



NEW JERSEY
HEALTH CARE
**QUALITY
INSTITUTE**

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



PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER

Health Care Community Must Have A Greater Role In Medical Marijuana Policy

Medical marijuana is a multi-faceted issue. It's now legal for a range of medical conditions under the recently expanded New Jersey state law, but continues to be illegal under federal law.

Health care facilities are unsure what to do when, say, a cancer patient, clearly benefitting from using marijuana at home, is admitted. Can they dispense the marijuana? Where should the drug be stored? Hospitals, nursing homes, and hospices, regulated by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), have legitimate concerns about handling an illegal Schedule 1 drug.

But they also don't want to restrict access to a medicine that's reducing a patient's suffering.

[Read Full Story](#)



TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Marcela Ospina Maziarz, MPA, is the Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health.

Interview Sneak Peek: As Deputy Commissioner, you led the Department's work on building a new data dashboard on maternal health. Can you tell us about that work?

Our [New Jersey Maternal Data Center website](#) is going to be our main landing page for everything related to maternal outcomes: from information that could be used by providers, information that could be used by moms, and by consumers. Our Report Card of Hospital Maternity Care includes interactive data on hospital specific, and statewide, surgical birth rates, complication rates, and severe maternal birth complications.

[Read Full Interview](#)

The Quality Institute Welcomes Hackensack Meridian Health

Hackensack University Medical Center, JFK Medical Center, and Carrier Clinic have been longstanding members of the Quality Institute. We are so pleased to have the rest of Hackensack Meridian *Health* joining them within our membership. Hackensack Meridian *Health*, we welcome you to our membership and look forward to working with the entire network.



Hackensack
Meridian *Health*

[Hackensack Meridian Health](#) is a leading not-for-profit health care organization that is the largest, most comprehensive, and truly integrated health care network in New Jersey, offering a complete range of medical services, innovative research, and life-enhancing care.



MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN[®]



Julie DeSimone, Program Officer, Mayors Wellness Campaign

Judy Persichilli, NJ Department of Health Acting Commissioner

Adelisa Perez, Director of Quality

The Quality Institute's Mayors Wellness Campaign (MWC) was thrilled to connect with mayors and community leaders at the [2019 New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference](#) in Atlantic City this week. And the MWC was especially happy to host the New Jersey Department of Health Acting Commissioner, **Judy Persichilli**, for a Meet and Greet with mayors. Additionally, the MWC hosted several events throughout the week, including a panel session, *Bringing Wellness to Your Community with the Mayors Wellness Campaign*, as well as two healthy cooking demonstrations, which highlighted how communities can bring healthy recipes and cooking habits to their residents.

THANK YOU MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN SPONSORS



Thank you to all of our 2019 MWC Sponsors for your dedicated partnership in supporting our efforts to improve the health and wellness of communities across the state.

NEW RELEASE



New Release: Applications for the New Jersey Healthy Town Designation are now available. This designation, awarded annually through a competitive process, recognizes communities that have made healthy lifestyles a top priority and that have engaged all members of their community through inclusive, evidence-based health and wellness programming, policies, and a comprehensive culture of health.

Members: We encourage you to share this notice and work with your local mayor to submit a Healthy Town Designation application. The deadline to apply is January 31, 2020. [Register](#) for our Healthy Town Webinar on December 10th at 2:00 PM to learn more about this prestigious designation and how to apply.

[Learn More](#)



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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