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Linda Schwimmer, JD
President & CEO,  NEW JERSEY
HEALTH CARE
QUALITY
INSTITUTE



Coverage Isn't Care If You Can't Get an Appointment

Across New Jersey, health care organizations, advocates, employers, and government invest enormous time and money in getting people covered, and keeping them covered. But when health plan directories are wrong and networks don't have the providers people need when they need them, that coverage doesn't translate into care, and the work falls short.

In report after report, including our own secret shopper surveys and a federal HHS-OIG review this year that included New Jersey, we see the same thing: directories are full of providers who can't be reached, aren't in the network, or can't see patients in time. And as telehealth and other new ways of getting care change how patients see providers, what counts as an adequate network may need to look different too. Read the full blog to learn why network adequacy and network directories matter so much to us at the Quality Institute, and share your input as we develop recommendations to make New Jersey a leader on this issue.

[Read Full Story](#)

TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Frank A. Ghinassi, PhD, ABPP
President & CEO, Rutgers Health University Behavioral Health Care (UBHC); Senior Vice President of the Behavioral Health & Addictions Service Line, RWJBarnabas Health



Take Five Interview with Dr. Frank A. Ghinassi

In this month's Take Five, we sit down with Frank A. Ghinassi, PhD, ABPP, President and CEO of Rutgers Health University Behavioral Health Care and a new member of the Quality Institute's Board of Directors. Dr. Ghinassi talks about the case for integrated, interdisciplinary behavioral health care, the payment barriers holding back the behavioral health workforce, and what two decades working with professional and collegiate sports teams taught him about performance improvement in health care.

[Read Full Interview](#)

Thank you to our 2026-2027 MWC Sponsors!

We are excited to kick off this year's campaign with your generous support. Your partnership keeps the campaign moving forward as we work to improve health and wellness in communities across New Jersey.

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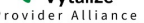
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Upcoming Events

**H.R. 1 Weekly Office Hours - Thursdays, 1-2 p.m.,
Beginning October 1**

The Quality Institute will host weekly virtual office hours to support health care and community stakeholders navigating the implementation of H.R. 1. Join us to ask questions, share challenges you're seeing among patients or within your

organization, and help identify issues that may need to be elevated to NJ FamilyCare. [Join office hours.](#)

Invest Rural NJ Virtual Learning Sessions

Continuing education credits will be available.

Respectful Care: Strengthening Clinician-Patient Communication - October 6, 12-1 p.m.

Participants will learn approaches to improve patient engagement, strengthen shared decision-making, and navigate common communication challenges in today's health care environment. [Register here.](#)

Expediting Licensure and Credentialing: Strategies for Faster Workforce Onboarding - October 22, 12-1 p.m.

Participants will learn ways to submit more complete applications, navigate requirements, and support timely workforce onboarding. [Register here.](#)

H.R. 1: January 1st Medicaid Requirements – Part II, October 15, 12-1 p.m.

Join us for the second webinar in our H.R. 1 series. Building on Part I, this session moves from policy to practice by walking through real-world scenarios that show what the upcoming NJ FamilyCare changes may look like from the member's perspective. As federal and state guidance continues to evolve, we'll share the latest information available and explore what these changes mean for the people and communities you serve. This session is designed for health care providers, community organizations, advocates, and anyone who supports NJ FamilyCare members. [Register here.](#)

Member Breakfast & Engagement Event

 **October 28 | 8 - 9:30 am.**

 **150 Park Avenue,
Florham Park, NJ**

 NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE
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 **Summit Health**



REGISTER NOW

Please join the Quality Institute on **Wednesday, October 28**, from **8 to 9:30 a.m.** for a Member Breakfast and Engagement Event at **Summit Health, 150 Park Avenue, 4th Floor, Florham Park, NJ.**

[Register here.](#)

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. Tara Oakman, Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer at the New Jersey Department of Human Services, will join us and offer brief remarks and updates from the Department.

Thank you to Summit Health for hosting!

This event is for members and invited guests only.

NEW MEMBER



WELCOME

[The 32BJ Labor Industry Cooperation Trust Fund \(LICF\)](#) was created by SEIU Local 32BJ and the Realty Advisory Board to tackle rising health care costs and hospital prices in NY and surrounding areas. The LICF facilitates the Coalition for Affordable Hospitals and partners with the 32BJ Health Fund to ensure 32BJ members and their families have affordable, comprehensive health coverage.



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.

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