

# Cal HQ Kickoff: Partnering for Progress

## Long Beach Kickoff Meeting Packet 4.14.2026

California Alignment for Hospital Quality (Cal HQ) is a new approach to quality and patient safety that builds on decades of success and facilitates tighter collaboration between health plans and hospitals. During this kickoff meeting you will help shape how we achieve our **bold goal of preventing 2,000 additional healthcare acquired infections by the end of 2027**. We hope you will leave this meeting with new ideas, relationships, and inspiration.

Please visit the [Cal HQ website](#) for more information and to learn about upcoming events.

To join the Cal HQ listserv please complete the [Cal HQ Interest Contact Form](#).

### AGENDA

Time	Title	Speaker(s)
8:30	Registration, Breakfast, and Networking	
9:00-10:00	<b>Advancing Healthcare Quality:</b> <i>The Cal HQ Approach</i>	<p><i>Moderator:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Alex Stack, MPH</b>, Director, Cal Healthcare Compare</li> </ul> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Bruce Spurlock, MD</b> Cal Healthcare Compare</li> <li><b>Monica Soni, MD</b> Covered California</li> <li><b>Tony Linares, MD, FAAFP, dipl. ABIM</b> CalPERS</li> </ul> <p>Leaders from Covered California, CalPERS, and Cal Healthcare Compare will discuss genesis of Cal HQ, priority focus areas, and the benefits of engaging in this unique collaborative.</p>
10:00-10:45	<b>After Survival: How System Design Impacts Outcomes</b>	<p><b>Libby Hoy</b> <i>Founder &amp; CEO, PFCCpartners</i></p> <p>In 2010, Libby founded PFCCpartners to create a community of patients, families, providers, and health care organizations committed to shared learning of Patient &amp; Family Centered Care practice. Libby's keynote will highlight innovative ways that hospitals, health plans, and patients can partner to improve outcomes, drawing on her own experience as both a patient and caregiver.</p>
10:45-11:45	<b>Connecting to Purpose</b>	<p><b>Natalie Graves, MPH</b> <i>Improvement Advisor, Cal Healthcare Compare</i></p> <p><b>Nikole DeVries, MBA, RN</b> <i>Senior Director, Care Continuum Transformation, Inland Empire Health Plan</i></p> <p>Through an interactive tabletop activity, identify the roles, responsibilities, and resources that various stakeholders (such as hospitals and health plans) bring to patient safety and quality improvement efforts.</p>

Time	Title	Speaker(s)
11:45-12:30	Lunch	
12:30-1:15	<b>Transforming Safety in the Safety Net</b>	<p><b>Chase Coffey, MD</b> <i>Chief Quality Officer/Associate Chief Medical Officer, LA General Medical Center</i></p> <p>Dr. Coffey will describe the cultural transformation that led to Los Angeles General Medical Center (LA General) being awarded an “A” rating by the Leapfrog Group. They will highlight opportunities for hospitals and health plans to accelerate improvement by partnering in new ways.</p>
1:15-2:30	<b>Collaborating to Improve Quality</b>	<p><b>Scott Masten, PhD</b> <i>Vice President, Measurement Science &amp; Performance Analytics, Hospital Quality Institute</i></p> <p><b>AJ Rolle, MPH</b> <i>Director of Health Insights &amp; Performance Improvement, Cal Healthcare Compare</i></p> <p><b>Natalie Graves, MPH</b> <i>Improvement Advisor, Cal Healthcare Compare</i></p> <p>Explore how data can inform your improvement efforts. In interactive tabletop activities, test Cal HQ tools that support hospital and health plans to consider their improvement opportunities through a new lens.</p>
2:30-3:00	<b>Co-Designing Forward</b>	<p><b>Natalie Graves, MPH</b> <i>Improvement Advisor, Cal Healthcare Compare</i></p> <p>Learn about what’s next for Cal HQ and how you can engage. Reflect on ideas, questions, and connections made today.</p>

**Thank you for joining us!**

Please complete the [Post-Event Survey](#) to provide feedback on this meeting and offer suggestions for future events.

## Cal HQ Infection Prevention Resources

The Cal HQ team, along with experts in patient safety and infection prevention developed various toolkits to help health care improvement teams make patient care safer and improve outcomes. These toolkits include change packages, which provide a menu of strategies, change ideas, and specific, actionable steps that hospital teams can implement in their unique context as well as discovery tools. Discovery tools make identifying your next improvement project simple, fast, and actionable. By reviewing just 5-10 medical records, quality leaders can quickly identify strengths and opportunities in bedside care.

