



NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE **QUALITY INSTITUTE**

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



PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER

Health Care Providers Are The Trusted Voices We Need in the Vaccine Conversation

We begin the new year with optimism after the emergency use approval of two COVID-19 vaccines and more in the pipeline. These vaccines are urgently needed as the virus continues to surge. We're especially thrilled to see health care workers on the frontlines obtain the benefits of the vaccine after months of bravely caring for patients.

Transparent, rigorous clinical trials have shown the vaccines to be safe and to have very high rates of efficacy after two doses. Even so, there is considerable hesitancy among many about getting the vaccine...Trusted voices in health care must lead this conversation. That's why I'm turning over my space here to the active health care professionals on the Quality Institute board and one of our senior fellows. They share why they personally rolled up their sleeves and got vaccinated and why others should as well.

[Read Full Blog](#)



"I was in the vaccine trials, and after the trials were un-blinded I learned I had received a placebo. The first thing I did was schedule and then receive the actual

vaccine. I felt great...a great sense of relief...But I will continue wearing mask, social distancing, and avoiding gatherings until we reach at least 70 percent to 80 percent vaccination

rates."
- **Shereef Elnahal, M.D., MBA**,
President and CEO University Hospital
and Quality Institute Board Member.



I always emphasize to both my colleagues and my patients that getting the vaccine is our way out of COVID-19. Having taken it myself, I feel more protected and more committed to ensuring that the general population understands its value and safety.

- **Suzanne M. Miller, PhD**, Professor and Director of the Patient Empowerment and Decision Making Department at Fox Chase Cancer Center/Temple University Health System, and Quality Institute Board Chair.



What I say to colleagues is that the vaccine has less potential side effects than other vaccines and has greater efficacy than most flu shots. Getting a critical mass of front line workers vaccinated is our only way out of the pandemic and back to our full professional lives. For patients, I say that we are getting vaccinated for each other and for our communities...I stress that everyone should get the vaccine when its available to them, especially seniors and people with chronic conditions.

- **Mary F. Campagnolo, M.D., MBA**,
Chair of the Department of Family Medicine Virtua North - Memorial Hospital, and Medical Director of Value Based Programs, Virtua Medical Group. Dr. Campagnolo is a Quality Institute Board Member.



Past Issues
I received my vaccine in December and the only side effect I felt was a sense of relief that this long global nightmare would soon be coming to an end...Once you're eligible, get the vaccine! It is safe, has minimal side effects, and, most importantly, it works. The vaccine, combined with appropriate social distancing measures, will start us back on the road to normalcy, a road that ends with family vacations, dinners with friends, and spending time with your grandparents.

- **John Pepen, MPP, MD**, is an emergency general surgeon at Overlook Regional Medical Center and a Quality Institute Senior Fellow.

At Henry J. Austin Health Center, we understand and are sensitive to the history of research and clinical trials in our communities of color. As such, we have been intentional about sharing all that we know about the COVID-19 vaccines...I feel very comfortable getting the vaccine myself and recommending it to all those who I care about, including my family, friends and people in our community.

- **Dr. Kemi Alli**, Henry J. Austin Health Center and Quality Institute Board Member



TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

Elizabeth Cherot, MD, MBA, Chief Medical Officer of Axia Women's Health, a member of the Quality Institute's Provider Council. The Axia network includes OB/GYN physicians and other women's health providers in five states, including New Jersey.

Interview Sneak Peek: What advice about the COVID-19 vaccine are you providing to your patients who are pregnant?

The vaccine was not specifically tested in pregnant women, even though ACOG and others pleaded for studies to be done on pregnant women. But we do have data from health care workers and others who have been vaccinated who later became pregnant and were followed. They had the expected side effects. It is important to note that the COVID-19 vaccine is not a live, attenuated vaccine, such as what we see in the rubella vaccine. There is a different science behind the mRNA vaccines, such as the coronavirus vaccine. Additionally, there is no need for a pregnancy test before receiving the vaccine.

This is an important conversation for everyone to have with their doctor — and discussions might be different if you are, say, an ICU nurse or if you are a healthy person who is working completely from home. But we need to vaccinate to be able to stop the spread of COVID-19. And the vaccine should not be withheld from pregnant woman.

[Read Full Interview](#)

Our Members Share:

The Importance of Getting Vaccinated

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Virtua Health CEO, Dennis W. Pullin, speaks about building trust in the COVID-19 vaccines and how Black health care leaders can affirm the safety of the vaccines and lessen fears throughout communities of color. [Phillyvoice.com](https://www.phillyvoice.com) and [NJ.com](https://www.nj.com).



Dr. Jubril Oyeyemi of the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers and the Community Health Institute at Virtua Health explores the history of racism in medicine and explains why he is getting the COVID-19 vaccine in this [PhiladelphiaInquirer.com](https://www.philadelphiainquirer.com) article.



On pages 27 and 28 of the [December 2020 issue of NJ Cops Magazine](#), **Stavros Christoudias, M.D., of the New Jersey Doctor-Patient Alliance** shares information about the COVID-19 vaccine to dispels myths and untruths and shares information about the vaccines to provide readers with accurate knowledge to make informed decisions about vaccination.



In their [NorthJersey.com](https://www.northjersey.com) collaborative opinion piece, **Kevin Slavin, CEO, of St. Joseph's Health** and **Mayor Andre Sayegh of Paterson** explain that the new vaccines are “a critical step forward as the CDC has warned that daily life cannot return to normal until there is a build-up of antibodies to fend-off the virus across a large percentage of the population.”

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



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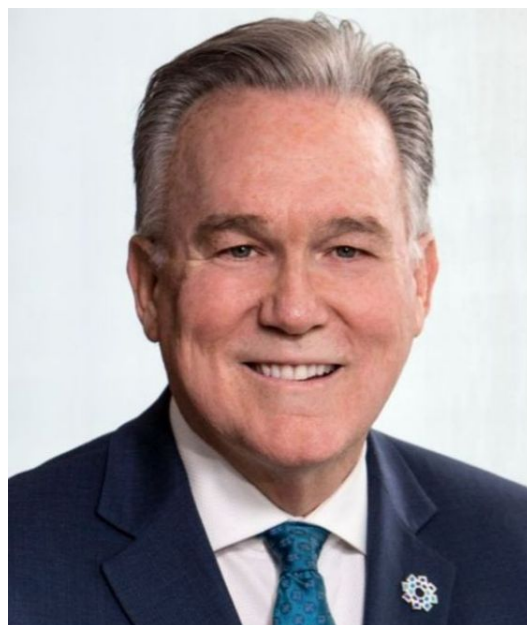
Member opportunity to hear from **Leah Binder, President and CEO of The Leapfrog Group** on hospital safety, and **Donald Parker, President and CEO** of our member, **Hackensack Meridian Carrier Clinic** on supporting workforce mental health during the pandemic.

In this Quality Institute member-only webinar, participants will learn:

1. How to maintain quality improvement during the coronavirus pandemic
2. Best practices to deliver behavioral health services to health care-provider staff
3. Updates to the Leapfrog Group's 2021 Hospital and Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) surveys.



Leah Binder, President and CEO of The Leapfrog Group



Donald Parker, President and CEO of our member, Hackensack Meridian Carrier Clinic

Members Register Now

NEW MEMBER



FAMILY HEALTH INITIATIVES

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Family Health Initiatives is a leader in data collection, management and analysis, with extensive experience in project management, quality assurance, survey design and community assessment. FHI delivers evidence-informed

strategies to help hospitals, government and nonprofits improve community health and wellbeing.



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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