



NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE

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



PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER

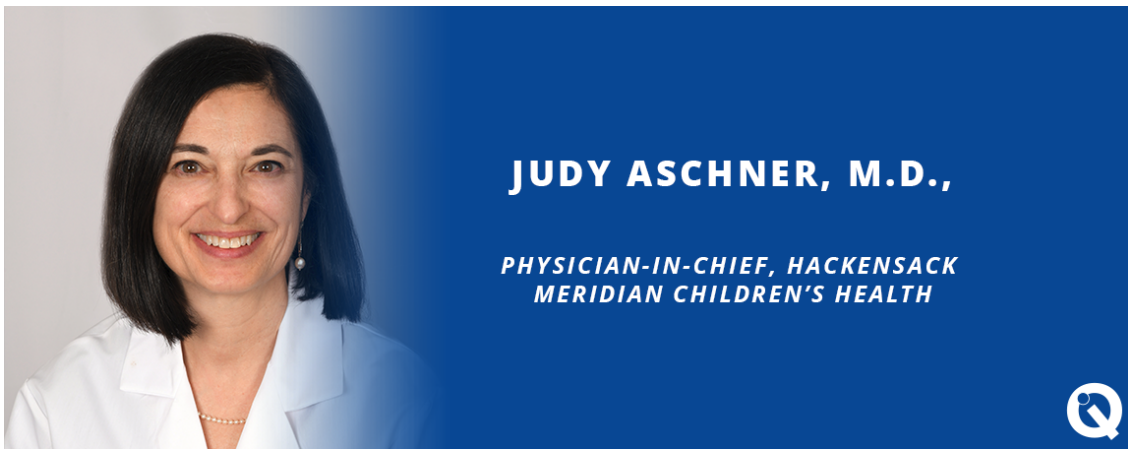
Must-Read Report Finds Racial Disparities in Patient Safety and Outlines Strategies to Address

A new research report conducted by the [Urban Institute](#) and funded by the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) has found that Black adult patients experience significantly higher rates of hospital acquired infections and injuries than white adult patients of the same age group, gender, with similar insurance coverage — within the same hospital.

The report is an important addition to existing research outlining the disturbing effects of structural racism in America. Health care associated infections (HAIs) and injuries are among the top causes of unnecessary illness and death in the United States. These are harms that patients incur while in the hospital or other facility. Reducing HAIs is a priority for the New Jersey Department of Health and health systems through the state.

Through the Quality Institute's work with patient safety organizations, including The Leapfrog Group and the National Quality Forum, patient safety and quality is core to our mission. We, and you, our members and partners, cannot accept patient safety infection and injury rates *within the same facility* that are higher for Black patients than white patients. I urge you to read and share this important research [report](#).

[Read Full Blog](#)



JUDY ASCHNER, M.D.,

PHYSICIAN-IN-CHIEF, HACKENSACK
MERIDIAN CHILDREN'S HEALTH

TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

Judy Aschner, M.D., is Physician-in-Chief at [Hackensack Meridian Children's Health](#), which is made up of two hospitals — the Joseph M Sanzari Children's Hospital at Hackensack University Medical Center and the K. Hovnanian Children's Hospital at Jersey Shore University Hospital. [HealthySteps](#) is a member of the Quality Institute's Provider Council.

Interview Sneak Peek: *Tell us about the HealthySteps program.*

[HealthySteps](#) is an evidence-based program of [ZERO TO THREE](#), the nation's leading nonprofit working to ensure all babies and toddlers have a strong start in life. HealthySteps is an interdisciplinary pediatric primary care model that integrates primary care pediatricians with behavioral health specialists, such as clinical social workers or Ph.D. psychologists. The goal of HealthySteps is to focus on that very critical period from zero to three by promoting positive parenting and healthy development for babies and toddlers. The emphasis is on families living in low-income communities, those with limited resources, or those with life circumstances that add to the challenges of bringing up young children. The program broadens the primary care team and offers a more comprehensive support system for families.

[Read Full Interview](#)

ICYMI: NQF Webinar Recording

Learn how the Quality Institute and BioNJ convened more than 75 health care leaders and public health officials in New Jersey to create [Emerging from COVID-19: An Action Plan for a Healthier State](#). The plan includes 24 consensus-driven recommendations on how to emerge from the pandemic with a stronger and more equitable health care system. Quality Institute President and CEO, Linda Schwimmer, Vice President of External Affairs, Tyla Minniear, and Director of State Government Relations for Sanofi US, George Coutros, discuss how the Action Plan was created and next steps on the recommendations in this National Quality Forum webinar.

[View Now](#)

Upcoming Leapfrog Hospital and ASC Safety Survey Deadline



THE LEAPFROG GROUP

Each year, New Jersey hospitals voluntarily participate in the [Leapfrog Hospital Survey](#). As of 2020, ambulatory surgery centers (ASC) can now also participate in a [Leapfrog ASC Survey](#). These surveys evaluate the safety and quality of care that facilities provide on topics such as handwashing, infections, and maternity care. Results are then publicly reported on Leapfrog's [website](#). **The first deadline to submit a Survey is July 31.** Hospitals that submit a Survey by this date will receive a free Competitive Benchmarking Report.

We urge you, our members, to encourage your local hospitals and ASCs to participate in these surveys. Many hospitals and ASCs use the survey to see how well they are doing within their own hospital and compared to other hospitals. Survey results are also important to patients and employers who are looking for information on the safety of facilities near them to help them make a choice about where they want to go to receive care. If you have any questions about the surveys, please reach out to our Director of Quality, Adelisa Perez-Hudgins at aperez@njhcqi.org.

**A reminder for hospitals: You must submit a Survey by August 31 in order to have Survey results included in the calculation of your Fall 2021 Hospital Safety Grade.*

[Participate Now](#)

NEW MEMBER



Shatterproof

[Shatterproof](#) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to reversing the addiction crisis in the United States. Shatterproof harnesses the models of business, the rigor of science and the power of a national movement to create change and save lives through three pillars of work: revolutionizing the addiction treatment system, breaking down addiction-related stigmas and supporting and empowering our communities.



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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