

Top Health Care Priorities for the Next Governor of New Jersey: Resource Links

1. Health Care Affordability

- [Short and Long-Term Strategies to Support Health Care Affordability and Price Transparency for Small Employers and Consumers in New Jersey](#) – This report highlights the urgent need for both immediate and sustained policy actions to stabilize the state's declining small group health insurance market, enhance affordability, and ensure continued access to quality health coverage for small businesses and their employees.
- [Take 5 Interview with Chris Whaley](#) - In a May 2024 interview, health economist Dr. Chris Whaley emphasized that improving price transparency is key to reducing health care costs, empowering employers and states to make informed decisions, and addressing growing public concern over the affordability of care.
- [RAND Report for New Jersey's Public Worker Health Insurance Program](#) - A RAND study found that from 2016 to 2018, New Jersey's public worker health insurance program paid hospitals nearly \$2 billion more than Medicare rates, highlighting the need for greater price transparency and cost control in the state's health care system.

2. Reforming and Paying for Medicaid in the Face of Federal Policy Change and Cuts

- [Medicaid 2.0 Blueprint for the Future](#) - A strategic roadmap outlining reforms to modernize New Jersey's Medicaid program. While much of the Blueprint has been implemented, these recommendations must be addressed: 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19.

3. Improving the State's Professional Licensing Processes and Department of Health's Licensing, Inspections and Public Health functions

- [Where's the safest place to have your surgery or procedure?](#) – This op-ed by the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute emphasizes that inspections and surveys conducted by state and federal agencies—which assess health care facilities for compliance with safety, cleanliness, and infection control standards—are critical yet often underutilized tools for patients to determine the safest place to undergo surgery or medical procedures.

4. Addressing New Jersey's Health Care Workforce Shortage

- [Emerging from COVID-19: An Action Plan for a Healthier State](#) - 24 consensus-driven recommendations to enhance New Jersey's health care system post-pandemic. For example, see recommendations: 1-3.
- [Implementing the Action Plan A Guidance Document to Recruit, Train, and Retain a Resilient and Diverse Health Care Workforce for New Jersey](#) - Strategies for building a diverse and sustainable health care workforce in New Jersey.

5. Strengthening New Jersey's Access to Primary Care and Mental Health

- [Primary Care in New Jersey: Findings and Recommendations to Support Advanced Primary Care](#) – An analysis of New Jersey's Primary Care system, with a focus on policy changes in quality measurement, payment, and technology to support the growth of Advanced Primary Care in the state.
- [Primary Care Parity Letter of Support](#) - The New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute's letter urges the state to support full payment parity for primary care services delivered in person and via telehealth, highlighting the vital role of primary care in improving health outcomes, reducing disparities, and controlling costs.
- [Maternity Action Plan](#) - A four-part plan to improve maternal infant health in New Jersey.