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## What's Included In This Edition:

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## New Quality Institute Report Illustrates the Different Perinatal Experiences People Face Based on Insurance Status

The Quality Institute's new report, [Navigating the Obstacles: The Complex Journey of Perinatal Care in New Jersey](#), lays out the different coverage rules for perinatal care in New Jersey based on a person's insurance status. The report also identifies policy changes that would close existing gaps.

You can read the [full report and recommendations](#) and a [one-page brief](#). On January 28, join us for a [MAP Work Session](#) to review the report and hear from a panel of experts working to bridge gaps in care across New Jersey. Register [here](#).

Perinatal care—the care provided during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum—is critical for maternal and infant health. Access to comprehensive care varies depending on each person's insurance coverage. The differences in coverage disproportionately affect more vulnerable individuals and families...

[Read Full Story](#)

## MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Annelise Slater, MPH, CHES  
& Maxilia Desir

*Program Officers, New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute*



## We are thrilled to announce our new staff members

Maxilia Desir has joined our policy team and brings years of experience in health policy. Annelise Slater, MPH, has joined our quality improvement team, where she brings valuable experience in public health and quality improvement. Together, Maxilia and Annelise will enhance the Quality Institute's work to improve health care safety, quality, and affordability for everyone...

[Read Full Interview](#)



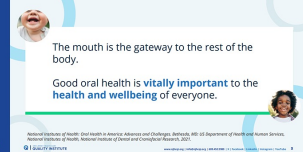
## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

We just released a [Secret Shopper Report on NJ Medicaid Oral Health Access for Young Children](#) that found 51 percent of the dental providers listed in Medicaid managed care directories for children aged 0-6 years old would not schedule an appointment for a two year old, leaving families unable to find fundamental, covered dental care for their children. Read the [report](#) and [coverage from NJ Spotlight](#) and join us in taking action to eliminate ghost networks.

### Looking at NJ Medicaid Oral Health Quality Performance for Children

Through a Secret Shopper Market Survey of the MCO Network Directories for Children Ages 0 to 6

January 2025



[Read Oral Health Secret Shopper Report](#)

[Read Our Press Release](#)

[Read NJ Spotlight Coverage](#)



Please join the Quality Institute on **Wednesday, March 5, 8 – 9:30 a.m.** for an **in-person** Member Breakfast and Engagement Event at Bergen New Bridge Medical Center, 230 E. Ridgewood Ave. Paramus, NJ.

Start your morning with a quick breakfast while networking with local leaders and health care decision makers. Hear brief updates from Quality Institute staff about how to get involved in our policy, quality improvement, and community health work.

**Register today to maximize your membership value.**

*\*This event is for members and invited guests only.*

[Register Now for the 3/5 Event](#)

## UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS



Join us for a [Maternity Action Plan \(MAP\)](#) virtual work session focused on addressing critical gaps in reproductive and perinatal health care in New Jersey. We'll present our newest report "[Navigating the Obstacles: The Complex Journey of Perinatal Care in New Jersey](#)" and facilitate an expert panel discussion, followed by group discussion. Together, we'll dig into current challenges, innovative solutions, and actionable strategies to enhance care for all during the perinatal period.

**Featured speakers include:**

- Janice Rybicki, Manager, BH Implementation, [Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey](#)
- Yvette Pittman, Assistant Director of Alma, [Family Health Initiatives](#)
- Dr. Nicole McGrath-Barnes, Founder and CEO, [KinderSmile Foundation](#)
- Dr. Michal Herman, COO, [KinderSmile Foundation](#)

[Register Now for MAP Virtual Work Session](#)

# QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Virtual Learning Session & Celebration of  
New Jersey Quality Teams



**Thursday, February 6 | 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**

The New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute invites you to our **Quality Improvement Virtual Learning Session and Celebration of NJ Quality Teams**. Join us for a dynamic discussion to:

- Hear from subject matter experts on hospital health equity initiatives and practices
- Gain insights on The Joint Commission's Health Care Equity Certification
- Learn about 2025 changes to the Leapfrog Hospital Survey from [Melissa Danforth, Senior Vice President of Health Care Ratings, The Leapfrog Group](#)
- Recognize and celebrate the individuals who work on hospital quality teams across the state

## **This Session Is For:**

- **Health Care providers and leaders** working to improve health equity within your organization and communities you serve;
- **Health Care Quality team members** supporting quality improvement initiatives and the Leapfrog Hospital Survey; and
- **Health Plans, Employers, Advocates** and others working to improve hospital safety and health equity.

**Register Now for Virtual Learning Session**



**Melissa Danforth,**  
*Senior Vice President of  
Health Care Ratings,  
The Leapfrog Group*



**Shari Gold,**  
*Senior Vice President for Regulatory  
Compliance & Chief Quality and  
Equity Officer,  
Bergen New Bridge Medical Center*



**Dr. Rajan Gurunathan,**  
*Vice President, Regional Chief  
Quality Officer / Interim Chief  
Patient Safety Officer,  
Hackensack Meridian Health*



**Adelisa Perez-Hudgins,**  
*RN, Director of Quality,  
Quality Institute*



**Kathryn Petrovic, RN,**  
*Vice President, Global Accreditation &  
Certification Product Development,  
The Joint Commission*

More Quality Institute Events

## NEW MEMBER



### WELCOME

**CHEMED**'s mission is to provide a comprehensive, integrated system of health care to optimize the physical and mental well-being of individuals and families in our community by delivering outstanding health education, preventative, and treatment services.



For information on how to join, please contact Virginia Tesser at [vtesser@njhcqi.org](mailto:vtesser@njhcqi.org).

To learn more about our current initiatives, please visit our website at [www.njhcqi.org](http://www.njhcqi.org).

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**Our mailing address is:**

New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute  
P.O. Box 2246, Princeton, New Jersey 08543

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