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NEW JERSEY
HEALTH CARE
**QUALITY
INSTITUTE**

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

See You at the Quality Institute's All Council Conference, *Racial Bias in Health Care: A Diagnosis and Treatment Plan*

Later this month on May 21, we'll explore the critical issue of racial bias and discuss ways to educate ourselves and steps to address bias and eliminate inequities in health outcomes.

We all are affected by our life experiences, which influence how we see the world around us. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Tiffani Johnson, a faculty member at PolicyLab at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, will share her research into health care disparities; some of her personal experiences; and her strategies to reduce the impact bias has on decision-making. You can learn more about Dr. Johnson in her Take Five interview, below.

We'll also have a panel of our members who will share details on how their organizations are working to address bias and reduce its impact on patients and families. Our panelists include the leaders from a foundation, the largest community oncology practice in the state, and a Medicaid managed care organization. We'll also have a nurse in perinatal care.

Bias can have lasting effects on patients. People who do not feel heard or understood are less likely to trust or follow their health care instructions, leading to poorer patient outcomes. This is an issue that's important to the Quality Institute, and judging from the interest and registration, we're seeing it's a vital topic to our members as well. Members and invited guests, please **register [here for our conference](#)**, if you have not already, and consider taking [Harvard's Project Implicit Race IAT test](#), which provides insight into thoughts and feelings outside our conscious awareness.

TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW WITH TIFFANI JOHNSON, MD. MSc.



First, can you tell us about your role at CHOP as both physician and researcher?

One of the things that I like about emergency medicine is that we provide access to all patients, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or education — and whether or not they have health insurance. I like the variety and fast-pace of the emergency department and the ability to intervene at what can be one of the scariest moments for children and parents. My research at PolicyLab is focused on racial and ethnic disparities in pediatric emergency care. I look to identify where there are potential differences in the quality of care that children receive with the goal of developing and testing novel interventions aimed at reducing disparities.

What are the three insights or messages you want people who attend the conference to leave with?

First, we need to recognize the impact of race and racism on health. And also recognize and acknowledge current policies that exist that are barriers for our patients achieving their highest level of health and wellbeing. My second take-home message would be that in order to truly achieve equity, it's important that organizations — whether health care organizations, insurers, or public health-related organizations — make equity a strategic priority. My third is that we all have certain biases that we bring to the table. And having bias doesn't make you a horrible person. I hope to leave individuals with strategies to help them recognize their biases and to take steps at reducing the impact that their biases have on their decision-making.

[Read Full Story](#)

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



Why should Medicaid expand coverage to women after delivery? Because more and more women are losing coverage after giving birth, or aren't qualifying for care to start. Dive into the dangers of the postpartum period for women and how New Jersey is one of only five states with active legislation to expand this coverage in this illuminating [ProPublica article](#).

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

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Health Management Associates (HMA) is a leading independent national research and consulting firm in the healthcare industry. Founded in 1985, today we are more than 250 consultants strong and still growing. We help clients stay ahead of the curve in publicly funded healthcare by providing technical assistance, resources, decision support and expertise.



This newsletter is exclusively for members of the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute.

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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