



NEW JERSEY
HEALTH CARE
**QUALITY
INSTITUTE**

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



PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER

COVID-19 Tests Our Strengths — Highlights Our Weaknesses

Over the past few weeks, like most of you, I've been washing my hands consistently — trying not to touch my face — and keeping up on the news and public health directives surrounding the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

To me, the global outbreak highlights several important health care issues. First, the virus shows, in real and powerful ways, the critical value of our public health infrastructure: health officials, organized public health organizations, and response plans at every level of government.

Equally important, the rapidly evolving pandemic reinforces the importance of having an on-going, trusted relationship with a primary care provider. As news of COVID-19 grew, one of the first specific advice emails I received was from my primary care practice. The email explained what I should do if I develop symptoms of a serious virus. My experience shows how technology can strengthen communication between patients and their providers. I am able to reach my primary care provider through telephone or text — reassuring options at a stressful time.

[Read Full Story](#)



CARMAN CIERVO, DO, FACOFP

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT &
CHIEF PHYSICIAN EXECUTIVE AT
JEFFERSON HEALTH IN NEW JERSEY



TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

Carman A. Ciervo, DO, FACOFP is Chief Physician and Executive Vice President of Jefferson Health. He spoke about changes in the field of primary care.

Interview Sneak Peek: *You've prioritized the integration of behavioral health services into your primary care offices. How does that investment translate into good outcomes?*

Some of our patients may have anxiety, depression, and other types of phobias...or are just going through a difficult time in their life. So, we have integrated licensed social workers and licensed therapists into our primary care practices. That really allows for patients to be able to access care for their mental health needs in a much more effective way. We also have psychiatrists in our network.

[Read Full Interview](#)

NEW RELEASE



A very impactful year: In 2019 where we were able to successfully further our work and mission to improve the safety, quality, and affordability of health care for everyone. We invite you to read and download our 2019 Annual Report, where we review our greatest accomplishments of the past year, as well as outline our areas of focus for 2020.

[Annual Report Highlights](#)

- Our [Medicaid Policy Center](#), supported by The Nicholson Foundation, launched and held 50 inaugural stakeholder meetings.
- Our [Mayors Wellness Campaign](#) had 80 participation pledges signed by Mayors during the Annual New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference.
- To commemorate National Health Care Decision Day in April 2019, we held 18 [COYL](#) events across the state and reached over 600 residents about end-of-life care planning.
- As the regional leader for the [Leapfrog Group](#), we are proud to have reached 100% participation of hospitals in New Jersey for the annual safety survey.
- We received a grant from Arnold Ventures to launch the NJ-RHAP project, which seeks to increase provider knowledge about payment and policy systems for reproductive health services and identify policy changes to increase access to these services.

Members, we encourage you to share this report with your colleagues, members, and other stakeholders.

Download Our Annual
Report

NEW MEMBER



Bergen New Bridge Medical Center

Bergen New Bridge Medical Center, a not-for-profit safety net facility, provides comprehensive services including acute and ambulatory care from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and community physicians, mental health and substance use disorder treatment, and long term care. The Medical Center is a Veterans Community Care Provider and a Leader in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality in the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Healthcare Equality Index (HEI). Bergen New Bridge is in network with Horizon BCBS and all major New Jersey commercial insurance plans.

SAVE THE DATE



SPRING ALL COUNCIL CONFERENCE:

CHARTING THE COURSE FOR HEALTHY AGING



Members and Invited Guests: Join us on **May 12th at 2:30 pm at the Trenton Country Club** for our **All Council Conference** entitled, **Charting the Course for Healthy Aging**.

Our keynote speaker is Winifred V. Quinn, PhD, Director of Advocacy and Consumer Affairs, Center to Champion Nursing in America, AARP. A multi-stakeholder panel will follow, with a Reception thereafter. *More details, including registration, to come soon.*

Learn More

**Quality Institute Members and Invited Guests Only.*

*****Please note that we will continue to monitor the situation with COVID-19 and, as the event date draws nearer, we will follow the public health advice for large gatherings.***



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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