Topic Area	Tools/Resource
Foundational Infection Prevention Practices	<a href="#">Foundational Infection Prevention Practices</a> <a href="#">Infection Prevention Practices Self-Assessment</a>
Preventing Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI)	<a href="#">Preventing CAUTI Change Package</a> <a href="#">CAUTI Process Improvement Discovery Tool</a>
Preventing Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI)	<a href="#">Preventing CLABSI Change Package</a> <a href="#">CLABSI Process Improvement Discovery Tool</a>
Preventing Clostridioides difficile Infection (CDI)	<a href="#">Preventing CDI Change Package</a> <a href="#">CDI Process Improvement Discovery Tool</a>
Preventing Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)	<a href="#">Preventing MRSA Change Package</a> <a href="#">MRSA Process Improvement Discovery Tool</a>

## Meet the Cal HQ Team

Cal HQ is led by Covered California, CalPERS, and Cal Healthcare Compare, with oversight from steering committee members from state agencies, hospitals, health plans, improvement organizations, and patients to identify and advance a common set of hospital quality measures. Click on the following link to view the [Steering Committee members](#).

### Covered California

- **Monica Soni, MD** – Chief Medical Officer
- **David R. Campa, MD, MPH** – Senior Medical Director, Health Equity and Quality Transformation
- **Taylor Priestley** – Director, Health Equity and Quality Transformation
- **Joy Dionisio** – Quality Improvement Manager
- **Kelly Saephan** – Senior Equity and Quality Specialist
- **Marisol Meza-Badran** – Equity and Quality Specialist

### CalPERS

- **Tony Linares, MD, dipl. ABIM** – Medical Consultant, Clinical Policy & Programs
- **Claire De Castro** – Clinical Policy and Programs

### Cal Healthcare Compare (CHC)

- **Bruce Spurlock, MD** – Executive Director
- **Natalie Graves** – Director of Research & Implementation/Improvement Advisor
- **AJ Rolle** – Director of Health Insights & Performance Improvement
- **Alex Stack** – Director of Programs & Strategic Initiatives
- **Tracy Fisk** – Program Manager

## Meeting Participants

### Hospitals/Health Systems

- Adventist Health
- Antelope Valley Medical Center
- Arrowhead Regional Medical Center
- Barstow Community Hospital
- California Hospital Medical Cen
- Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare
- Coast Plaza Hospital
- CommonSpirit Health
- Community Memorial Healthcare
- Los Angeles General Medical Center
- Gateways Hospital & Mental Health Center
- Hoag Orthopedic Institute
- John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital
- Kaiser Permanente
- Keck School of Medicine USC
- Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital
- Memorial Hospital of Gardena
- Mercy Hospitals of Bakersfield
- Monterey Park Hospital
- Pacifica Hospital of the Valley
- Palomar Health
- Palomar Health Rehabilitation Institute
- PIH Health (Downey Hospital, Good Samaritan, Whittier)
- Pomona Valley Medical Center
- Providence (St. Mary Medical Center)
- Rancho Los Amigos
- Redlands Community Hospital
- Ridgecrest Regional Hospital
- Riverside Community Hospital
- Riverside University Health System
- San Antonio Regional Hospital
- San Geronio Memorial Hospital
- Scripps Health
- SoHum Health
- St. Jude Medical Center
- UCI Health
- Valley Presbyterian Hospital
- Ventura County Medical Center

### Health Plans

- Anthem Blue Cross California
- Blue Shield of California
- Gold Coast Health Plan
- Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP)
- Kaiser Permanente Health Plan SCAL
- LA Care Health Plan
- Molina Healthcare
- Sharp Health Plan

### Other Organizations

- Cal Healthcare  
Compare/Convergence Health
- California Quality Collaborative, PBGH
- CalPERS
- California Association of Public Hospitals (CAPH)/Safety Net Institute (SNI)
- California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC)
- Covered California
- Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS)
- HCAI - Office of Health Care Affordability
- Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG)
- Hospital Quality Institute (HQI)
- Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
- Maverix Health
- PFCCpartners

## Cal HQ Kickoff Meeting Speakers

### Keynote Speakers

#### **Libby Hoy, Founder + Chief Executive Officer, PFCCpartners**



As the mother of three sons living with mitochondrial disease, Libby has over 25 years of experience navigating the healthcare system. Libby began volunteering as a Parent Mentor in 1995 and has been working to improve health systems and empower patients and families to be active partners in care ever since. Libby strives to build the infrastructure and capacity for healthcare organizations to engage all patients and families, from the bedside to the boardroom.

In 2010, Libby founded PFCCpartners to create a community of patients, families, providers and health care organizations committed to the shared learning of Patient & Family Centered Care practice. PFCCpartners also supports the PFANetwork, inclusive of more than 600 Patient Family Advisors working in healthcare settings across the country to partner for improvement in the quality, safety, experience and the design of healthcare.

