



NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE **QUALITY INSTITUTE**

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



PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER

As Surgery Moves Outpatient, Safety Reporting Must Follow

The settings where people undergo surgeries and other medical procedures have experienced a profound shift. Now it's time for safety and quality reporting to catch up.

More than 60 percent of surgeries in the United States today are performed in hospital outpatient centers or Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs). The movement of these medical procedures from inpatient to outpatient could potentially reduce costs for patients and purchasers and offer greater convenience — as well as fewer facility acquired infections.

As financial incentives are put in place to encourage increased use of same-day surgery at ASCs, we urgently need publicly available data about quality and safety in these settings.

That's why in 2019 the [Leapfrog Ambulatory Surgery Center Survey](#) was launched. Leapfrog also looks at Hospital Outpatient Departments in the Outpatient Procedures section of the Leapfrog Hospital Survey, which closely aligns with the Leapfrog ASC Survey. This joint effort provides purchasers and consumers with information to compare the same procedure, whether offered as an outpatient hospital service or at an ASC, across a range of areas important to purchasers, employers, and patients.



SHABNAM SALIH

DIRECTOR, NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR'S
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE
AFFORDABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY.



TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

Shabnam Salih is the Director of the [New Jersey Governor's Office of Health Care Affordability and Transparency](#).

Interview Sneak Peek: *You are the first director of the relatively new Governor's Office of Health Care Affordability and Transparency. What are your 2021 priorities for the Office?*

I was appointed director in February, 2020. And just one month later we had the first confirmed case of COVID in the state. Over the last year, the administration has made several policy changes to ensure affordability and accessibility for residents as they deal with the pandemic, such as removing cost sharing barriers to COVID-19 testing and related services, where possible, and ensuring broad access for telehealth and tele-mental health. Anecdotally, we are hearing such positive things about the increased access to critical services through telehealth and tele-mental health since it removes some access barriers like transportation or childcare. Further, the launch of the State Based Exchange by the Department of Banking and Insurance as well as the implementation of state level subsidies has been critical to ensuring access and more affordable coverage options.

If ever there was a time to embrace health care transformation, it's now, and the Governor's Executive Order #217 sets up a framework for a significant body of health care affordability work in the state. The administration, across departments, has made a significant difference in the affordability space over the last three years, but we recognize there's a lot more to do...

Read Full Interview

NEW WEBINAR

BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN HEALTH CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

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



Past Issues 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. **Tran**

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

[Members & Invited Guests, Register Now](#)

Quality Institute members and invited guests only.



MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN®

The [Mayors Wellness Campaign](#) (MWC) is excited to announce a new Mental Health Initiative. Through generous funding from [The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey](#), the MWC will work over the next year to provide communities with tools and strategies to address mental health and stigma at the local level. Through this initiative the MWC will:

- Develop a MWC Mental Health Toolkit.
- Provide education and training for community leaders on mental health, stigma, and community prevention and support resources available to residents.
- Offer [Mental Health First Aid Trainings](#) for community leaders.



NEW MEMBER



NowPow

[NowPow](#)'s personalized community referral platform supports whole person care across whole communities. NowPow's referrals are highly matched and filtered, making it easy to connect people to the right community resources so everyone can stay well, meet basic needs, manage with illness and care for others. NowPow's population health solution provides deep community resource and referral insights to support process improvement, network health and quality, and care access and experience. Learn more at [NowPow.com](#).



mation 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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