

[View this email in your browser](#)



What's Included In This Edition:

Schwimmer Script – Quality Institute Focus Areas for 2025

Take Five Interview – Shari Gold, Bergen New Bridge Medical Center

Program Spotlight – Our Annual Report, Leapfrog Annual Meeting & Awards, and Upcoming Virtual Events

Welcome, New Member – Gilead



Quality Institute Top Focus Areas for 2025

As a non-partisan organization, we work with all relevant state and federal officials. As President Donald Trump takes office along with a new Congress — and as New Jersey gears up for its Gubernatorial election in November — we know that health care policy will remain a top priority.

Here are the areas that we expect to focus on with you this year. As always, we'll address these issues in a nonpartisan fashion, looking specifically at the evidence, focusing on what is best for New Jersey and those who live here, and finding ways to move ideas to action. Creating change requires a delicate balance of sticking to our mission and values while also finding compromises that benefit multiple groups. In 2025, there will be a heightened need for convening, bridge-building, and creating solutions.

Our 2025 focus areas are driven by what local leaders in our Mayors Wellness Campaign, our funders, our board, and our members tell us are the top needs for improving health care safety, quality, and affordability *for everyone*. They are:

- Continuing to transform our health care system to have a firm foundation in preventive and comprehensive primary care to promote overall health and wellness *for everyone*.
- Mapping out and recommending systemic improvement in children's mental

health.

- Improving access and quality of care within NJ FamilyCare networks. We just released a [Secret Shopper Report](#) on NJ Medicaid Oral Health Access for Young Children. I urge you to read it and join us in taking action to eliminate ghost networks
- Modernizing New Jersey's health care workforce licensing and funding systems to better recruit and retain workers and increase access to care.
- Building upon our Maternal Infant Health work to make New Jersey the safest place to give birth.
- Working with local partners to build healthy communities for people to live, work, play and *age well...*

[Read Full Story](#)

QUALITY INSTITUTE YEAR IN REVIEW 2024

Read and share our highlights

The Quality Institute's 2024 [Year in Review](#) highlights our work and accomplishments in health care policy, quality improvement, and community health with you, our members. We rely on you to advance our mission and we look forward to working with you throughout 2025 to improve health care quality, safety, equity, and affordability *for everyone*.

The infographic features a blue header with the Quality Institute logo and the title 'NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE YEAR IN REVIEW 2024'. It is divided into several sections: 'ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS' lists key events like Linda Schwimmer's election and Adelfa Perez-Hudgins' appointment; 'By the Numbers' shows 11 'Conversations of Your Life' events and 200+ team members; 'POLICY UPDATES' mentions the Maternity Action Plan and the Essential Jobs Coalition. It also includes a 'Dear Quality Institute Members' letter from the director, a '2024 QUALITY INSTITUTE REPORTS' section with various charts and graphics, and a 'TRAINING' section for reproductive health access.

[Read & Share Now](#)

TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Shari Gold, Senior V.P., Regulatory Compliance and Chief Quality & Equity Officer
Bergen New Bridge Medical Center



Interviews with members, influencers, and

noteworthy people

[Bergen New Bridge Medical Center](#) is a member of the Quality Institute's Provider Council and recently achieved a Certification in Health Care Equity from The Joint Commission.

Interview Sneak Peek: *What has achieving the Joint Commission's Health Care Equity Certification meant for the medical center and for your community?*

Going through this process strengthened our structure around diversity, equity, and inclusion even further — and has made these efforts hardwired into what we do every day for our patients and long-term residents. We have improved our process around health literacy, for instance. Consents, patient education, and discharge instructions are written on a lower grade level to increase patients' understanding. Outpatient pharmacy labels are printed in the patient's preferred language and preferred first name. We've improved our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) education and our policies and processes around recruiting and retention. We have panel interviews for various positions to decrease implicit bias in the hiring process...

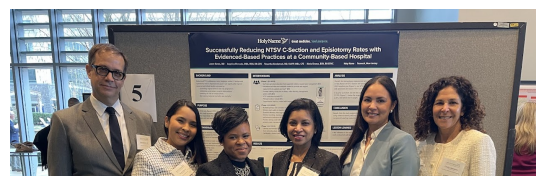
[Read Full Interview](#)



The [2024 Leapfrog Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner](#), themed "Patients Come First," celebrated the dedication of health care providers in overcoming challenges to improve patient care. Linda Schwimmer, Quality Institute President and CEO and Leapfrog Board Chair, provided welcome remarks for the event. Several New Jersey hospitals, and Quality Institute members, presented their innovative efforts during the event:

- **Holy Name Medical Center:** Strategies to reduce NTSV C-section rates and episiotomy use (awarded Best Hospital Poster).
- **Inspira Health:** Efforts to reduce NTSV C-section rates.
- **Hackensack Meridian Jersey Shore Medical Center:** Success in reducing inpatient hypoglycemia rates.
- **Bergen New Bridge Medical Center:** Advancements in surgical safety and quality.
- **Newark Beth Israel Medical Center:** Enhancements in hand hygiene practices.
- **Trinitas Regional Medical Center:** Achievements in reducing central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI).

We applaud these institutions for their commitment to prioritizing patient safety and improving health care outcomes.





[Bergen New Bridge Medical Center](#)



[Holy Name Medical Center](#)



Join us on **January 14, at 12:00 p.m.** for the launch of the MWC Community Hub, a new platform for Mayors Wellness Campaigns to access wellness resources, connect with other MWC towns, find updates on events and deadlines, and gain support and ideas for your programs. At the Launch Event, we will showcase the Hub's features and train you to use it.

[**Register Now**](#)



Join us for a [Maternity Action Plan \(MAP\)](#) 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:

- Dr. Patrick Fox, President, [Wellpoint](#) (tentative)
- 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**](#)





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



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,
NJHCQI*



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

For More Quality Institute Events

NEW MEMBER



WELCOME

At [Gilead](#), we strive to create a healthier world for all people. From pioneering virology medicines to our growing impact in oncology, we deliver innovative therapies that offer new hope to those impacted by disease.



For information on how to join, please contact Virginia Tesser at vtesser@njhcqi.org.

To learn more about our current initiatives, please visit our website at www.njhcqi.org.

Copyright 2025 * | NJHCQI, All rights reserved.*

Our mailing address is:

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

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).