



# NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE

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



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

### **Let Pharmacists Provide Birth Control to Advance Good Health**

Last year, I was in California visiting family and stopped into a CVS. Waiting in line, I noticed a sign saying you could see a pharmacist for a consultation and prescription for birth control there without a doctor's prescription. The cost was \$39.

I was intrigued, then impressed, that California streamlined access to birth control by giving pharmacists authority to prescribe it. Currently, [24 states](#) have enacted laws to permit pharmacists to prescribe and dispense self-administered hormonal birth control.

Fair questions have been raised about patient safety, pharmacist training, cost, and potential fragmentation of care. So it's important to note that in states that allow this practice, pharmacists are required to follow evidence-based recommendations, counsel purchasers on preventive services, and make referrals to other providers if necessary. Training programs provide pharmacists with the information they need to safely provide birth control. Most important, pharmacist-prescribed birth control increases access to care; patients want this service...

[Read Full Story](#)



## JACKIE CORNELL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD ACTION FUND OF NJ AND THE CHIEF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OFFICER OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF NORTHERN, CENTRAL, AND SOUTHERN NJ (PPNCSNJ)

### TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

## Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

Jackie Cornell is the new Executive Director of [Planned Parenthood Action Fund of NJ](#) and the Chief Government Relations Officer of [Planned Parenthood of Northern, Central, and Southern NJ](#) (PPNCSNJ).

**Interview Sneak Peek:** *How can our members best support or partner with Planned Parenthood to help New Jersey residents have the full range of reproductive health services?*

One of the most important things that we can do is not further stigmatize reproductive health care as something separate and apart from a full range of health services that people need to live their best lives. Another important message is that we are always looking for partners, especially in places where we are building new facilities or preparing to have new facilities. We had a clinic closure in Atlantic City and now we have purchased a facility in Absecon, on the mainland across from Atlantic City. And we are moving our New Brunswick Health Center right down the road into Franklin Township in Somerset County.

And I think recognizing that with half the country now having either outright bans or a lot of hurdles to jump through for abortion services, we're seeing individuals from around the country coming to places like New Jersey. Louisiana, Texas, and Ohio so far are where most of the people are coming from. And many individuals, including many in New Jersey, are taking it upon themselves to get long acting or permanent contraceptive methods because of the current political climate. Our funding needs to change to reflect that demand...

[Read Full Interview](#)



## Leapfrog Group Releases New Hospital Safety Grades - Marking 10th Anniversary

Yesterday, [the Leapfrog Group](#) (LFG) released the [Fall 2022 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade](#) results. This release marks the 10th anniversary of the Safety Grades, which assigns a letter grade to nearly 3,000 U.S. hospitals based on how well they protect patients from preventable medical errors, accidents, injuries, and infections. An analysis by the LFG across the Hospital Safety Grade's history suggests improvement in patient safety over time.

As the Regional Leader of New Jersey for the LFG, we are sharing the below analysis of results from New Jersey:

- 70 New Jersey hospitals were graded
- 47% of New Jersey hospitals received an A grade
- 76% of New Jersey hospitals received an A or B grade
- New Jersey is the only state in the country with over 95% hospital participation in the 2022 Leapfrog Hospital Survey
- New Jersey ranks 6th for percentage of A hospitals as compared to 12th in Spring 2022

We encourage our members and partners to review and share these results with stakeholders and the general public. Thank you!

[Review & Share Fall 2022 LFG Hospital Safety Grades](#)



[View & Share Quality Institute Safety Grade Press Release](#)

## RUTGERS CSHP HOSTS VIRTUAL EVENT ON HRAS AS INSURANCE ALTERNATIVE FOR NJ EMPLOYERS

On **December 1st from 2:00-3:30 p.m.** Quality Institute member, [Rutgers Center for State Health Policy](#), is hosting a virtual discussion, *Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRAs) as Alternatives for New Jersey Employers*. As employer sponsored health insurance premiums continue to spike, hear from national experts and small business advocates on other options:

- Joel C. Cantor, Distinguished Professor & Director, Rutgers Center for State

### Health Policy

- Katherine Hempstead, Senior Policy Advisor, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Margaret Koller, Executive Director, Rutgers Center for State Health Policy
- Robert Saphow, Partner, Broker on Demand, LLC
- John Sarno, President, Employers Association of NJ
- Kyle Sullender, Director of Economic Policy Research, NJ Business & Industry Association

We encourage our members to register to join us for this important discussion about health coverage in New Jersey.

[Register Now](#)

## NEW MEMBER



### Organon

[Organon](#) is a global healthcare company formed to focus on improving the health of women throughout their lives. Organon has a portfolio of more than 60 medicines and products across a range of therapeutic areas.

Organon has a global footprint with significant scale and geographic reach, world-class commercial capabilities, and approximately 10,000 employees with headquarters located in Jersey City, New Jersey.



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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