medicaid 2.0 team will bring together a subgroup of New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute members and stakeholders later this month to advance our efforts to develop a Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) for Medically Complex

Children. The goal is to develop a care coordination model that ensures the needs of these children are met through a well-organized, responsive, family-centered system of care. As part of this effort, the work-group will explore clinical eligibility criteria, quality metrics, provider qualifications and financial implications of models used in [other states](#).

If you or your organization wants to learn more about the PCMH for Medically Complex Children or the Medicaid 2.0 Initiative, please contact Matt D’Oria at [mdoria@njhcqi.org](mailto:mdoria@njhcqi.org).

Medicaid 2.0 is funded by [The Nicholson Foundation](#).

## **Mayors Wellness Campaign**

### **Conversation of Your Life**

Conversation of Your Life (COYL) aims to promote community conversation around advance care planning. The program is rapidly expanding to Hudson, Essex, Union, and Hunterdon counties. COYL is also active in Middlesex, Burlington, Gloucester, Somerset, Monmouth, Mercer, Bergen, Camden, and Atlantic counties.

To read more information about COYL, click [here](#). If you are interested in joining a COYL Task Force in your community, please reach out to Adrian Diogo at [adiogo@njhcqi.org](mailto:adiogo@njhcqi.org) or at 609-452-5980.

COYL is generously supported by [The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey](#).

### **MWC Healthy Town Award**

This past week Highland Park accepted the 2017 Healthy Town Award! The Healthy Town designation recognizes mayors and communities for promoting health and wellness activities. Some of Highland Park’s creative community programs included walking school buses, yoga sessions through Fitness with the Mayor, and Buddy Ball, a sports program that pairs special needs kids with teenage volunteers to get active and have fun.



*Highland Park Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler, Office of Aging Senior Coordinator Kimberly McGraw, and Highland Park Recreation Coordinator Andrea Costas-Baay.*

**August 31st is The Leapfrog Group's Data Snapshot Date.** On this date, Leapfrog will extract all public data (i.e. download data published by CMS or submitted to Leapfrog or secondary data sources) needed to calculate the Fall 2018 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades. All data, including Leapfrog Hospital Survey results, must be finalized by this date to be included in the grade calculation. In addition, hospitals that wish to be considered for Leapfrog's annual Top Hospital award must submit a 2018 Leapfrog Hospital Survey by August 31st.

Also, there are two changes to the scoring methodology for the Fall 2018 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades. These include changes to the scoring for the Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE) measure and the addition of a measure on Bar Code Medication Administration (BCMA). Click [here](#) for more information on these changes and [here](#) for Leapfrog's responses to public comments on the changes.

**[Register Now](#)**

**Quarterly Quality Breakfast  
Tracking Our Value-Based Care: Catalyst for Payment Reform and the  
Quality Institute Scorecard 2.0 Release**



**Tuesday, September 25, 2018  
8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.  
Trenton Country Club  
201 Sullivan Way, West Trenton, NJ 08628**

**[Register now!](#)**

**Are value-based payments gaining traction and yielding desired effects in New Jersey?**

The Catalyst for Payment Reform (CPR) developed New Jersey's Commercial Scorecard 2.0, which pilots their expanded methodology to understand if and how payment reform activity correlates with quality and affordability in New Jersey's commercial market.

Join the Quality Institute and CPR in our round-table discussion of the official unveiling of CPR's Scorecard 2.0, lead by CPR's Program Director, Andrea Caballero, to discover the thought-provoking findings, participate in lively discussions regarding the scorecard's uses and implications, and network with New Jersey's key health care leaders and decision-makers.

For more information on the Scorecard 2.0 project, click [here](#).

*Breakfast and refreshments will be served.*

 **Shout Outs**

Congratulations to **Dr. Anil Nanda**, who has been appointed joint chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and New Jersey Medical School, both part of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. In addition to being appointed joint chair, Dr. Nanda will also serve as the senior vice president for neurosurgical services at RWJBarnabas Health. [Read more.](#)

 **Quality Institute In the News**

08.10.2018 | [NJSpotlight.com](#) | [Cancer Care, Prevention: How New Jersey Measures Up](#)

New report says NJ does well on cancer screenings and general care, not as well on palliative care and pain medication. But report omits recent state initiatives.



## Industry Events

**09.06.2018** | [MD Advantage Fall Workshop](#) is the 4th in the series on Enterprise Risk Management for the medical practice. This session focuses on company culture, patient satisfaction and digital ranking of your practice. [Register now](#) for this event.

**09.16.2018** | [Panel Discussion and Luncheon: The Role of Community Partners In Health Care](#). Join the Medina Community Clinic for their luncheon and panel discussion **featuring Linda Schwimmer, the Quality Institute's President & CEO, Dr. Shereef Elnahal**, the Commissioner of the NJ Department of Health, and Mary Grace Billek, the Director of Human Services of Mercer County. RSVP Required: [www.medinahealthcare.org](http://www.medinahealthcare.org). For sponsorships and more information, please call: 609-270-5067.

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