



NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE

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

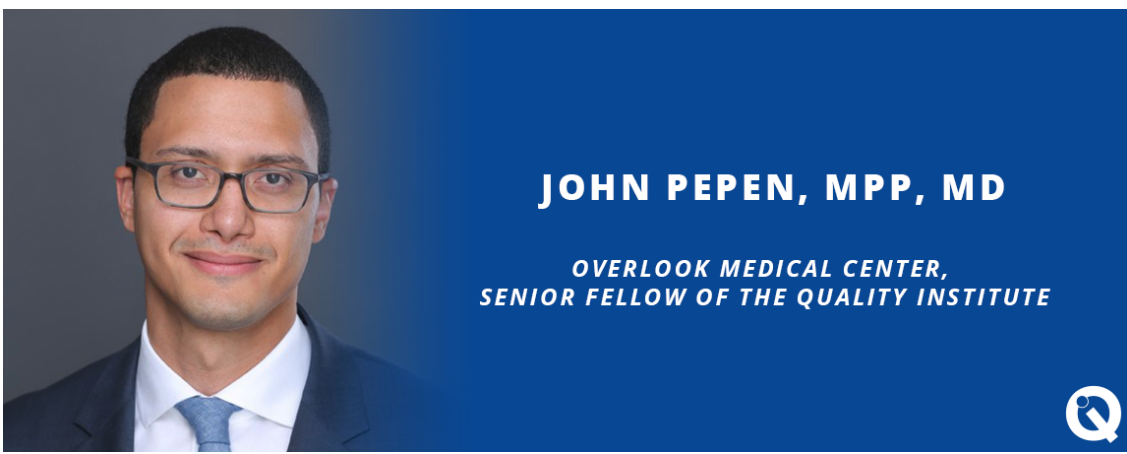


PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER **Bringing About the Action Plan for a Healthier State**

We released our [*Emerging from COVID-19 Action Plan for a Healthier State*](#) in early May. Since then, many of you have reached out to discuss next steps. The Action Plan forms the strategic focus of our work at the Quality Institute, and we will continue sharing our efforts to further these far-reaching consensus recommendations. In earlier blogs, I outlined our work to advance Action Plan recommendations on telehealth equity and investment in primary care. Today, I am sharing additional actions.

One section of the Action Plan focuses on promoting public policies that address social determinants of health and lead to greater health equity. In this newsletter's Take Five, we interview John Pepen, M.D., a Senior Fellow at the Quality Institute, and a surgeon deeply committed to addressing the social drivers of health. Dr. Pepen is working closely with our Mayors Wellness Campaign to develop high-impact strategies to build health and wellness in New Jersey communities. As Dr. Pepen notes, "The conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age make more of an impact than any surgery I do or any medication that I can prescribe." He is working with us to build up our existing tools and resources for mayors and local leaders to address the broader social determinants of health in their communities...

[Read Full Story](#)



JOHN PEPEN, MPP, MD

OVERLOOK MEDICAL CENTER,
SENIOR FELLOW OF THE QUALITY INSTITUTE



TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

John Pepen, MPP, MD, is a surgeon at [Atlantic Health System's Overlook Medical Center](#) and a [Senior Fellow of the Quality Institute](#). Dr. Pepen brings his clinical expertise and direct patient experience to support the [Mayors Wellness Campaign](#) (MWC) and the development of programs that address social drivers of health.

Interview Sneak Peek: *We're excited about your work with the Mayors Wellness Campaign. What are the tools you are most excited about getting into the mayors' hands?*

Our focus is on improving the MWC toolkit that mayors use to develop community programs by making it more problem-focused and evidence-based. When [Julie DeSimone](#), the Quality Institute's MWC Program Officer, and I looked critically at the toolkit, we noticed it does a pretty good job of what it was intended to do, namely, provide ways to improve health in the community. But one thing we wanted was a specific naming of the problem the interventions were meant to solve. Maybe this is from my medical background, but the way I think about things is I like to clearly state the problem and then think about solutions...

[Read Full Interview](#)

NEW WEBINAR

**BUILDING BRIDGES
BETWEEN HEALTH
CARE AND PUBLIC
HEALTH**

Thursday, June 24th
from 12:00pm to 1:00pm

NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE
QUALITY INSTITUTE

Join us for a webinar focused on how to build bridges between our health care and public health systems. COVID-19 highlighted a need to strengthen relationships between local health departments and emergency management organizations and the health care providers and systems delivering care. Our expert speakers will provide you with local, state, and national perspectives on how to better integrate public health and health care systems as we emerge from the pandemic.

Moderated by [Tyla Minniear](#), Vice President of External Affairs, New Jersey Health

Members & Invited Guests, Register Now

Featured Speakers

 NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE
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Jeanette Kowalik, PhD, MPH, MCHES,
Director of Policy Development, Trust for America's Health (TFAH)



Paul M. Lambrecht, CPHQ, CPPS, FACHE,
V.P. Quality & Patient Safety, Inspira Health



Dr. Charlene Williams-Gungil,
Director & Health Officer, County of Passaic, Department of Health Services



Julie Petix,
State Coordinator, NJ Medical Reserve Corps



Kathleen Noonan,
Chief Executive Officer, Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers

NEW MEMBER



Quest Diagnostics

Quest Diagnostics empowers people to take action to improve health outcomes. Derived from the world's largest database of clinical lab results, our diagnostic insights reveal new avenues to identify and treat disease, inspire healthy behaviors and improve health care management.



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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New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute

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