



# NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE **QUALITY INSTITUTE**

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



## **PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER**

### **Advancing Public Health Initiatives Amid a Global Pandemic**

Equity, affordability and accessibility have taken on greater urgency over the past few months. Addressing rising health care costs, gaps in coverage, social determinates of health, and healthy behaviors is more urgent now than ever. The hurdles to provide and access safe essential health and social services and the impact of this crisis on our economy only exacerbate the cracks in our health system that we have long been committed to fixing. Addressing rising health care costs, gaps in coverage, social determinates of health, and healthy behaviors across our state cannot stop or even slow down.

In the early weeks of the pandemic, many of us — myself included — feared critical projects would not progress as we replaced in-person gatherings with virtual calls. But as our staff continues to convene our members, communities, and policy makers on key issues, we have found unexpected silver linings.

[Read Full Story](#)



**DEBORAH VISCONI**

**PRESIDENT & CEO OF BERGEN  
NEW BRIDGE MEDICAL CENTER**

## TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

### Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

Deborah Visconi is President & CEO of Bergen New Bridge Medical Center, one of the newest members of our Provider Council.

**Interview Sneak Peek:** *How has COVID-19, and the mandate to socially distance, affected the patients you serve?*

For the mental health community, we maintained inpatient services from the onset of the virus and will continue to do so throughout; that means patients needing inpatient care can be admitted into the hospital to receive the appropriate level of care required. To make sure everyone was safely cared for, we cohorted individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 onto a specific unit. We were able to keep many of the behavioral health patients who had a positive COVID-19 test on their behavioral health units so that they could take advantage of all the necessary services in a safe environment. Our outpatient behavioral health programs were transitioned to telemedicine immediately to assure access to all the services our patients needed.

[Read Full Interview](#)

## NEW RESOURCE:

### NEW JERSEY MATERNITY AND PEDIATRIC HEALTH TRENDS COUNTY-LEVEL REVIEW



Beginning on July 1, many of the New Jersey state laws to improve maternity care took effect, including Medicaid payment for doulas and Centering, as well as the elimination of payment for early elective deliveries. Using public data, we recently published a report that analyzes the county-level trends for Maternity and Early Childhood outcomes: “New Jersey Maternity and Pediatric Health Trends County-Level Review.” Analyzing these county trends enables us to better recognize areas of disparity and inequity, as well as areas of strength.

**Together, we must continue our efforts to improve the critical measures included in the report,** which *not only* includes health outcome measures, but also lead screening rates and enrollment in social service programs.

[View Full Report](#)

This report was created in partnership with [Centering Healthcare Institute](#), through generous funding by The [Burke Foundation](#).

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## NEW WEBINAR RECORDING - RUTGERS CSHP HEALTH POLICY FORUM

**Listen to a panel of experts, including our President & CEO, Linda Schwimmer, discuss New Jersey Small Employer Health Insurance**

In case you missed the live webinar on July 16th, listen on demand to the [virtual forum](#), which concentrates on the current state of the NJ Small Employer Health Insurance market and the impact of COVID-19. Also, access the Quality Institute's Report on Short and Long-Term Strategies to Support Health Care Affordability and Price Transparency for Small Employers and Consumers in New Jersey below.

[Listen to Webinar Recording Now](#)

[Read Quality Institute Report](#)

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## NEW MEMBER

# Clover Health

### Clover Health

[Clover Health](#) is a technology company leveraging health data to empower providers to improve health outcomes for our Medicare Advantage members. Our technology platform, Clover Assistant, uses machine learning to turn data into action delivering insights to physicians at the point of care resulting in improved outcomes and reduced costs for our members.



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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