

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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Board of Managers

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:

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Pamela Huffman-DeVaughn- PAMCOP
Charizza Sales- Kent Pediatrics
Vibha Sanwal - Primary Care, Rainbow Pediatrics
Karla Nicholas Swatski- Bryn Mawr Pediatrics



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Year- End Reflection & Thank You

As we close out 2024, we want to pause and sincerely thank our **KidWell practices, and partners** for your collaboration, commitment, and trust throughout the year.

Together, we achieved our **strongest quality performance in the past four years**, reflecting steady improvement across preventive care, care coordination, population health, and whole-person care. These outcomes are a direct result of the consistent, high-quality work happening every day in community practices across the KidWell Network.

2024 Quality Highlights

- **85% of network quality measures passed** (28 of 33 total measures) across all participating payers
- **Best overall quality performance in four years**, with sustained year-over-year improvement since 2021
- Strong performance demonstrated across **Aetna, Highmark Commercial, Highmark Medicaid, and AmeriHealth**

📈 Key Trends at a Glance

- **Medicaid quality performance increased from 55% in 2021 to 75% in 2024**, marking our strongest Medicaid results to date
- **SDOH screening continued to increase year over year**, supporting more comprehensive, whole-child and family-centered care
- **AmeriHealth quality performance reached its highest level in 2024**, reflecting the impact of integrated clinical and social care workflows
- **Highmark Commercial PMPM remained below target**, demonstrating responsible cost management while maintaining strong quality outcomes

These results highlight how focused quality improvement, thoughtful care coordination, and attention to social needs can drive **better outcomes for patients** while supporting **responsible stewardship of healthcare resources**.

We are incredibly proud of the momentum built this year and the foundation laid for continued improvement. Thank you for your partnership, leadership, and dedication to the children and families you serve. We look forward to building on this success together in 2025 and beyond.

Thank You

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Resource: CHE Education

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

The Community Health Education (CHE) Team is here to support your patients and families with engaging, interactive programs that make a difference.



Asthma Management

Children ages 8-11 | 40 minutes

Our educators are certified facilitators for the Open Airways for Schools* (OAS) program through the American Lung Association. Over six sessions, this program educates and empowers kids on how to detect the warning signs of asthma, avoid their triggers, and make decisions about their health.



Healthy Living Series

All ages | 1 hour

Separated into three related sessions, our educators will discuss age-appropriate information on nutrition, healthy eating habits, and physical activity. This curriculum can be condensed into one longer session if needed.



Mental Health

All ages | Varies

Based on extensive Nemours research, our educators have developed several curricula surrounding mental health for a variety of age groups. We offer stress management, coping with big emotions, depression in teenagers, suicide awareness, and resources for parents as well.



Seasonal Sickness

Parents and Children | 30 minutes

Keeping our kids safe during cold and flu season is always a top priority. We discuss the differences between cold, flu, and COVID-19 symptoms, who needs seasonal vaccines and why, when to call the doctor, and how to keep yourself safe during cold and flu season.



Healthy Relationships & STD Prevention

Teenagers | 1 hour

Two separate sessions with overlapping themes that can be used in conjunction or alone. Geared towards adolescents, the Healthy Relationships curriculum focuses on healthy communication, consent, peer pressure, the signs of a healthy vs unhealthy relationship, and toxic friendships. Our STD Prevention is evidence-based and covers prevention topics such as STD testing, healthy communication and decision making, and basic safer sex practices.

 To request a session for your practice, please Click link below
redcap.nemoursresearch.org/redcap/surveys/?s=NF4DNXMLFTYDLKXX



**Request a CHE Session
Today!**

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Resource: CHE Education



Substance Use Prevention and Education

All ages | 45 minutes

Our team is committed to the prevention and education of substance use. We have created programs on various topics including opioids, alcohol, marijuana, and other illicit substances. All information is made age-appropriate for the attendees.



Smoking and Vaping

Adults and Children | 45 minutes

Our goal is to educate attendees about the danger of tobacco and nicotine products, including first-hand, second-hand, and even third-hand exposure. We also provide support, resources, and information on quitting.



