



NEW JERSEY  
HEALTH CARE  
**QUALITY  
INSTITUTE**

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



**PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER**

***At the Quality Institute, Change and New Opportunities Ahead***

As summer days give way to the renewed energy of fall, I am excited to share some changes here at the Quality Institute, as well as many new opportunities for our members and partners to work with us between now and the end of the year.

First, Shereef Elnahal, M.D., M.B.A., has joined our board. Dr. Elnahal, New Jersey's former health commissioner, and a dynamic leader, is now President and CEO of University Hospital, New Jersey's only public hospital. He has shown through his work on both the state and federal level that he is committed to our vision to create a world where everyone receives safe, equitable, and affordable health care to live their healthiest lives. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Elnahal to the Quality Institute.



## Join us in welcoming Dr. Shereef Elnahal to the Quality Institute Board!

Also, other significant news is that we have two new staff members, both of whom have a background in social work: Brittany Lee, who comes to us with deep Medicaid policy experience; and Julie DeSimone, who has worked in county human services and community-based social services. You'll hear more about them and their roles at the Quality Institute in future Take Five Interviews and I hope you get the chance to meet them at one of our many upcoming events, starting with our [Open House tonight](#) (9/12) at our office beginning at 5:30 pm. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

[Read Full Story](#)

## PARTICIPATE IN ACCREDITED ONLINE EDUCATION FROM QUALITY INSTITUTE MEMBER MEDICAL MARIJUANA 411



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### New Medical Marijuana Education Program for Quality Institute Members

We are excited to share with you a new opportunity to participate in accredited online education from Quality Institute member [Medical Marijuana 411](#) (MM411). MM411 is the very first medical marijuana education provider to offer online, enduring CME, CPE and CNE courses to Physicians, Pharmacists, and Nurses.

As a member of the Quality Institute we invite you to RSVP for one free code to participate in MM411's Medical Marijuana [CME 10 credit activity](#) in your choice of AMA, ANCC or ACPE credits. Codes will be provided on a first come first serve basis. Quality Institute members will receive discounts for any additional education purchased. Please contact Tyla Housman, Vice President of External Affairs, at [thousman@njhcqi.org](mailto:thousman@njhcqi.org) to RSVP or for more information about this opportunity.

[Learn  
More](#)



## CHRISTINE NAZARENUS

CHIEF VISION OFFICER  
& CO-FOUNDER OF  
MEDICAL MARIJUANA 411

### TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Christine Nazarenus is Chief Vision Officer and Co-Founder of [Medical Marijuana 411](#), which provides online resources for medical cannabis education.

**Interview Sneak Peak:** *Can you describe your work with Washington and Alaska to educate marijuana dispensary workers?*

Washington State legalized recreational marijuana in 2012, but the state still wanted to focus on medicinal patients. So, the requirement would be that anyone working with medical patients within a dispensary had to be certified by a state-approved educational company...Medical Marijuana 411 was approved by the Washington Department of Health as one of three vendors permitted to offer the state required certification. We also are approved in Alaska to offer the state required Alaska Marijuana Handler's Card for any person involved in cannabis in Alaska. The requirements are slightly different in each state. We were approved for...

[Read Full Story](#)

### Healthcare Providers: How Do You Maximize Access for Patients in Your Practices?

#### GPTN WEBINAR SERIES

*How to Maximize Access  
for Patients - Extended  
Hours*

**9/18, 12-1pm**

**FREE CE Credit  
Opportunity**

**REGISTER NOW**

**[HTTP://BIT.LY/REGPTN-  
WEB91819](http://bit.ly/regptn-web91819)**



Learn everything you need to know about how to bring patient access to its max at your practice through the [QI Collaborative's](#) *Extended Hours PTN Webinar with CityLife Health* on **September 18th from 12-1pm**. This is a **FREE CE credit opportunity**.

By the end of this webinar, participants will understand:

- How to appropriately, and efficiently, staff for extended hours
- How to communicate extended hours and open access to patients
- How to manage walk-in flow and effectively schedule

Register  
Now!

## “Medicaid Guidance Resource Center” Opened in Newark by Quality Institute Member, Aetna

The Quality Institute is excited to share that our member, **Aetna Better Health of New Jersey**, recently opened a Medicaid Guidance Center in Newark, NJ. The Center's mission is to connect Aetna's Better Health of New Jersey members, as well as other Medicaid beneficiaries and anyone from the Newark community, to important resources, such as:

- Aid in understanding and enrolling in NJ FamilyCare
- Support in accessing community and social service resources
- Help in finding a health care provider
- Guidance in understanding Aetna Better Health of New Jersey benefits
- Free Access to vegetables and fruit every 4th Thursday afternoon of the month

Aetna Better Health of New Jersey, way to go on implementing such a great and impactful center for the Newark community. Best of luck!



Learn More About The  
Center

## Shout Out



Shout out to **NJ Department of Banking & Insurance** for its commitment to public transparency. They recently posted the 2018 Annual Financial Statements for health insurers doing business in New Jersey.

Learn  
More



For information on how to join, please contact Virginia Tesser at [vtesser@njhcqi.org](mailto:vtesser@njhcqi.org).

To learn more about our current initiatives, please visit our website at [www.njhcqi.org](http://www.njhcqi.org).

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