#### **Chase Coffey, MD, MS, Chief Quality Officer/Associate Chief Medical Officer, LA General Medical Center**



Chase Coffey, MD, MS, has been appointed chief quality officer at Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center in Los Angeles. Dr. Coffey will continue to serve as the associate chief medical officer for LAC+USC. He graduated from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine and completed his residency at the University of California, Los Angeles. He also completed the Academic Hospitalist Medicine Fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco.

Dr. Coffey is an associate professor of medicine at the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine.

## Fireside Chat Panelists

### **Bruce Spurlock, MD – Executive Director, Cal Healthcare Compare**

Bruce Spurlock, MD, is the Executive Director for Cal Healthcare Compare. He is also President and CEO of Convergence Health, a healthcare improvement organization whose vision is to create the day when suboptimal care is eliminated; when safe, reliable, and affordable healthcare is a reality for every patient. He leads and advises large improvement collaboratives at the regional, state, and national level designed to accelerate the implementation of evidence-based practices. He is a nationally known speaker on a broad range of health care topics including translating policy into practice, health care trends, and effectively engaging every stakeholder to drive improvement.

### **Monica Soni, MD – Chief Medical Officer, Covered CA**

Dr. S. Monica Soni is the Chief Medical Officer, and a Chief Deputy Executive Director at Covered California, leading the organization's Health Equity and Quality Transformation division. In this capacity she is responsible for health equity, health care strategy, medical policy, and other clinical operations to continuously improve not only the health services provided through Covered California's contracted health plans, but also California's delivery system.

Dr. Soni is a board-certified internal medicine physician with more than a decade of experience working in both inpatient and outpatient settings and continues to see patients. She received her medical degree from Harvard Medical School and completed her residency in internal medicine at the University of California, San Francisco with a focus in primary care. She is currently a board member for Mercy Housing California, a leading affordable housing organization, and previously served as a Commissioner for the Los Angeles County Hospital and Health Care Delivery Commission.

### **Tony Linares, MD, dipl. ABIM – Medical Consultant, Clinical Policy & Programs, CalPERS**

Dr. Tony Linares is a Medical Consultant for CalPERS Clinical Policy and Programs Division. Prior to joining CalPERS in February, 2025, he served as the RVP and Medical Director for Elevance Health National Accounts for the West Region and supported Anthem Blue Cross large group in California.

Dr. Linares served as the founding medical director for DMHC in 2000. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Family Practice and diplomat of the American Board of Integrative Medicine. He is a graduate of Case Western Reserve Univ. School of Medicine and completed his family medicine residency training at UC Davis Medical Center.

## Speakers and facilitators

### **AJ Rolle, MPH – Director of Health Insights & Performance Improvement, Cal Healthcare Compare**

AJ has over 10 years of experience in quality improvement, analytics, and program management. Previously, he served as Assistant Director of Quality Performance Improvement at UChicago Medicine, leading system-wide QI initiatives. He also spent eight years at the American Hospital Association, where he led evaluation of national quality initiatives and supported efforts including the 100 Million Mask Campaign. AJ holds a master's in public health in epidemiology from the University of Illinois Chicago and bachelor's degrees from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

### **Alex Stack, MPH – Director of Programs & Strategic Initiatives, Cal Healthcare Compare**

With over a decade of experience in quality improvement across primary care and hospital systems, she enjoys helping teams push boundaries, innovate, and make a real impact. Her expertise includes designing large scale learning collaboratives, using data to drive change, transforming care for patients with substance use disorder, and adult learning. Alex holds a master's in public health from the University of Texas School of Public Health. She lives in Henderson, NV with her family and enjoys baking, hiking, and spending time with her two young daughters.

### **Natalie Graves, MPH – Director of Research & Implementation/Improvement Advisor, Cal Healthcare Compare**

Natalie has more than a decade of experience leading programs to transform health care by leveraging quality improvement strategies and promoting peer-to-peer learning. Her areas of expertise include value-based care, delivery system transformation, social drivers of health, and payment reform. Natalie holds a master's in public health from the University of Michigan.

### **Scott Masten, PhD – Vice President, Measurement Science & Performance Analytics, Hospital Quality Institute**

Dr. Masten leads the development of data and analytics solutions to improve healthcare quality and patient safety. He oversees HQI's Hospital Quality Improvement Platform, or HQIP, a statewide system that helps hospitals use their data to benchmark performance, identify opportunities, and track improvement over time. Dr. Masten has over 20 years of experience in epidemiology, research, and applied data science, with a focus on turning complex healthcare data into actionable insights that reduce patient harm. He holds a PhD in Injury Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and he has also spent more than two decades teaching research methods and advanced statistics at the university level.