Transitioning to Adult Health Care

Parents and Teens | 1 hour

When teenagers transition from pediatric to adult health care, it can be tricky. Our educators will go over all the things they'll need to know, like medical and family history, filling prescriptions, insurance card basics, how to talk to the doctor, and patient privacy.



Personal Hygiene

Parents and Children | 30-45 minutes

Nemours' goal is to create the healthiest generation of children, and part of that is good personal hygiene! We help kids learn the importance of things like clean skin, taking care of their mouth and teeth, and washing hands properly.



Childhood Safety

All ages | Varies

Our educators have developed curricula for a multitude of safety topics, including bike, internet, summer, winter, and sports safety. This information is for adults and children.



This is not an exhaustive list of our program offerings; contact us if your community has a specific health education need.

Please email CHEDE@nemours.org to get in touch with the Community Health Education Team.



**We now have a request form for future events!
Scan the QR code and fill out a request form if you
have an opportunity for the Community Health
Education Team.**



**Request a CHE Session
Today!**

✉ To request a session for your practice, please Click link below
redcap.nemoursresearch.org/redcap/surveys/?s=NF4DNXMLFTYDLKXX

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Vax Vibes Central: Get Ready to Rumble (with the Flu!)



Flu Fighters Weekly Update – December Highlights

Our Quality Improvement Specialist, Nicole Schwegler, publishes the Flu Fighters weekly influenza update every Monday, providing timely community data, KidWell insights, and practical tools for practices.

Highlights from the December update include:

- Ongoing monitoring of **community flu activity** across **Delaware and Pennsylvania**, with state-level dashboards supporting local awareness
- Continued tracking of **KidWell community flu rates and vaccination counts** for patients ages 6 months–18 years
- **Practice-level flu and vaccine detail** being prepared for secure delivery via **SFTP**
- Evidence-based **AAP messaging support** to assist conversations with vaccine-hesitant families
- Opportunities for **Community Health Education Team** support, including on-site education sessions and flyers
- Recognition of **non-clinical staff** helping promote vaccination, with stories featured in upcoming updates

We encourage practices to review the **Flu Fighters update each Monday** and continue leveraging these resources to support flu vaccination efforts throughout the season.

Practice Tools & Resources

New Messaging to Support Flu Vaccination

These short phrases are designed to fit seamlessly into **check-in, rooming, discharge, and follow-up workflows**—especially as flu activity increases later in the season.

Addressing Late-Season Hesitation

Q: “Is it too late to get the flu shot?”

A: “Not at all. Flu season often peaks later getting it now still offers strong protection.”

Q: “They already had a cold.”

A: “Colds and flu are different. The flu shot still protects against serious illness.”

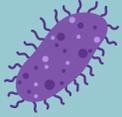
Q: “We missed our appointment earlier.”

A: “That’s okay—today is still a great day to get protected.”

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Vax Vibes Central: Get Ready to Rumble (with the Flu!)



Practice Tools & Resources (cont'd)

Reframing Risk & Severity

Q: “My child is healthy.”

A: “That’s great—and flu vaccination helps keep them healthy all season.”

Q: “We’re not worried about flu.”

A: “Most flu hospitalizations happen in kids who were previously healthy.”

Q: “They had the flu shot last year.”

A: “Flu strains change every year—this season’s vaccine is updated for better protection.”

Workflow-Friendly Language That Works

Practices seeing steady uptake are using:

- **Presumptive language:**

“We’ll include the flu vaccine today unless you have questions.”

- **Normalizing statements:**

“Most families choose to protect their child with the flu shot.”

- **Timing prompts:**

“Since you’re already here, we can do it today.”

End-of-Visit Reinforcement

Use at checkout or discharge:

- “Before you go, did your child receive the flu vaccine today?”
- “If not today, we can schedule it quickly.”

**This helps prevent missed opportunities.*

Staff Engagement Tip

Encourage **non-clinical team members** to share:

- “We’ve been reminding families about flu shots today.”
- “A lot of parents are choosing to do it now.”

**Peer-to-parent messaging matters.*

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Vax Vibes Central: Get Ready to Rumble (with the Flu!)

Practice Tools & Resources (cont'd)

Practice Reminder

- ✓ Ask every visit
 - ✓ Offer every time
 - ✓ Document clearly
 - ✓ Follow up when declined
- *Consistency—not perfection—drives results.

