



NEW JERSEY
HEALTH CARE
**QUALITY
INSTITUTE**

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



PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER
2019: A Year of Collaborative Impact

As we move into a new decade, I want to reflect on our impact this past year and highlight the goals and challenges ahead. Looking back, we have achieved significant accomplishments and clearly our collective voices are being heard.

Many of our [Medicaid Policy Center](#) recommendations have turned into public policy. For instance, the state insurance program no longer pays for early elective deliveries that have no medical necessity and can harm mothers and babies.

Our state lawmakers also passed legislation that will change how Medicaid pays for births by rewarding providers who follow best practices and achieve good outcomes. Additionally, Medicaid will request that CMS allow the agency to provide Medicaid coverage for six months after a woman gives birth, rather than the current 60-day allowance. And we've been asked to advise state officials moving forward with initiatives to reduce maternal mortality.

These are all wins for mothers and babies. We look forward to continuing this work in 2020.

In this past year, we received funding from Arnold Ventures for our Reproductive Health Access Project; and in 2020 we will release a toolkit for providers and their office staff that will help them navigate through confusing billing and regulatory hurdles and assist them in offering comprehensive reproductive health care — which is an essential element of high quality care.

Our [Conversation of Your Life \(COYL\)](#) program is now in 14 counties. We should all be proud of COYL as it requires a team effort from our members, volunteers, and mayors who make up each task force.

The local-based programming includes authors, movies, and multi-topic program series which all support how to have important conversations about advance care wishes and planning. COYL is the only program we know of anywhere that is led by mayors or other local community leaders and is designed through the local vision of each community. In 2020, we will continue to scale and grow COYL and expand our materials in multiple languages.

At the Quality Institute, we're also about controlling costs and providing access. That's why I'm especially excited that in 2020 we'll continue our work with Senator Joe Vitale and our Health Care Reform Work Group. Two areas of focus for this group are affordability and access. While the ACA made great strides, for some groups such as small employers the reforms were not enough, and that is an area of growing concern for us we hope to address in the coming year.

I can close by quickly mentioning that last year we finally received **one hundred percent** hospital participation in the [Leapfrog Safety Survey](#).

Again, that success is due to the hospitals' commitment to transparency and safety, as well as the payors and consumers asking for this important information.

Thank you for your partnership. We wish everyone a safe, warm, and happy holiday break. We're grateful to have had such an impactful 2019 and we are looking forward to an even better 2020, where we will continue our work to improve the safety, quality, and affordability of health care for everyone. Happy 2020 and here's to our future collaborative impact.



SAVE THE DATE - UPCOMING 2020 QUALITY INSTITUTE EVENTS



[Quality Institute Program Updates and Resources Webinar](#)

Join us **Thursday, January 16, 2020, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.** for our **Program Updates and Resources** webinar. Quality Institute staff will provide updates on our programs, including the [Mayors Wellness Campaign](#), [Conversation of Your Life](#), [Medicaid Policy Center](#), [The Leapfrog Group](#), and educational opportunities. We will also take a tour of our

website and share our most valuable resources, ensuring that you will always find what you need on our website. *This webinar is perfect for new members, as well as those who wish to update their knowledge of the Quality Institute and our work.*

**Open to the Public.*

Register
Now!

Quality Improvement Measures: Why They Matter and How You Can Use Them

Join us on **Thursday, February 6th from 8:00am to 11:00am** at the [Trenton Country Club](#) for a light breakfast and discussion of quality improvement measures. We will discuss how quality data can be used within any organization and why it's important to do so – for patients, employees, and Quality Institute members. **You will also hear from Katie Burggraf Stewart, Director of Health Care Ratings at The Leapfrog Group**, on updates and changes to the 2020 Leapfrog Hospital and ASC Survey. Additional speaker(s) to be announced. *More details, such as registration, to come soon.*

**Quality Institute members and invited guests only.*

The Leapfrog Group Annual Awards Dinner and Ceremony

On Tuesday, December 17, 2019, the Quality Institute attended the [Leapfrog Group's](#) Annual Awards Dinner and Ceremony in Washington, D.C., where the highest performing hospitals of the Leapfrog Group's Hospital Survey were recognized for their success and hard work across four categories: Top Teaching Hospitals, Top General Hospitals, Top Rural Hospitals, and Top Children's Hospitals. Performance across many areas of hospital care are considered for these competitive awards, including preventing infections, reducing C-sections, use of technology to ensure safer care, leadership policies and practices.



The Quality Institute's Director of Quality, Adelisa Perez-Hudgins, with Horizon team members and NJ Top Hospital Winners: Riverview Medical Center – Top General Hospital, RWJUH at Hamilton – Top General Hospital, Englewood Hospital and Medical Center – Top Teaching Hospital, Jefferson Cherry Hill Hospital – Top Teaching Hospital, JSUMC – Top Teaching Hospital, OMC – Top Teaching Hospital, Saint Barnabas Medical Center – Top Teaching Hospital.

Quality Institute All Council Conference

Members, save the date for our All Council Conference on **Tuesday, May 12, 2020** at the [Trenton Country Club](#). *More details, such as registration, to come soon.*

**Quality Institute members and invited guests only.*

Medicaid 2020 Conference

Join the Quality Institute's [Medicaid Policy Center](#) and [Princeton University's Center for Health and Wellness at the Woodrow Wilson School](#) on **June 4, 2020** for our Medicaid 2020 Conference. *More details, such as registration and specific logistics, to come soon.*

**Quality Institute members and invited guests only.*



NEW MEMBER



PREFERRED
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GROUP
An Oaks Integrated Care Affiliate

Preferred Behavioral Health Group

Serving the community for over 40 years, [Preferred Behavioral Health Group](#) continues to be the premier non-profit organization in Monmouth and Ocean Counties that has been an invaluable resource for those individuals and families dealing with mental health and substance use. Our mission is to deliver quality and compassionate behavioral health services to individuals and families all the time through a Trauma Informed Care philosophy and approach. Our methodology is to encourage, promote, and facilitate empowerment for those we treat, as well as expectations for recovery. Our promise is to change lives through a strengths-based approach, helping individuals achieve their full potential and enhancing their quality of life. Every day, Preferred Behavioral Health Group is changing lives and saving lives.



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.

Copyright 2019* *|NJHCQI, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute
Stone House at Carnegie Center
3628 Route 1
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).