



NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE

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

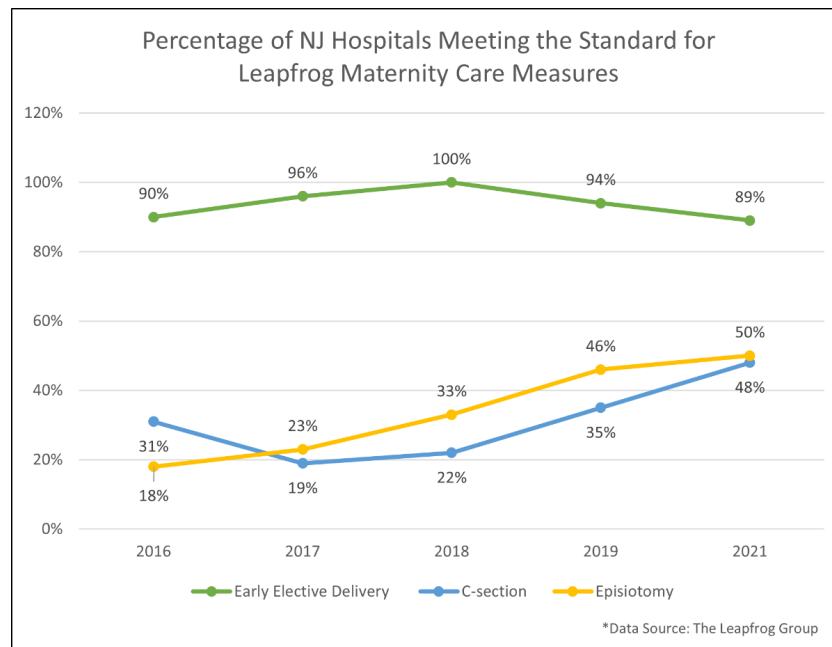


PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER

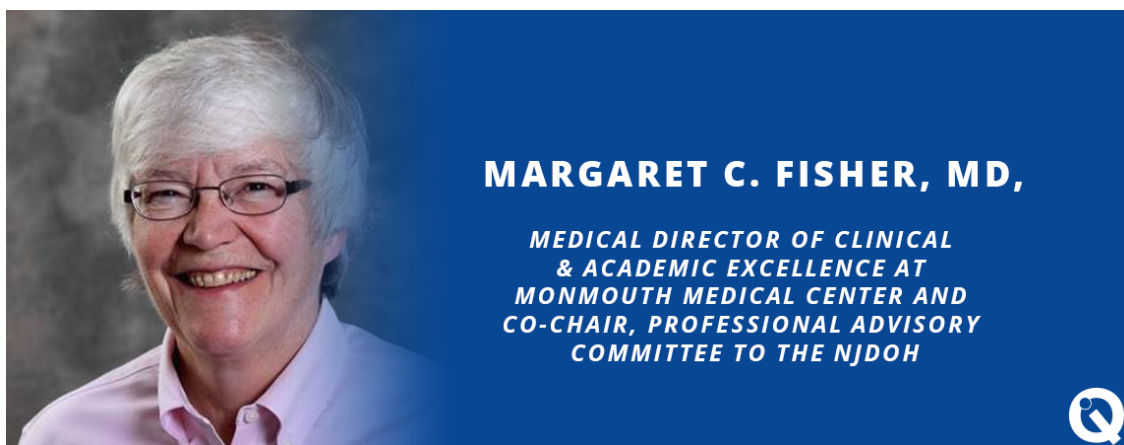
Delivering on the Promise to Improve Maternal Health

Five years ago, the Quality Institute, in partnership with many of our members, increased our focus on Maternal Infant Health. We were driven by our concern over New Jersey's high rate of Caesarean section deliveries, high rate of maternal morbidity and mortality, and the disparities based on race. Since then, much has changed, and I am happy to share with you some of the tangible progress being made in our state to improve health care for pregnant individuals and infants.

We've experienced a culture change, including greater awareness that something was wrong. Five years ago, in boardrooms and government meetings across the state, providers and health care leaders regularly blamed rising C-section rates of [low-risk, first time mothers](#) on aging mothers and patient preference. Disparities in outcomes were pinned on so-called noncompliant patients. Today, evidence, now widely accepted, shows the greatest determinant of whether individuals have C-sections is where they give birth. Moreover, we acknowledge the importance of respectful care — and we accept that racial bias exists and causes great harm to mothers and babies of color. These cultural changes are fundamental to the continued success of our collective work to improve maternal infant health....Indeed, from 2016 to 2021, the number of New Jersey hospitals that have met the core [Leapfrog Hospital Survey Maternity Measures](#) has significantly improved on C-section rates and rate of episiotomies and was about the same on early elective deliveries...



[Read Full Story](#)



TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

Margaret C. Fisher, MD, specializes in infectious disease and pediatrics. She is co-chair of the Professional Advisory Committee to the New Jersey Department of Health. [Dr. Fisher](#) is also Medical Director of Clinical and Academic Excellence at Monmouth Medical Center.

Interview Sneak Peek: *As a key advisor to the Department of Health, you are helping to lead the COVID-19 vaccination effort in New Jersey. What are your experiences so far?*

I'm a pediatric infectious disease doctor, so this effort in public health is an incredible leap to help lots of people. Right now, the vaccine can be administered to children down to the age of 12, and we're hoping we can get that down to ages five and maybe down to infants by the end of the year. I've been involved with getting the vaccines to the most vulnerable populations and the most high-risk groups including the elderly — especially those who are homebound — those with disabilities, the homeless, and migrant workers. But we want to make sure the vaccine gets to everyone as they become eligible. We have administered more than 11.2 million doses of vaccine so far, and 70 percent of those eligible right now in New Jersey are fully vaccinated.

NEW QI WEBINAR**HOW TO REENGAGE AND
CARE FOR PATIENTS AS
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
CONTINUES**

Thursday, September 23rd, from
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Four in 10 adults reported avoiding medical care due to concerns related to COVID-19. Delayed care can result in increased morbidity and mortality associated with both chronic and acute health conditions.

Quality Institute members and invited guests, join us on Thursday, September 23, for our newest webinar. Our multi-stakeholder panel will offer critical insights about the impact of avoiding care on specific populations and share innovative strategies to better engage your patients, employees, and members.

Register Now

This event is open to members and invited guests.

OUR SPEAKERS



**Jennifer Houston, MSN,
NEA-BC, RN-BC,**
*Director of Healthcare Clinical
Transformation, Lifeline Medical
Associates*



**Harvey Kaufman, MD, MBA,
FCAP,**
*Senior Medical Director, Medical
Informatics and Office of Chief
Medical Officer, Quest Diagnostics*



**Niki Patel, PharmD,
MBA, CDCES,**
*Medical Accounts
Associate Director,
Clinical Medical &
Regulatory, Novo
Nordisk*



**Jeana Reyes, MSN, RN,
CCRN-CSC-CMC,**
*Director, Clinical
Transformation & Quality
Clinical Re-Engineering,
Value-Based Programs,
Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield*



**Ellery Tarife,
MSN, FNP-C,
PMHNP-BC, APN**
CarePlus NJ

NEW MEMBER



Parker Health Group, Inc.

Parker Health Group, Inc. was founded in 1907 and is a not-for-profit, best in class health and aging services organization with an excellent reputation providing social, emotional, medical, and physical support to empower personal choice and enrich the lives of those we serve.



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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