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What's Included In This Edition:

Schwimmer Script - Time to Pull Together on H.R. 1 Response

Take Five Interview - Stephanie Bell, Medicaid Innovation and Policy Strategist at Vimo

Register for Leapfrog ASC Survey 2.0: Information Session on 5/6

Perinatal Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training

What We're Reading

A graphic for the 'Schwimmer Script' section. It features a circular photo of Linda Schwimmer, JD, a woman with dark curly hair, smiling. To the right of the photo, the text reads 'Schwimmer Script' in large, bold, dark blue letters. Below that, it says 'Linda Schwimmer, JD' and 'President & CEO, Q' with the NJHCQI logo. A stylized pen icon is positioned to the right of the word 'Script'. The background is white with blue decorative dots on the left.

Time to Pull Together on H.R. 1 Response

In the early days of COVID-19, I remember our member health system and health plan leaders sharing with me their sense of awe over how the entire health care community came together in a spirit of cooperation to address the pandemic. We need to tap into that Jersey can do spirit again because H.R. 1 will bring similar pain to our state and neighbors. And, like the pandemic, it will not hit everyone equally. The most vulnerable will bear the brunt of the changes.

The damage has already begun – including health care providers telling us that their patients are avoiding care out of fear of deportation. Things will get much worse starting in the fall with loss of insurance for certain previously Medicaid-eligible groups of immigrants, and then work requirements and six-month re-enrollment will begin in January 2027 for many adults enrolled in New Jersey Medicaid.

These changes, unfortunately, are purposely designed to be complicated so that many people will lose coverage even if eligible. When people lose coverage, they may still need care, including medications, treatments, and medical advice. Many of the people affected are the very people who served as front line workers getting us through the pandemic. They are working in part time, or hourly and seasonal jobs that do not offer benefits and, therefore, they enroll in Medicaid. We owe it to them to

give them every support and chance to stay enrolled.

What can we do? What can your organization do? Several things.

As we previously shared, the Quality Institute and Parker Family Health Center are leading an H.R.1 workgroup. We are working with our steering committee on communications for health care providers, community-based organizations, navigators, and others who work directly with people enrolled in Medicaid to better explain the changes expected and what people need to do to stay enrolled. We would like to hear from you. What types of materials and content, and in what languages, would be most helpful to you? Answer this short [survey](#) to share your needs...

[Read Full Story](#)

TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Stephanie Bell,
Medicaid Innovation and Policy Strategist, Vimo



Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

[Vimo](#) is a member of the [Quality Institute's Professional and Technology Council](#).

Interview Sneak Peek: *Insurance shopping is complicated for consumers. What best practices do you suggest for improving the consumer experience going forward?*




Health insurance is not always considered essential in many people's minds — like food, clothing, or shelter. And that makes it important to have the kind of e-commerce style shopping experience that people expect today. The most successful solution provides people with enough information to help them navigate to what they need without overwhelming them. And that can be a challenge in the insurance space — where there's so much information. We're always updating and improving, with advanced tools to help people focus on what's important to them. You want to provide a snapshot and then let people get to the details they care about. And you must keep in touch with people to understand their experiences and keep up with technology to find opportunities for improvement...

[Read Full Interview](#)

LEAPFROG ASC SURVEY 2.0:



INFORMATION SESSION

-  **WEDNESDAY, MAY 6**
-  **12 - 1 p.m.**
-  **VIRTUAL EVENT, ZOOM**



Join us on **Wednesday, May 6, from 12 to 1 p.m.**, for an information session on The Leapfrog Group's **new [Ambulatory Surgery Center \(ASC\) Public Reporting Program](#)**, which will now include **universal public reporting and scoring on CMS data, beginning in July 2026.**

This session will review how CMS data will be incorporated, additional opportunities for ASCs to voluntarily demonstrate their commitment to quality and safety, and what to expect as public reporting expands. Learn what this new program means for your organization and the options available to strengthen your facility's profile.

This webinar is intended for ASC administrators, quality leaders, hospital leaders who co-lead/co-manage outpatient facilities, and staff responsible for quality improvement and reporting.

[Register Now](#)



PERINATAL MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

The Quality Institute recently delivered its **[Perinatal Mental Health First Aid \(MHFA\)](#)** training to staff members at a large New Jersey health system. This training features first-in-the-nation, maternity-specific scenarios that the Quality Institute developed to address mental health challenges during the prenatal and postpartum periods.

All participants reported increased understanding of mental health, greater confidence in supporting individuals in need, and would recommend the training to a colleague. After completing the training, participants shared how empowered and better prepared they felt. The following are some examples of feedback:

- "It was very informative and thought-provoking."
- "I found this course informational and feel more at ease when having to deal with a patient who is experiencing a mental health crisis."
- "This will help me with work as well as in my personal life with family members with mental health issues."

Organizations interested in hosting a training are encouraged to reach out to Program Officer Armonie Pierre-Jacques at apierrejacques@njhcqi.org.

Costs apply.

WHAT WE'RE READING



- [The Front Door of Health Care Is About to Get Busier](#), *New York Health Foundation*
- [Residency fill rates worsen for primary care: 20 stats to know](#), *Becker's Hospital Review*

Both articles focus on the growing lack of primary care. We encourage you to read and share our advocacy piece on what we can do in New Jersey to better support primary care.

[Read our Primary Care Resource](#)



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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