



Quality Institute Newsletter

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



NOVEMBER 29, 2018

PATIENT NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____
DATE _____

A PRESCRIPTION FOR BETTER HEALTHCARE IN NEW JERSEY

At Last, A Coordinated Effort To Increase Coverage

Driving to visit relatives in the northern part of New Jersey recently, I passed a billboard on Route 280 that said: *Get Covered NJ*. I never saw a sign like that before. I smiled. The towering roadside message tells me that our new administration in Trenton is serious about increasing enrollment through the Affordable Care Act markets and NJ FamilyCare.

The Murphy administration's outreach campaign includes other advertisements, the



website GetCovered.NJ.gov, and grants to community organizations that are helping consumers navigate

enrollment. Governor Murphy is using

his unique position to lead the coordinated effort to reach hundreds of thousands of New Jersey residents who can benefit from coverage—as well as those who need to renew their insurance.

For the first time, all of the state agencies are using their websites and other channels to educate residents about open enrollment. The state is working closely with grassroots organizations—even sharing the *Get Covered NJ* campaign title—demonstrating that even with a modest budget coordination can make a real difference.

ACA enrollment dipped by 10 percent in 2018, but Governor Murphy has said the state plans to reverse the trend for 2019. Open enrollment ends December 15. In these final weeks, we need to reach as many people as possible so they can shop for the right plan.

Shopping around this time of year makes sense. There's an average reduction in premiums in the individual market of 9.3 percent, a significant turnaround after years of premium hikes. And many people discover they are eligible for Medicaid, which has no cost sharing — or for a subsidized plan on the ACA marketplace. About seventy percent of enrollees receive some support to pay the costs.

As a member of the Quality Institute, you can be proud that two policies driving the reduction in premiums originated in our Health Care Reform Work Group with Senator Joe Vitale. Many of our members and board members participated in the Work Group, including Heather Howard, JD, Director of State Health and Value Strategies, who provided critical support. From the beginning, we worked closely with the Murphy administration. With the herculean efforts of the Department of Banking and Insurance, we got the changes through for 2019.

First, our Work Group advocated for a reinsurance program to create a fund to help insurance companies pay for extremely sick patients. The Murphy administration earlier this year sought a federal waiver to create the program. Second, the Work Group advocated for an individual mandate. Earlier this year New Jersey's legislature passed and Governor Murphy signed a law adopting a state-level health insurance mandate. Revenue collected from the mandate will help fund the reinsurance program.

With the insight and perspective of our members, the Quality Institute plays a critical role crafting and

advocating for policies that drive health care quality, safety, and affordability.

You can help get the word out on Open Enrollment so more people get coverage—not penalties. The best way to keep down the cost of insurance is to enroll as many people as possible.

Here are a few ways you can help:

- Follow GetCovered.NJ.gov on your social media pages.
- Promote the GetCovered.NJ.gov website on your website's home page.
- Go to GetCovered.NJ.gov and print out a poster and hang one or more in your local community.

I believe we can reach our goal: record health insurance enrollment for 2019.

Innovator on the Front Lines of Medicine Joins Quality Institute Board

Please join us in welcoming Mary F. Campagnolo, MD, MBA, to the Quality Institute Board of Directors. As a health care leader committed to innovation and medical practice transformation, Dr. Campagnolo's vision is driving change to make health care more patient-centered, affordable, and of higher quality. We are grateful that she has joined our Board.

Dr. Campagnolo is a family physician/geriatrician and Medical Director of Virtua Health Graduate Medical Education in Marlton. She also is lead physician of Virtua-Family Medicine of Mansfield, in Bordentown, and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine, Virtua-North, in Mt. Holly.



Dr. Campagnolo also has held multiple leadership positions in statewide and national physician organizations. She is a Past-President of the Medical Society of New Jersey and Past-President of the New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians. She has served on the American Academy of Family Physicians Commission on Quality, and most recently is on the Commission on Finance and Insurance.

Gun Violence is Public Health Epidemic

The Quality Institute has joined nearly 40,000 physicians, nurses, therapists, health policy experts, and concerned citizens who have signed a letter criticizing the NRA for releasing a statement, “Someone should tell self-important anti-gun doctors to stay in their lane.”

The NRA’s statement was in response to a position paper by the American College of Physicians that pressed for policies to reduce gun deaths and disability. The Open Letter to the NRA from American Health Professionals says, “This is our lane.” The persuasive letter says health care professionals are “absolutely ‘in our lane’ when we propose solutions to prevent death and disability from gun violence.” You can read more [here](#) and consider adding your own signature to the letter that powerfully argues that gun violence is a public health epidemic.

New Member

Please welcome our newest member **AmeriHealth Caritas**. **AmeriHealth Caritas** is one of the nation’s leaders in health care solutions, serving approximately 5.3 million Medicaid, Medicare, and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) members in 15 states and the District of Columbia. Headquartered in Philadelphia, AmeriHealth Caritas is a mission-driven organization with more than 35 years of experience serving low-income and chronically ill populations.



Medicaid



Alex Azar, the federal Health and Human Services Secretary, recently stressed the importance of supporting Medicaid recipients beyond their health care needs—to also support the social needs of individuals and families. The Quality Institute’s Medicaid policy work recognizes that attention to basic needs, such as housing and access to nutritious food, contributes to overall good health. In New Jersey, we have many partners across the state that focus on the Medicaid population’s social and health needs to provide wrap-around support. At the Quality Institute, we will continue to monitor the news from the national Medicaid program to determine innovative options for spreading existing best practices in New Jersey.