Flu Fighter Staff Spotlight

Caught a staff member promoting flu vaccination?
Nominate them for **December's Flu Fighter Spotlight!**

 Send nominations to: Nicole.Schwegler@nemours.org

Educational Resources & Support

AAP Vaccine Confidence Resource

Talking with Vaccine-Hesitant Parents
([Click here](#))

CHE Flu Education Sessions

Bring the Community Health Education Team to your practice for short, targeted in-person sessions.

 Request here:

<https://redcap.nemoursresearch.org/redcap/surveys/?s=NF4DNXMLFTYDLKXX>

CUTTING EDGE

Keeping Practices Sharp With the Latest In Surgery

Undescended Testicles Clinical Reminder

Presented by Jennifer Hagerty

Undescended testicles are a common pediatric condition that benefit from early identification and timely referral to support long-term testicular health.

Key Clinical Reminders

- **Scrotal ultrasounds are not indicated** and rarely impact clinical decision-making
- **Refer to pediatric urology** promptly when there is concern for an undescended testicle
- **Surgical correction between 12–18 months of age** is optimal for testicular health
- For most patients with **palpable testicles operated on before 18 months**, surgery may be performed under spinal anesthesia

Early recognition, appropriate referral, and clear documentation help ensure timely care and optimal outcomes for pediatric patients.



Questions or Referrals?

Email: surgerydepartment@nemours.org

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KidWell Announcements:

Year-End Practice Visits – Complete

Our December practice visits have officially wrapped up, marking the completion of our year-end outreach across the network.

These visits allowed us to:

- Reflect on 2024 performance and progress
- Align on priorities and opportunities for the year ahead
- Strengthen relationships and communication with practice teams



We appreciate the time, openness, and thoughtful dialogue shared during these visits. Your insights continue to shape how we support practices across the network.

Stay Connected – KidWell Team Support

Our team remains available year-round to support:

- Quality initiatives
- Data and reporting questions
- Workflow optimization
- Practice-specific needs

Please don't hesitate to reach out—we're here to help.



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KidWell Announcements:

Practice Profile Completion Reminder

As discussed during recent practice visits, we are requesting completion of the updated Practice Profile.

This information helps us:

- Maintain accurate practice and provider records
- Improve communication and coordination
- Support quality reporting and outreach efforts



Thank you to practices who have already completed the form. If you have not yet submitted it, we appreciate your support in doing so as soon as possible.

Action Required:

Please complete and return the practice profile form (sent via email). If you have already submitted — thank you!

A	B
CIN Practice Profile Sheet	Responses
1 Provider's Names Credentials / list all with NPI # including PA's and NPs	
2 Provider's Email Address	
3 Group Specialty	
4 Group NPI #	
5 Group Tax ID #	
6 Practice Address / PO Box	
7 Office Hours	
8 Office Telephone #	
9 Back Office Phone #	
10 Provider Email Address	
11 Practice Email Address	
12 What Health Insurance Payers does your practice accept?	
13 How many total patients do have rostered to your practice?	
14 Panel size attributed to each Payer	
15 Serving Ages	
16 Practice Mgr. Name	
17 Practice Quality Metrics Contact Name	
18 Electronic Health Records Name	
19 EHR Version	
20 EHR Practice contact name	
21 EHR Vendor Contact Name and telephone number	
22 Do you currently send (Y/N) or receive (Y/N) Continuity of Care Documents (CCDs) with your HEDIS/EMR?	
23 Do you currently receive data from the DHIN? Please describe content and frequency.	
24 Are you active on Nemours Link Y/N?	
25 Are you currently under a Group Purchasing Contract? If you are contracted with a Group Purchasing Co please list the items/supplies/Rx you are currently purchasing. Please also list the name of the vendor.	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	

KidWell Announcements:



MOC Part 4 Quality Improvement Project

Planning is underway for the **2026 MOC Part 4 Quality Improvement (QI) Project**, and we are inviting **early input from KidWell physicians and PA's** as we shape the focus and approach.

