



Quality Institute Newsletter

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



FEBRUARY 14, 2019

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A PRESCRIPTION FOR BETTER HEALTHCARE IN NEW JERSEY

Extend Medicaid Coverage for New Moms

Recently I was invited to share testimony in Trenton on a package of bills to improve outcomes for new mothers and their babies. I provided testimony to both the Assembly and the Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committees.

As the state explores ways to reduce maternal deaths, one overarching change seems absolutely necessary: extend Medicaid from the current 60 days postpartum to a full year.

In New Jersey, pregnant women with incomes up to 205 percent of the Federal Poverty Level are eligible for Medicaid — higher than women who are not pregnant.

But thousands of these women, many of them working, lose coverage two months after giving birth —

even though they remain vulnerable to pregnancy related complications for up to one year.

We should not create barriers to new mothers who need health care, especially at a time of rising maternal death rates. According to the CDC's Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System, the number of reported pregnancy-related deaths in the United States steadily increased from about seven deaths per 100,000 births in 1987 to 18 deaths per 100,000 births in 2014.

According to some statistics, as many as one in five of these deaths takes place between six weeks and one year after the birth — and more than half are considered preventable.

We know there are both personal and societal benefits to providing better postpartum care, including mental health services, primary care, and birth control. The mother is more likely to avoid complications. The baby is more likely to receive proper care, such as immunizations. And the mother is more likely to be healthy if she has another pregnancy.

Extending coverage for another 10 months for these women would cost the state approximately \$8.7 million. And, we believe, at least some, perhaps all, of these costs would be offset by reductions in costly complications and hospital care for both mother and baby.

At the Quality Institute, we have long advocated for improved maternal and infant health coverage. We recognize the potential cost savings of keeping mothers and newborns as healthy as possible.

But most important is the human cost — incalculable.



Take Five with Matt D'Oria, Director, Medicaid Policy Center

Matt D'Oria is Director of the Quality Institute's Medicaid Policy Center (MPC). He also is a former Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health. He talked with Take Five about the creation of the MPC.

Why did the Quality Institute create a Medicaid Policy Center?

The Quality Institute has been around for over two decades and through our health policy work and the expertise of

our board and staff members, including many who used to work in state government, we understood the day-to-day

demands of regulators. Health care technology, health care data, the ACA — all these changes are altering health care. And as the size and scope of Medicaid has grown and we've seen government shrink. Medicaid covers nearly 20 percent of our population. We saw the need for an independent, nonpartisan health policy center to assist government by taking a broader, longer-term look at ways to make the program more effective for beneficiaries and more cost effective. We saw how our expertise and our ability to pull in people from all corners of health care could provide ideas to strengthen and improve the state's Medicaid program.



The Nicholson Foundation funds the MPC. How did the partnership with The Nicholson Foundation develop?

Our partnership with The Nicholson Foundation dates back to 2011 and our work with Medicaid Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), and we've continued working with the Foundation in various ways. Their mission is to address the complex needs of vulnerable populations and they seek sustainable reform. That's why The Nicholson Foundation wants to support a policy center with staff that will continually seek to improve our Medicaid program and work hand-in-hand with the state to create improvements that are lasting.

Who will be involved in your research and policy recommendations?

As a program of the Quality Institute, the MPC has access to an extensive network of experts from public and private organizations. Our most important collaboration will of course be with the State officials who oversee Medicaid. Many of the Quality Institute's members are Medicaid providers and managed care organizations and we will continue to gain their insights and guidance about what's working and what isn't. We have also built an Advisory Committee that consists of state and national health care, data, and social science experts who will provide a critical external perspective.

How is the MPC different from existing organizations?

The MPC is one of a handful of non-profit organizations dedicated to continuous improvement in their state's Medicaid programs. There are several academic institutions across the country, including our colleagues at the Rutgers – Center for State Health Policy, that provide rigorous research and program evaluation services for Medicaid. Relying on evidenced-based research, the MPC will be geared more toward identifying the financing, payment reform, and implementation strategies that will move proven concepts from the demonstration phase to full scale operations. In particular, in partnership with the

state, we hope to support a focused move to alternative payment models that addresses needed quality improvement.

What are the short-term and long-term goals for the MPC?

In the near term, there are two pressing priorities: improving maternal and child health, and examining the impact of changes in where and how people are accessing care (e.g. emergency department use, urgent care centers, primary care providers, and telehealth options). Longer term, we are looking at cost drivers in the system that can be addressed, including social service needs; and ways to cover more people, possibly through a Medicaid Buy-in program.