We want to hear from you — if your organization is providing integrated health and social services, we encourage you to share your model with us. *If you have questions, please contact Matt D’Oria at mdoria@njhcqi.org or Kate Shamszad at kshamszad@njhcqi.org.*

The Quality Institute’s Medicaid work is funded by [The Nicholson Foundation](#).



Mayors Wellness Campaign

New Jersey State League of Municipalities



At the 2018 New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City earlier this month, the Quality Institute’s Mayors Wellness Campaign (MWC) hosted the New Jersey Department of Health Commissioner Shereef Elnahal at the MWC booth for a Shout Out & Photo Op with Mayors.

The MWC also hosted a panel titled, “Bringing Wellness to Your Community with the MWC,” featuring Mayor Birkner of Westwood; Mayor Giacobbe of Rahway; and Mayor Davies-Dunhour of Stone Harbor, explaining how the MWC community health and wellness resources can help make communities healthier places to live, work, and play.

MWC Healthy Town

Do you live in New Jersey’s healthiest town? If you think so, please share the [Healthy Town Application](#) with your local mayor. The MWC Healthy Town designation highlights communities with mayors who have made healthy lifestyles a top priority—and who are actively engaging all the members of their community. Each year, the MWC awards Healthy Town designations to recognize community health and wellness activities conducted in the past calendar year. The MWC Healthy Town Application must be received by the Quality Institute by **5 pm, January 25, 2019**.

To learn more, contact Adrian Diogo at adiogo@njhcqi.org.



To recognize National Hospice and Palliative Care Month, the Burlington County COYL Task Force, along with Rutgers’ Student Nurse COYL Interns, held an event at the Wiley Community Center. This event included a presentation on advance care planning and the importance of having individuals’ end of life wishes honored, as well as the ‘Before I Leave’ board and Go Wish card game.

COYL, a program of the Quality Institute’s Mayors Wellness Campaign, engages communities in fruitful dialogue about end-of-life wishes in ‘community living room’ settings. To learn more, contact Adelisa Perez at aperez@njhcqi.org.

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

Save the Date: March 21, 2019

Join the New Jersey Innovation Institute and the Quality Institute for the [Annual Innovation Showcase: Using Data to Drive Value Innovation](#), with Keynote speaker **Former Governor and HHS Secretary Mike Levitt**.



In the News

11.26.2018 | [NJ Spotlight](#) | [How End-of-Life Care in New Jersey Could Be Greatly Improved](#)

A report on how life could be made more comfortable for New Jerseyans in their final days was recently released and suggests over 25 recommendations to implement positive change in this area.

As the Leapfrog Group's Regional Leader for New Jersey, the Quality Institute is excited to share the press coverage generated by the Fall 2018 Hospital Safety Grades. If you have any press related inquiries, please reach out to Carol Ann Campbell at C: 973-567-1901 | E: cacampbell@njhcqi.org.

11.9.2018 | [AJMC.com](#) | [Leapfrog Releases Fall Hospital Safety Results](#)

11.8.2018 | [NJBiz.com](#) | [NJ Tops in US in Fall Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades](#)

11.8.2018 | [ROI.com](#) | [Leapfrog Scores: More Than Half of N.J. Hospitals Get an A \(56.7%\), Over 80% Get an A or B](#)

11.8.2018 | [APP.com](#) | [NJ Hospital Safety Gets Top Grades in US; How Did Your Hospital Fare?](#)

11.8.2018 | [NJSpotlight.com](#) | [NJ Tops National Rankings in Leapfrog Hospital Safety Scores](#)

Industry Events

12.3.2018 | [Rutgers School of Public Health Webinar, “Legalization of Recreational Marijuana: The Public Health Perspective.”](#) This webinar will describe the lessons learned, regarding the general public’s health, in states in which legalization of recreational cannabis has taken place. *Registration required.*

12.8.2018 | [First Lady Tammy Murphy’s NJ Family Festival](#) . [Trenton Health Team, Inc.](#) is pleased to work with Tammy Murphy and other partners to present a fun-filled community event to connect Trenton area families to available services with the goal of improving the health outcomes of mothers and children.

Shout Outs

Congratulations to **AtlantiCare** for opening its first urgent care, occupational health, and Primary Care Plus office in Atlantic City on November 12. Housed on the Stockton University Campus, officials said that they are excited to provide a larger number of quality health care options to all residents and students. [Read more.](#)

Outstanding! Since the inception of the Leapfrog Group hospital survey, **Saint Barnabas Medical Center RWJBarnabas** is the only hospital in NJ to receive an A rating every time. [Read full article.](#)

Kudos to the **Trenton Health Team** for being awarded a five-year, \$300,000 grant from the Princeton Area Community Foundation, All Kids Thrive Initiative. Trenton Public schools will partner with the Team to identify overlaps between health conditions and school absenteeism via the Trenton Health Information Exchange, where electronic medical records are housed. [Read more.](#)

Congrats to **Jefferson Health** for being honored for unwavering commitment to fighting hunger by longtime partner, The Food Bank of South Jersey (FBSJ), with the “Champion Against Hunger Award” at FBSJ’s annual Viva South Jersey Gala. [Read full article.](#)

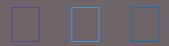
At the Quality Institute, we’re pleased to see such a valuable addition to the fight against opioid addiction: **The New Jersey Department of Health** just recently launched an [Opioid Data Dashboard](#), which is designed to provide public health practitioners, policy-makers, researchers, and the public with a crucial tool to help fight against opioid addiction.

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