This upcoming QI initiative is being designed to:

- Address **meaningful, practice-relevant quality improvement** opportunities
- Align with **clinical priorities and evidence-based guidelines**
- Use **a structured QI framework** with clear measures and actionable reporting

Provider Input Requested

We are specifically seeking feedback from **physicians** and **PA's** on:

- Priority clinical focus areas
- Measures that feel useful and feasible in community practice
- What would make a QI project valuable, relevant, and realistic

To provide input, please send your suggestions to **Dr. Maria Petrini** at Maria.Petrini@nemours.org. Your perspective will help ensure this project reflects the realities of primary care and supports quality improvement across the KidWell network.

Thank you for helping shape the direction of this important work.

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KidWell Announcements:



MOC Part 4 Quality Improvement Project

Draft Project Aims & Measures (For Feedback)

The table below outlines draft aims and example measures being considered for the 2026 MOC Part 4 Quality Improvement Project. These items are shared to provide transparency and gather early input from physicians and PAs. They reflect potential focus areas aligned with evidence-based guidelines and existing practice workflows. Final aims and measures will be refined based on provider feedback.

MOC 4 QI Project

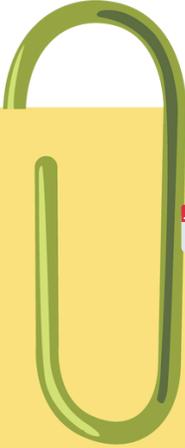
Aims	Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the percentage of documented BMI screening in 2–18-year-olds patients and evidence-based obesity management interventions (nutrition and activity counseling) by X% over 9 months (Jan–Sept 2026). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coding-- CPT codes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase completion of fasting lipid panels for eligible patients ages 9–11 and 17–21 to >X% by September 2026. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claims once completed or cpt/icd10 for orders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased completion on obesity labs when appropriate based on guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claims once completed or cpt/icd10 codes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase referrals to multidisciplinary weight management team by X% by the end of 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referrals through Nemours Link or others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased Flu and Covid vaccination in patients with severe obesity class 2-3 obesity by % by September 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPT, claims, Delvax registry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase documentation and assessment of possible HTN as a comorbid condition in obese patients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPT/ICD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide with educational materials and resources to obese patients with BMI above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources provided—survey or similar

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KidWell Announcements:



Upcoming KidWell Meetings

● **Q-Connect**

Date & Time

Wednesday, January 7th

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

● **KidWell LLS** **(Lunchtime Lecture Series)**

Date & Time

Tuesday, January 27th 2026

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

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KidWell Meeting Details

STAY CONNECTED, STAY ENGAGED

Q-CONNECT

We're continuing the momentum! As a reminder, **QCMC meetings are now Q-Connect** – your space for collaboration, learning, and connection across the KidWell Network.

Q-Connect Purpose:

A dedicated space to collaborate, share updates, and innovate together. Each session focuses on reviewing network quality performance, strengthening workflows, exchanging best practices, and driving improvements in patient care—all while building stronger connections across our community.

Virtual Meeting Time:

 Meetings alternate between 12–1 PM and 1–2 PM each month.

Upcoming Schedule:

- Upcoming Schedule:
- January 7, 2026, 1 – 2 PM
- February 4, 2026, 12 – 1 PM
- March 4, 2026, 1 – 2 PM
- April 1, 2026, 12 – 1 PM
- May 6, 2026, 1 – 2 PM
- June 3, 2026, 12 – 1 PM
- July 1, 2026, 1 – 2 PM
- August 5, 2026, 12 – 1 PM
- September 2, 2026, 1 – 2 PM
- October 7, 2026, 12 – 1 PM
- November 7, 2026, 1 – 2 PM
- December 2, 2026, 12 – 1 PM



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KidWell Meeting Details

SPOTLIGHT FEATURE



Q-CONNECT

Join us on Wednesday, January 7th, 2025, 1 PM- 2 PM 

Join us for our next KidWell Q-CONNECT, featuring a focused discussion on Advanced Care at Home (ACaH)—an innovative care model expanding how high-quality pediatric care is delivered beyond traditional settings

Featured Guest Speaker:

Collin Miller, Director of Nursing

Collin will provide an overview of the Advanced Care at Home Program, highlighting how this interdisciplinary, technology-enabled approach is improving outcomes for children and families while expanding access to care.

