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NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE



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

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**Schwimmer
Script** 

Linda Schwimmer, JD
President & CEO,  NEW JERSEY
HEALTH CARE
QUALITY
INSTITUTE

Leapfrog Group Hospital Safety Grades Released: Transparency Key to Quality Health Care

The [Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades for Spring 2025](#) were released this morning. The Quality Institute is the Regional Leader for Leapfrog in New Jersey and, as many of you know, I serve as the national organization's board chair. Once again, New Jersey was number one in hospital participation for the 2024 Leapfrog Hospital Survey at 100 percent participation.

For this grade cycle, 36 New Jersey hospitals, which is over half of NJ hospitals, received an A. This year for the first time, Leapfrog is highlighting hospitals that consistently earned A scores, and we're proud that 18 hospitals in our state have achieved straight "A's" for at least 2 years or more. That's an achievement that saves lives. For more details on the grades, check out our [press release](#).

At the Quality Institute, we believe transparency is essential to quality health care,

and we applaud hospitals for participating in the Leapfrog survey. We're also working to encourage more ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs) to participate in the [Leapfrog ASC Survey](#). As more elective surgeries and procedures migrate to these lower cost settings, we want patients and health care purchasers, including employers and unions, to benefit from having timely, transparent data on the safety of these facilities.

TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Stefanie Simmons, MD
Chief Medical Officer at the Dr. Lorna Breen
Heroes' Foundation



Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

Stefanie Simmons, MD, Chief Medical Officer at the Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation. The Quality Institute is partnering with the Foundation on the initiative, "ALL IN: Caring for New Jersey's Caregivers."

Interview Sneak Peek: *Can you tell us about the Foundation's Wellbeing First Champion Challenge program, which encourages hospitals to remove stigmatizing mental health questions from credentialing applications.*

Our initiative, "ALL IN: Caring for New Jersey's Caregivers," starts with the Wellbeing First Champion Challenge to improve access to mental health care for health workers. We must remove invasive questions and stigmatizing language about mental health from licensing applications for health care workers at the state level. Additionally, hospitals, health systems, and medical groups need to remove stigmatizing language about mental health care from credentialing applications...

[Read Full Interview](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Discussion On New Jersey's Proposed Integrated Facility Licensing Regulations

Please join the us on **Thursday, May 22 from 12:00 PM to 1:15 PM** (Virtual via Zoom) for an important meeting focused on New Jersey's [proposed regulations](#) for the integrated licensing of behavioral and physical health care facilities.

Event Highlights:

- **Special Remarks:** Acting Commissioner Jeffrey Brown of the New Jersey Department of Health will offer opening remarks.
- **Expert Analysis:** Professor John Jacobi and Quality Institute leadership will provide a detailed, section-by-section review of the proposed regulations.
- **Advocate Engagement:** Integrated care advocates—particularly those who previously signed [our letter to the Commissioner](#) calling for an integrated license—are encouraged to attend, discuss, and shape collective feedback.

Why Attend?

Integrating behavioral and physical health care services is essential to improving patient access, reducing stigma, and advancing better health outcomes. This session is an opportunity to gain a clear understanding of the regulatory framework and to work collaboratively to provide thoughtful, aligned feedback to the state.

[Register Now](#)

Transforming Communication In Maternal Health Care & Health Systems

Join us on **Tuesday, July 29 from 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM** for a **full-day, in-person convening** focused on improving communication, teamwork, and shared decision-making during labor and birth at the [Princeton Marriott at Forrestal](#).

Through interactive discussions, huddle simulations, and breakout sessions, participants will explore strategies to strengthen team communication, learn from shared decision-making implementers across New Jersey, and connect with clinical and community partners advancing maternal and infant health.

Who Should Attend:

Maternal health teams from TeamBirth NJ hospitals, obstetricians, midwives, nurses, doulas/doulos, OBGYN residents, community health workers, emergency room care teams, and community-based organizations.

[Register by July 15](#)



CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

Up to 6.25 continuing education credits available for nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians. In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences and the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute. Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

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EVENT RECAP: ADVANCING BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH IN NEW JERSEY



Christine Ivery, Program Officer of the Quality Institute and Founder & CEO of Public Health Jawn, led an impactful summit on April 24th at Camden County College. Public health professionals, health care leaders, and advocates gathered to discuss policy, education, and strategies to improve Black maternal health in New Jersey.



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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