



NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE

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



PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER

Medicaid Payment Parity in Primary Care Improves Health Outcomes and Equity

For primary care, the state's Medicaid program pays doctors, nurses, and midwives about [half the rate](#) that Medicare pays. The policy of paying half as much for the same service is inequitable and reduces access to high quality primary care for more than two million of our state's residents.

These lower reimbursement rates are one reason New Jersey has among the [nation's lowest rates](#) of primary care physicians participating in Medicaid.

This week, we finally have movement on a bill that would change that. The [bill, A.4223/S2792](#), increases Medicaid reimbursement so it's at least equal to Medicare rates for family and general practice physicians, nurses, physician assistants, general pediatricians, ob-gyns, midwives, and mental health providers. The bill was voted out of the Assembly Health Committee with bipartisan support and moves to the Appropriations Committee. You can read our testimony [here](#).

The bill gets to the heart of the Quality Institute's mission to improve the safety, quality, and affordability of health care for everyone. We have long recognized that primary care is the foundation of good health care. Access to high quality primary care reduces inappropriate emergency room use, can prevent hospitalizations,

further health equity, and promotes the overall health and wellness of the people in our state...

[Read Full Story](#)



TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

Nicole Rodriguez, President of [New Jersey Policy Perspective](#), a Trenton-based think tank that drives policy change to advance economic, social, and racial justice. The organization is a member of the Quality Institute's [Consumer Council](#).

Interview Sneak Peek: *You became President of New Jersey Policy Perspective in June of last year. How would you characterize your vision for the organization?*

I want to solidify us as the policy research arm of the state with strategic guidance to coalitions and campaigns inside and outside the system, working to move the state closer to where everybody can prosper. And this requires us to work more intentionally with structurally underserved groups and form comprehensive partnerships with Black and Latinx leaders and organizations at every level of New Jersey Policy Perspective — to better inform our work toward racial, social, and economic justice. We're a small but mighty team. And there's always more work to be done and more to be learned.

[Read Full Interview](#)



Join the Quality Institute for our upcoming in-person Engagement Events in Central and Southern New Jersey.

Central Breakfast: Wednesday, September 27 from 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. at [Parker Health Group](#), 15 Dellwood Lane, Somerset New Jersey.

Southern Breakfast: Wednesday, October 18 from 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. at [Samaritan Life-Enhancing Care](#), 3906 Church Road Mount Laurel Township, New Jersey 08054.

Attend these events to:

- Network with other Quality Institute members and invited guests over breakfast.
- Meet local leaders and health care decision makers.
- Get updates on health policy, quality improvement, and community health from [Quality Institute staff](#).

These events are for members and invited guests only.

[Register for 9/27 Central Breakfast](#)

[Register for 10/18 Southern Breakfast](#)

NEW LEAPFROG REPORT FINDS CESAREAN SECTION RATES ON THE RISE, BUT NEW JERSEY HOSPITALS SHINE



Check out [The Leapfrog Group](#)'s recently released [2023 Maternity Care Report](#), based on 2022 Hospital Survey results. Here is a summary of the findings:

- For the first time, the national average for episiotomies, which was 4.6%, fell below Leapfrog's standard of less than or equal to 5%.
 - The national average rate for early elective deliveries has dramatically declined in the past ten years, from 17% in 2012 to 1.8% in 2022.
 - For 2022, New Jersey saw similar findings for both episiotomies (4.7%) and early elective deliveries (1.8%).
 - Nationally, hospitals saw an increase in their cesarean section rates and fewer hospitals (Only 42.3%) achieving Leapfrog's standard in 2022.
 - In NJ, however, the number of hospitals achieving Leapfrog's standard for cesarean sections grew from 40% of hospitals in 2020 to 52% in 2022.
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[Read Full Report](#)

MATERNAL INFANT HEALTH HUB'S

Midwifery Collaborative



Join the [Maternal Infant Health Hub's](#) next Midwifery Collaborative on **Thursday, June 15 from 1-2 p.m.** This virtual convening for midwives, midwifery students, and health care stakeholders will focus on promoting midwifery education and training as it relates to the midwifery certification types (CNM, CM, and CPM).

Register for this Midwifery Collaborative to be part of sustained dialogue around supporting new educational pathways, the midwifery workforce, and analyzing policy challenges. Please submit any questions for our Q&A segment in advance to Armonie Pierre-Jacques at apierrejacques@njhcqi.org.

[Register Now](#)

MATERNAL INFANT HEALTH HUB'S

Policy Spotlight



This virtual convening is an invitation for regulators, policy makers, midwives, and health care advocates. Join the [Maternal Infant Health Hub's](#) Policy Spotlight on **June 26 from 1-2 p.m.** This event will provide an overview on New Jersey's proposed Fiscal Year '24 budget as it relates to maternal infant health and midwifery funding, as well as Medicaid payment innovation including a review of the Medicaid 1115 waiver.

Please submit any questions for our Q&A segment in advance to Armonie Pierre-Jacques at apierrejacques@njhcqi.org.

Register Now

NEW MEMBER



Findhelp

Findhelp is modernizing America's social safety net for anyone who needs help or helps others. With the largest network of CBOs and proprietary technology that matches people with the resources they need, findhelp is the fastest and most reliable way to get help with privacy and dignity.



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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Our mailing address is:

New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute
P.O. Box 2246, Princeton, New Jersey 08543

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