



# NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE

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



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

### **DOBI Report Provides Look at How Surprise Billing Law is Working**

Today I am sharing a [report](#) recently posted on the website of the Department of Banking and Insurance (DOBI). The report provides data to help us determine whether New Jersey's Out-of-Network Consumer Protection, Transparency, Cost Containment, and Accountability Act is successfully protecting consumers and reducing overall health care costs. It also provides some insight into who is using the arbitration process and the outcomes. This is the second report issued on the law and covers arbitrations in 2020.

At the Quality Institute, we worked with many of you for more than a decade to address Surprise Billing. The law was built on four pillars: consumer protection; reducing unnecessary health care costs; increasing transparency for consumers regarding benefits, networks, and billing; and accountability regarding whether or not the law is working. To further the goal of accountability, I am sharing the report, which was not publicized, so that you can review the data yourself.

I'll also share my key takeaways...

[Read Full Story](#)



**AMY MANSUE**

**PRESIDENT & CEO OF  
INSPIRA HEALTH NETWORK**

## TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

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

Amy Mansue is the President & CEO of [Inspira Health Network](#), a member of the Quality Institute's Provider Council, System Level.

**Interview Sneak Peek:** *You took over as CEO in September, right before the second surge of the COVID pandemic. How is the pandemic changing how you provide care to your patients?*

Thankfully, we know so much more about the virus now than in the first surge, though that does not make the devastation any less painful. I would say a critical element for a CEO is to make sure you're continuing to focus on strategic issues. When this is over — whatever over means — you can continue to right the ship. People forget that two thirds of our hospital beds are being filled with people who do not have COVID. All the attention is on COVID, but the work here continues. We are seeing people come in sicker and sicker because they are delaying care because of COVID. There are two things that I worry about: the emotional and physical toll the pandemic is taking on our team members, and patients who are not getting the care they need. For instance, our breast screening early detection is down 50 percent from last year. We already are seeing the repercussions of people delaying care.

[Read Full Interview](#)



The Governor's Fiscal Year 2022 Recommended Budget includes support for many initiatives that the Quality Institute has long advocated for. We applaud the Administration's efforts toward universal access to health care. This budget both expands access to insurance coverage and advances proven health care models.

The budget expands coverage for underserved and undocumented residents. It ensures that all children within the state have access to health care regardless of immigration status and eliminates monthly CHIP premiums for low-income children. It also expands the state-based premium subsidies so that people buying insurance on the new state insurance exchange will find it more affordable. The

budget also claims savings by advancing payment models such as “bundled

**Past Issues** payments and “reference-based pricing” and technology driven risk assessment tools to make health care safer by reducing pharmaceutical drug adverse events. These changes will have an immediate impact on those obtaining coverage and receiving higher quality care.

The budget aligns with the Quality Institute’s calls for improving Maternal, Infant, and Reproductive Health in New Jersey and supports several key components of the NurtureNJ Plan, including funding:

- The Reproductive Health Care Fund to cover costs for contraceptive, prenatal, labor, and delivery care for those currently unable to receive medical assistance.
- Funding for New Jersey Medicaid to provide postpartum coverage to individuals for up to a year.
- \$2 million for a pilot program that will provide State Rental Assistance Payments (SRAP) and wrap-around services for eligible New Jersey pregnant women.
- A doula registry to support the certification of the doula workforce.
- A landscape analysis of the birthing workforce and services available to obtain a baseline understanding of need.

Finally, the budget makes an important down payment on improving our public health infrastructure by adding \$10 million to the Department of Health budget to advance hiring and improving its IT and analytics capacity. The pandemic has highlighted the need for on-going focus and investment in public health systems, staffing and infrastructure. We hope to see additional federal funds allocated to update our registries and IT systems to address on-going public health needs. During the pandemic, there was an increase in cigarette sales and smoking tobacco, which will lead to serious long term health effects for residents. We would also encourage allocation of the increase in cigarette tax revenues back to smoking cessations programs and public health initiatives.

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## NEW MEMBER



Goals of Care Coalition  
of New Jersey

### Goals of Care Coalition New Jersey (GOCCNJ)

**GOCCNJ** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and the only network of organizations in New Jersey working together to make certain that patients with serious illness get the care they need and no less, and the care they want and no more. Through education and advocacy, GOCCNJ’s mission is to ensure that healthcare providers, patients, and family caregivers have the information, resources, training, and tools they need to facilitate discussions that result in a care plan that aligns treatment with the patient’s goals of care.



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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