



NEW JERSEY
HEALTH CARE
**QUALITY
INSTITUTE**

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



SCHWIMMER SCRIPT

PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER

The Quality Institute's origins go back to the New Jersey Health Care Payers Coalition, which was a group of union funds that were purchasing health care for their members but had no information about the quality or safety of the care. All they knew was that the costs were going up, and they had little to no control or insight into what they were purchasing. A lot has changed in the past twenty years. We have more information on safety and quality, but still not enough on prices. That is why the Quality Institute continues to work with purchasers, including the New Jersey Office of the Treasury, to push for greater price transparency and benefit designs that lead people to the care that is more valuable and effective for them.

In this exclusive Take Five interview, you'll hear from Christin Deacon, Director of Health Benefit Operations and Policy and Planning at the New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits, Department of Treasury about the State's work to date and future plans to exercise its sizable purchasing power on behalf of the over 800,000 people that it covers and New Jersey taxpayers.



CHRISTIN DEACON

**DIRECTOR OF HEALTH BENEFIT OPERATIONS
AND POLICY AND PLANNING AT THE
NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF PENSIONS
AND BENEFITS, DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY**



TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

Christin Deacon is Director of Health Benefit Operations and Policy and Planning at the New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits, Department of Treasury.

Interview Sneak Peek: *Data obtained through the Health Care Cost Institute found that employer-sponsored insurance spending in New Jersey has gone up 22.3 percent in the past five years. Are there steps you are taking to control these steep increases in health care costs?*

I would say that one of the fundamental shifts that I'm trying to implement, both with my staff as well as with our vendors, is a change to a more consumer-driven culture of health care. That's sending our members to high quality providers and being transparent about the total costs, not just the consumer's out-of-pocket costs, but what the state is paying as well. Because at the end of the day it's taxpayer money.

[Read Full Interview](#)

QUALITY CORNER



[Hear Keynote Shantanu Agrawal, NQF CEO, Speak at Our Upcoming Quality Breakfast](#)

Quality Institute Breakfast:

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

**February 6, 2020, 8:00am -
11:00am at the Trenton
Country Club**



At this Quality Institute event, members will learn about various quality measurement tools and why it's important for organizations to use quality improvement data to inform their work. We are excited to have **Shantanu Agrawal, President and CEO of the National Quality Forum (NQF), as this event's keynote speaker**, as well as Katie Burggraf Stewart, Director of Health Care Ratings at The Leapfrog Group to speak about updates and new changes to the 2020 Leapfrog Hospital and Ambulatory Surgery Center Surveys.

Join us for breakfast and dynamic discussion **Thursday, February 6, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** at the **Trenton Country Club**.

**Quality Institute members and invited guests only at this event.*

Register
Now



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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Our mailing address is:

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

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