Upcoming Quality Institute Events

Join us for **an upcoming CE accredited webinar** in the GPTN Webinar Series: “[Using a Social Service Referral Tool to Help Patients](#)” on **Thursday, February 21**, with Adrian Diogo of the Quality Institute and Megan Sheppard of the Cumberland County Health Department. *Open to the public.*

[Register today](#) for the [5th Annual Innovation Showcase hosted by NJII and the Quality Institute](#) on **Thursday, March 21**, at the NJIT Wellness and Events Center in Newark. This year’s theme will be “Using Data to Drive Value and Innovation.” Former Utah Governor, and HHS Secretary, Michael Leavitt will be the keynote speaker and also hear from former Chief Technology Officer of the United States, Aneesh Chopra and New Jersey Commissioner of Health Shereef Elnahal. Stay through the afternoon for breakout sessions focused on Government, Innovation, and Value. Participation in this conference is free of charge and complimentary light breakfast will be served. *Open to the public.*

Save the Date — May 21, 2019, at 2 pm for the Quality Institute’s Spring All Council Conference, *Racial Bias in Health Care: Diagnosis and Treatment Plan*, featuring keynote speaker **Tiffani Johnson, MD, MSc**. More details to follow; *members and invited guests only.*



The Quality Institute is proud to have officially launched the Medicaid Policy Center on February 7th, 2019.

Have you started to notice more and more urgent care centers popping up along your daily drive? If so, you're not alone. As one of the first areas of exploration for the newly-launched Medicaid Policy Center, we are exploring the ways that the fast-growing market of urgent care centers and retail clinics are impacting the Medicaid population. The goal of an urgent care center is generally to reduce unnecessary emergency department utilization. However, is the convenience of these clinics reducing the use of care and continuity provided by primary care providers? We'd like to find out, so we encourage you to tell us how urgent care and retail care fits into the continuum of care for you and your organization. Send your feedback to Kate Shamszad, Senior Program Officer, Medicaid Policy Center (MPC), at kshamszad@njhcqi.org.

Connect with the Medicaid Policy Center on social media:

Twitter: @NJHCQI

Facebook: @NJHCQI

LinkedIn: @New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute

MPC Official Hashtag: #MedicaidPolicyCenterNJ

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



Mayors Wellness Campaign

Quality Institute Members: Continue to keep community health top of mind by working with your local mayor to design your town's 2019 Mayors Wellness Campaign. View our [video](#) on how to start your campaign and access our [toolkit](#) for ideas to implement a campaign in your community. Now is the perfect time to think about how your work impacts community health and what resources can be offered to make your community a better place for all to live, work, and play.

Mayors: We encourage you to share with us your community's recent Mayors Wellness Campaign events and news for the chance to be highlighted in an upcoming Quality Institute and/or Mayors Wellness Campaign quarterly newsletter.

The Mayors Wellness Campaign is a statewide community health initiative that provides mayors and their team with free to low-cost evidence-based tools and resources to implement health and wellness programming in their communities. To learn more, please contact Adrian Diogo at adiogo@njhcqi.org.

Conversation of Your Life



Attention all Hospital System and Hospice Provider Administration, County and Municipal Leaders (such as Mayors, Surrogates, Health Officers): The Quality Institute encourages you to join your local COYL Task Force to illustrate the importance of communicating and documenting end-of-life wishes for your local community. COYL Task Forces are actively planning statewide “signing events” where local leaders will share why advance care planning conversations are important and will sign their own advance directives, encouraging residents to do the same.

To participate in a COYL signing event or to learn more, contact Adelisa Perez at aperez@njhcqi.org.

COYL, a program of the Quality Institute’s Mayors Wellness Campaign, engages communities in non-threatening dialogue about end-of-life wishes and advance care planning in ‘community living room’ settings. COYL is generously supported by [The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey](#).

Quality Corner



2019 Leapfrog Town Hall Calls

For Hospitals:

Join the Leapfrog Group as they discuss changes to the 2019 Hospital Survey, including updates to Section 2 CPOE and Section 8A BCMA, as well as new sections: Section 6F Hand Hygiene and Section 10 Outpatient Procedures, on April 24 at 2pm and May 8 at 3 pm. Register for Hospital Town Hall

calls [here](#).

For Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs):

Join Leapfrog and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) as they review important information regarding the new Outpatient Procedure Component (OPC), within NHSN, and how to join Leapfrog's NHSN Group for ASCs, both on February 25 at 12:30pm. Leapfrog will be using data from the OPC for ASC Benchmarking Reports.

Learn more about Leapfrog's new ASC Survey on March 27 and April 23 at 2pm. Topics include how to request a security code, how to navigate the Online Survey Tool, important deadlines, an overview of the Survey, and information on how results will be used and verified. Register for ASC Town Hall calls [here](#).

To learn more, contact Adelisa Perez at aperez@njhcqi.org.