Discussion Topics

- How Advanced Care at Home supports medically complex and high-risk pediatric patients in the home
- The spectrum of care, from outpatient-level support to hospital-alternative services
- Early outcomes, including reduced ED visits, avoided admissions, and improved family experience
- What this model means for community practices, care coordination, and system capacity

Who Should Attend

Providers, practice leaders, care coordinators, and partners interested in innovative care delivery models that improve quality while reducing unnecessary utilization.

 **Don't miss this opportunity** to learn how Advanced Care at Home is helping redefine pediatric care delivery across the KidWell network.





Additional Resources:

Immunization Coalition of Delaware – At a Glance

Week in Review – December 8, 2025

Recent state and national updates continue to reinforce the importance of respiratory virus prevention, vaccination counseling, and situational awareness during the 2025–2026 season.

Respiratory Virus Activity

- Influenza activity is increasing, particularly among children and young adults
- RSV activity is rising in parts of the Mid-Atlantic and surrounding regions
- COVID-19 activity remains low
- Vaccination and early prevention remain critical as flu season progresses

Immunization & Clinical Guidance

- Seasonal influenza prevention and control guidance for 2025–2026 has been updated
- AAP and CDC resources continue to support confident vaccine conversations with families
- Insurance coverage for routine childhood vaccines, including Hepatitis B, remains in place

Measles Awareness

- Measles cases continue to rise nationally, with multiple outbreaks reported
- Pediatric cases account for a significant portion of hospitalizations
- Practices should remain vigilant with MMR vaccination status review, especially for families planning travel

Practice Takeaways

- Continue **asking about and offering flu vaccines at every visit**
- Reinforce routine childhood immunizations and address hesitancy using evidence-based messaging
- Stay alert to evolving respiratory and travel-related risks

Learn More:

Practices seeking additional surveillance data, immunization resources, and outbreak updates can visit the **Immunization Coalition of Delaware** at <https://www.immunizedelaware.org/>

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Additional Resources:

Immunization Coalition of Delaware – At a Glance

Community Practice Highlights & Resources

Recent updates Dr. Jonathan Miller, reinforce continued focus on quality improvement, vaccination efforts, patient experience, and practical learning opportunities relevant to community primary care.

Professional Education & Practice Support

- A JEDI CME webinar on supporting and affirming non-binary youth may be helpful for practices caring for diverse pediatric populations
 - [A free, virtual CME webinar](#) offering practical guidance for pediatric practices caring for nonbinary and gender-diverse youth
 - Moderated by Nemours physician leadership and featuring interdisciplinary clinical perspectives
- Pediatric coding newsletters (November & December) are attached for reference and billing support

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Holiday Well-Wishes & Looking Ahead to 2026

As the year comes to a close, we extend our sincere appreciation to you and your teams for a year of partnership, collaboration, and continued dedication to pediatric care.

We wish you a restful, joyful holiday season and time to recharge with family, friends, and colleagues. Thank you for the care you provide to children and families every day—we are grateful to work alongside you.

We look forward to building on this momentum together and continuing our shared work to support high-quality, patient-centered care across the KidWell network in **2026**.

Warm wishes for a healthy, happy holiday season and a strong start to the new year.

— The KidWell Network Team





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Nominate a Stellar Colleague!

Do you know a coworker who consistently goes above and beyond? We want to celebrate their dedication in our Kudos Corner!

Shape the Newsletter!

We're always looking for ways to improve the departmental newsletter. Do you have ideas for future content, suggestions for topics, or feedback on the format? We value your input!

Share your thoughts and suggestions with Asya Richardson directly at asya.richardson@nemours.org.



We value your feedback and participation! **Contact Us:**

Dr. Maria Petrini: Maria.Petrini@nemours.org - 302-559-7716

David Cruz: David.Cruz@nemours.org - 302-304-1351

Asya Richardson: Asya.Richardson@nemours.org - 302-393-1886

Nicole Schwegler: Nicole.Schwegler@nemours.org- 302-573-0202

See you next month!
The KidWell Network
Team





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KidWell Resources Updates:

Check out our newly upgraded website

[KidWellnetwork.org](https://kidwellnetwork.org)

Direct Access to KidWell Clinical Pathways

<https://kidwellnetwork.org/clinical-pathways.html>

**VISIT OUR
WEBSITE**

