



NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE

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



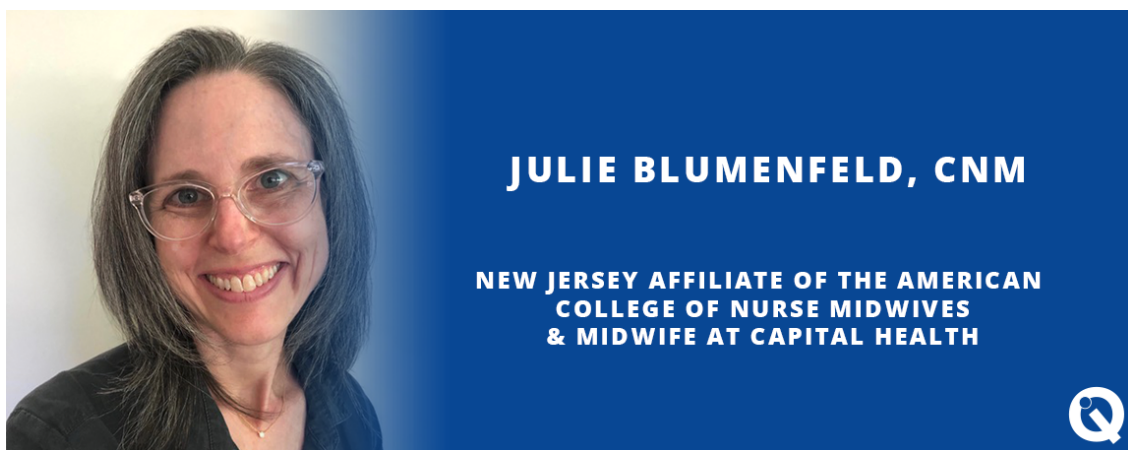
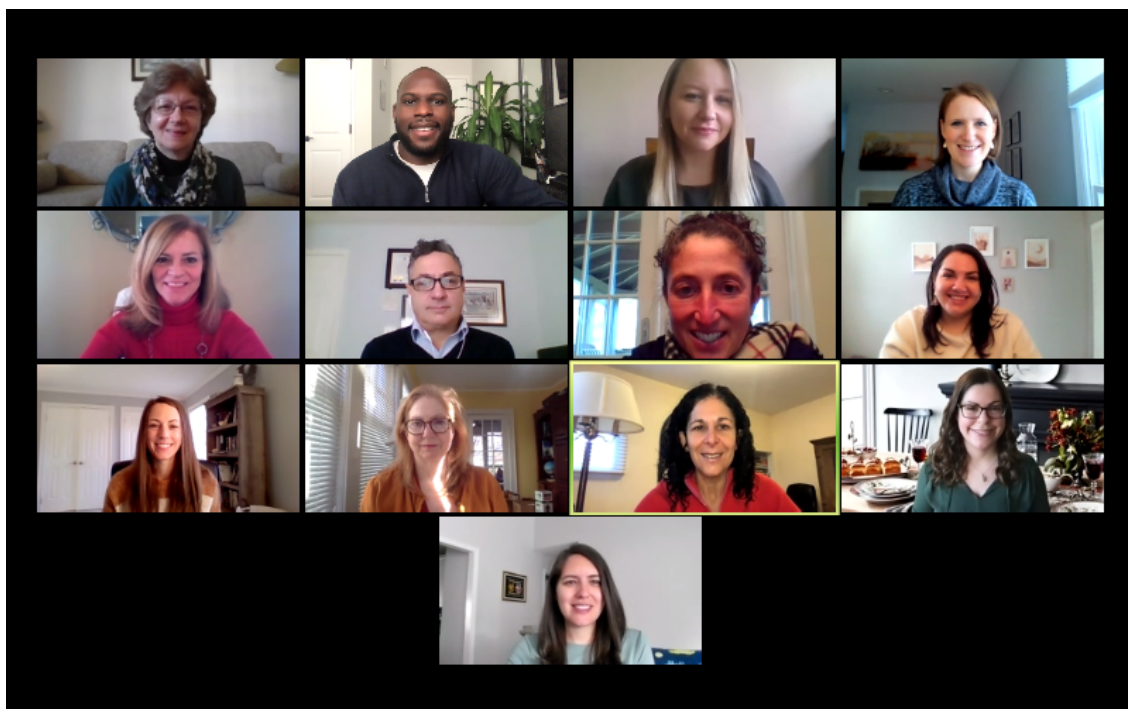
PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER

