NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE

A BI-WEEKLY LOOK AT THE BUSINESS & POLITICS OF HEALTH CARE IN NEW JERSEY

What's Included In This Edition:

Schwimmer Script - Quality Institute Member Events — Starting Out Strong in 2026
Quality Institute 2025 Annual Report
Sign Up for Virtual Adult Mental Health First Aid Training Sessions
What We're Reading
Welcome, New Leadership Council Member - Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)

Schwimmer Script
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Quality Institute Member Events — Starting Out Strong in 2026

At the Quality Institute, we've started 2026 with clear priorities and focus. Earlier this week, we gathered members in South Jersey for a regional member meet-up. Thank you to **The Cooperative** for hosting us in their welcoming community room in Camden. Catching up with health care leaders in South Jersey who talked about their commitment to quality, as well as their innovative approaches, highlights the focus we all share on health care quality. To me, it was the right way to begin a new year.

In another event this morning, we brought together more than 150 members and partners for a virtual gathering to recognize the Quality and Safety teams in New Jersey hospitals. The event was for support as well as continued learning. The focus was on the risks of dismissing patient, family, and caregiver concerns.

We heard from Shannon Kooker, MSN, RN of **ECRI**, who outlined why the dismissal of patient, family, and caregiver concerns is the number one safety concern in ECRI's report, "**Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns 2025**."

Participants also heard from Quality Institute Vice President of Quality, Adelisa Perez-Hudgins, MSN, RN, and Lydia Weber, DNP, VP, Chief Patient Safety Officer & HRO,

Hackensack Meridian Health. Our presenters shared actions organizations can take to prevent harm from dismissing a patient's gut feeling, a caregiver's observation, or a family member's repeated worry.

To make these lessons available more widely, information from the session is accessible in the Quality Institute's newest quality brief, *When Patients Speak*, which outlines evidence-based practices for elevating concerns into actionable safety signals. The quality brief contains practical tools and quick-win actions your organization can implement immediately. From adjusting handoff templates to piloting escalation cards, there are achievable steps that can make a significant difference for patients.

We invite you to check out the **quality brief**, attend one of our **upcoming learning sessions**, or networking events.

Read the Quality Briefing

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

The Quality Institute's **2025 Annual Report** is now available. The report highlights progress across key focus areas, including policy updates, patient safety, maternal and infant health, mental health, and community health. Together with health care stakeholders and community partners, we continue advancing the safety, quality, and affordability of health care for everyone in New Jersey.

Read our Annual Report

Virtual Adult Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training (2-Day Training) - February 18, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and February 19, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Please join our free, virtual 6.5-hour training that helps participants identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders, made possible thanks to funding from the **Horizon Foundation for New Jersey**. Participants are required to complete 2 hours of pre-work prior to the start of class and must attend both sessions to complete certification.

Register Here

WHAT WE'RE READING

- **Beyond the Hype: How AI Is Finally Delivering on Digital Health's Promise**, NEJM Catalyst
- **Charting a Path Forward for Health Care Affordability: Policy Solutions from a Diverse Group of Experts**, Georgetown University Center on Health Insurance Reforms
- **Lessons Across a Lifetime: A Cross-Generational Bond Shaped by Rutgers**, Rutgers University School of Social Work

NEW LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBER

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Breakthroughs. Every day.

WELCOME

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) is the nation's first pediatric hospital and remains a global leader in pediatric care, research, and innovation. CHOP delivers life-changing care to patients from all 50 states — including thousands from New Jersey — and continues to drive medical breakthroughs that shape the future of child health.

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

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