In the News

The Quality Institute's official launch of the Medicaid Policy Center (MPC) on February 7th and other health quality news continues to generate interest and press coverage throughout the state. If you have any press related inquiries, please reach out to Carol Ann Campbell at C: 973-567-1901 | E: cacampbell@njhcqi.org.

2.11.2019 | *NJ Spotlight.com* | [Big Push To Make Medicaid In New Jersey More Effective and Efficient](#)

“Experts largely agree on steps New Jersey should take to create a more effective and efficient Medicaid system and reform plans have already been drafted for some changes, like reforming how doctors are paid for their care and improving services for those with complex needs.”

2.11.2019 | *Intelligencer.com* | [Experts: Hospital Charges Can Be Confusing, But Necessary](#)

As of January 1, the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services require hospitals nationally to post machine-readable lists of their standard charges, also known as chargemasters, on their websites.

2.8.2019 | *Philadelphia Business Journal.com* | [Health Care Half of Area Hospitals Take Part in Leapfrog Survey](#)

Hospitals in southeastern Pennsylvania and Delaware, and in South Jersey, have record level participation in reporting safety and outcome data to the Leapfrog Group.

2.7.2019 | *NJ Biz.com* | [Quality Institute Launches Medicaid Policy Center](#)

Quality Institute launches Medicaid Policy Center on February 7, 2019.

2.1.2019 | *TAP into Bayonne Online* | [New Jersey Healthcare Quality Institute Recognizes Bayonne Medical Center During Quarterly Quality Breakfast](#)

This press coverage of the Quality Institute's January Quality Breakfast, which featured the Leapfrog Group and many of our members, recaps the event's presentations, discussions, and forum on the 2018 performance metrics for The Leapfrog Group's Top Hospital Ratings, as well as the upcoming changes to the 2019 Leapfrog Hospital Survey and Ratings Programs.

Industry Events

3.24.2019 | [National Quality Forum's 20th Annual Conference](#). Linda Schwimmer, the Quality Institute's President & CEO and Chair of the National Quality Forum's (NQF) Consensus Standards Approval Committee (CSAC), will be among the speakers at the NQF Annual conference. The Quality Institute encourages all health care leaders to attend to learn about the latest opportunities to improve quality for their communities and patients. [Learn more and register now.](#)

Shout Outs

Kudos to **Nicole McGrath of the KinderSmile Foundation**, one of the [Medicaid Policy Center Advisory Committee members](#), for being one of the grantees of the Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey Kids Oral Health Program. Created by Horizon in 2016, this program grants \$500,000 to non-profits organizations that bring dental care and education programs to communities in New Jersey that have the greatest need for them. Read the full article [here](#).

Cheers to **Morristown Medical Center—Atlantic Health System** for the opening of their Women's Heart Resource Center on February 22, 2019. The Center will offer women resources to manage their cardiac issues, access to the latest research materials, and both in-person and virtual support groups. The Quality Institute thanks you for your commitment to improving women's heart health in your community. Read more [here](#).

Welcome and congratulations to the recently announced **New Jersey Healthcare Executive**

Leadership Academy Class of 2019! The Quality Institute is proud to see that so many of our members are a part of this distinguished group and will use their leadership skills to collaborate with physicians, hospitals, and health insurance companies to improve health care. The focus of this year's class will be combating the opioid crisis in New Jersey. Read more [here](#).

Congrats New Jersey for achieving the highest hospital participation ever in the Leapfrog Group Hospital Survey! The Quality Institute applauds **St. Luke's Warren Hospital, East Orange General Hospital, and Hudson Regional Hospital** for their dedication to safety and quality, and for their participation in the hospital survey. For the 2018 Survey, all but one hospital in New Jersey, Memorial Hospital of Salem County, participated. **A big thank you to New Jersey Hospitals for making transparency and safety a priority.**

Only ten hospitals nationwide, and Quality Institute member **Holy Name Medical Center** was one of them! Applause to Holy Name for being selected to participate in the Hospital Community Cooperative (HCC). Each hospital will receive support from the HCC to reduce the racial gaps in their communities. Holy Name will be focusing their efforts on their Asian community's high rate of cancer, by promoting colon screenings. Full article [here](#).

The Quality Institute is proud of our members that hosted a Code-a-Thon at NJII, along with the NJ Department of Health. Thank you for hosting this innovative event – a 24-hour app challenge to address pregnant and postpartum women's risk factors, and for continually bringing together the health care and technology sectors to make quality improvements. Read more [here](#).

ABOUT US

Our Mission & Vision
Quality Institute Staff
Board of Directors
Our Accomplishments
National Partnerships

OUR INITIATIVES

Health Care Policy 360
Health Matters Poll
Mayors Wellness Campaign
QI Collaborative
The Leapfrog Group



MEMBERSHIP

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Council Member Benefits
Become a Member

MEDIA CENTER

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Press Releases
Schwimmer Script
Take Five
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