Surprise Bills: A Federal Solution in Sight

Congress may surprise us and finally deliver on addressing surprise medical bills. Bi-partisan members of both Houses are working to get the [No Surprises Act](#) on President Trump's desk before next week. The bill would apply to employer-sponsored insurance, generally regulated under federal law, and would cover about half or more of all Americans with insurance. In New Jersey, where the Quality Institute and others fought [for nearly a decade](#) to stop these unfair billing practices, our new state [Surprise Billing Law](#) does not automatically apply to these types of plans, known as ERISA plans. New Jersey employers can opt into the New Jersey law to take advantage of its protections —and many have done so, including large hospital systems — but they are not required to.

That's why federal legislation is essential not just for consumers around the nation, but also for us in New Jersey. The federal legislation would bring fairness to the billing process and reduce health care costs.

[Read Full Story](#)



TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

Julie Blumenfeld, CNM, is the current president of the New Jersey Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives and a midwife at Capital Health, a member of the Quality Institute's Provider Council.

Interview Sneak Peek: *As a member of the Quality Institute Perinatal Care During COVID Work Group, how are you preparing patients for what to expect during a pandemic, both in maternity care and in reproductive health care?*

We've set guidelines and protocols, and we're reassuring patients that it's okay to

come in for care...in the inpatient setting, in the hospital, and in the outpatient

setting. I feel very fortunate to work at an institution that has robust testing in place. And as practitioners, we're setting the example: cleaning, wearing masks, setting up the waiting room for social distancing, and offering telehealth as an option. We're talking about precautions and about signs and symptoms of COVID, so they know what to look for.

In the hospital, women can have their partner with them and now thanks to our terrific administration they can have their doula there as well. Limiting visitors has really re-centered the birthing experience on the birthing person. They become the focus, which sometimes in the past has gotten lost when there are so many people around.

[Read Full Interview](#)



MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN®

Thank you to all of our [Mayors Wellness Campaign \(MWC\)](#) sponsors for supporting the MWC 2020 Virtual Campaign. Your commitment to community health and wellness is recognized throughout the State of New Jersey. With your sponsorship, we've been able to adapt our support of mayors and their MWC committees to a virtual platform and ensure that New Jersey towns are continually able to improve the health and wellness of their communities, despite the coronavirus pandemic.

This year, local public health-and-wellness programs were needed more than ever and your sponsorship helped us launch this critical, virtual campaign, which ensures that more New Jersey residents live in communities with thriving Mayors Wellness Campaigns. We thank you for your ongoing collaboration and support.

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MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN

New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute

UPCOMING 2021 QUALITY INSTITUTE EVENT

Register Now

BEST PRACTICES FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT & HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS' MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT DURING COVID-19

Join us on 1/27 at 12:00pm for this Member Exclusive Virtual Event



NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE
QUALITY INSTITUTE

Please join us on Wednesday, January 27th, from 12:00pm-1:00pm for the fourth webinar in our *Stronger Together: Improving the Safety, Quality, and Affordability of Health Care for Everyone* webinar series – *Best Practices for Quality Improvement and*

[Register Now](#)



Leah Binder, President and CEO of [The Leapfrog Group](#), will discuss maintaining quality improvement during COVID-19 as well as updates to the 2021 Leapfrog Hospital and ASC Survey.



Quality Institute member Donald Parker, MSW, President and CEO of [Hackensack Meridian Carrier Clinic](#), will discuss the organization's experiences and outcomes delivering Behavioral Health services to health care providers during the pandemic.



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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