



NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE

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



PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER **NJ Saving Money and Improving Transparency - Perfect Together**

For years, the Quality Institute has urged New Jersey to follow the lead of California's Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) and other large employers using Reference Based Pricing to shift care to lower cost providers and settings. One part of these designs is identifying common procedures and screenings that can be done safely in lower cost settings such as Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs). Examples are certain orthopedic procedures, cataract surgery, colonoscopies, as well as many tests and scans.

Then, employers cover the enrollees' costs to undergo care in lower cost settings, unless a physician provides a medical reason for why the procedure should be performed in a hospital. [Study after study](#) has found that this type of design change has saved significant money and drives enrollees to lower cost sites of care.

A recent [study](#), looking at commercial claims data from 2017 to 2022, found that prices and growth of prices for medical services commonly provided in outpatient settings were significantly higher when delivered in Hospital Outpatient Departments. By using a "site neutral" payment approach, such as what CMS does, the employers could also save significantly.

To widely pursue these strategies, however, we should demand more transparency on the quality and safety of outpatient facilities. In general, ASCs have been shown to be as safe as hospitals for select patients and procedures, but patients need information on the safety record of individual ASCs. Reducing cost is essential — but not at the expense of safety...

[Read Full Story](#)



CHRISTOPHER RINN

PRESIDENT & CEO,
VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION
HEALTH GROUP (VNAHG)

TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

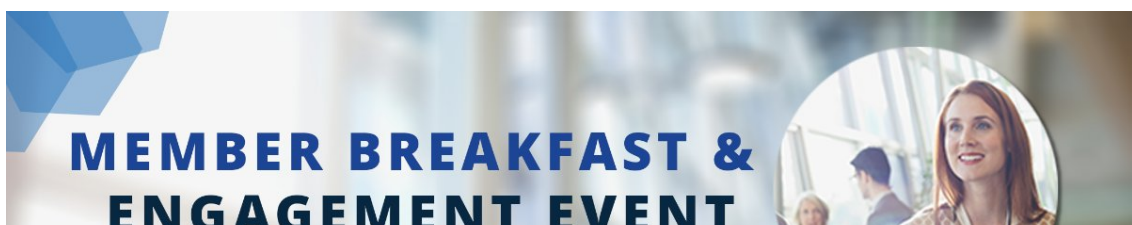
Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

Christopher Rinn, President and CEO of [Visiting Nurse Association Health Group \(VNAHG\)](#), a non-profit provider of home health, hospice, palliative and community-based care.

Interview Sneak Peek: *You recently took over as President and CEO. Can you name your top priority for the organization?*

Coming out of a pandemic, we are now facing a new “health care norm.” Our workforce has been through one of the most challenging times in the last 100 years in health care and public health. My priority since my first day on the job has been to stay focused on the mission of our organization: empowering individuals and families to live their best lives. Whether it’s in our prenatal programs at the community health centers, or our hospice program at the end of life, we cover the full spectrum. I am also laser-focused on our people, our workforce — our most valuable and treasured resource in health care and VNAHG...

[Read Full Interview](#)





Join the Quality Institute for our upcoming in-person **Engagement Event** in Southern New Jersey on **Wednesday, October 18 from 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.** at [Samaritan](#), 3906 Church Road, Mount Laurel Township, NJ 08054.

Attend this event 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 Now](#)



MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN[®]

MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN AWARDS \$127,500 to 10 NEW JERSEY TOWNS **Funded by Walmart, Grants Support Mental Health Programs, Education**

A total of \$127,500 in grants has been awarded to 10 New Jersey communities by our [Mayors Wellness Campaign \(MWC\)](#) in partnership with the [League of Municipalities](#) and funded by [Walmart](#). The grants support local mental health initiatives. We received an overwhelming response to this funding opportunity from MWC towns, which highlights the critical need for local mental health supports. Is your town awarded? Read and share the press release to see which towns were awarded and how they will use the money to bolster their residents' mental health resilience.



[Read & Share Press Release](#)

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR LEAPFROG'S ASC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The [Leapfrog Group](#) is seeking nominations of senior leaders affiliated with surgery centers that participate in the Leapfrog ASC Survey to serve on its [ASC Advisory Committee](#). Chaired by Quality Institute President & CEO, [Linda Schwimmer](#), the ASC Advisory Committee advises Leapfrog on key issues related to ASC safety, quality, and efficiency to ensure that employers have the best available data for decision-making. **The deadline to self-nominate or nominate a colleague is November 1, 2023.**

[Apply Now](#)

WOMEN'S HEALTH INCLUDING WEIGHT How to Have a Respectful Conversation on this Sensitive Topic

Join us on **Tuesday, October 24, 2023 12-1:00 p.m.** for an educational webinar and insightful roundtable discussion. Our Director of Policy, [Kate Shamszad](#), will be moderating this conversation. Topics include:

- Overview of obesity and health
- Recognize the bias and stigma around weight
- How health care providers can respect patient autonomy

This webinar is designed for health care professionals, policymakers, and anyone interested in learning more about women's health and chronic disease management.

[Register Now](#)

NEW MEMBER



At [Merck](#), known as MSD outside of the United States and Canada, they are unified around their purpose: Using the power of leading-edge science to save and improve lives around the world. For more than a century, they've been at the forefront of research, bringing forward medicines, vaccines and innovative health solutions for the world's most challenging diseases.



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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