

UPDATE for the Community



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Alliance has enjoyed many successes since its start 10 years ago and you have been a vital part of these efforts. Our hard work continues, and here are a few exciting initiatives that will continue to position the Alliance as a catalyst for health care transformation in our state. [Read more from our executive director.](#)

ALLIANCE UPDATES

Health Care Authority Recognizes Two Accountable Communities of Health

Congratulations to the Cascade Pacific Action Alliance (CPAA) and the North Sound Accountable Community of Health who have moved out of pilot phase and achieved designation from the Health Care Authority as Accountable Communities of Health (ACH). The ACH supports collaborative decision-making and action on a regional basis to improve individual health care delivery and health systems, focusing on the social determinants of health, clinical-community linkages and whole person care. [Learn more.](#)

Save the date for the next Disparities in Care provider meeting on September 11

Primary care medical directors and quality leaders are invited to the next Disparities in Care provider meeting on September 11 from 10-12 p.m. at the Cambia Grove in Seattle. Learn what health plans are doing and planning around disparities, as well as see private, clinic-level results that show how medical groups in King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, Skagit, Spokane, Thurston and Whatcom counties are addressing disparities in care. Contact Teresa Litton at tlitton@wahealthalliance.org to RSVP or to learn more.

Coalition of leading health care organizations receive national grant to expand Choosing Wisely® program to eliminate wasteful and potentially harmful care

LEARN MORE

CPIN Webinar

Honoring Choices Pacific Northwest: A Regional Advance Care Planning Program
July 29, 12:15-1:15 p.m.
[Webinar](#)

Join Us

Would you like to learn more about membership in the Alliance? [Learn more about the value of Alliance membership.](#)

Choosing Wisely

Choosing Wisely is a campaign designed to provide easy-to-understand guides for getting better, safer, more effective care. It is a partnership between the Alliance, The American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM), the Washington State Medical Association, and others. [Learn more.](#)

Visit the Community Checkup website

The Community Checkup website helps consumers make informed choices by giving them access to a robust and accessible supply of data and resources. [Learn more.](#)

Follow the Alliance on Twitter

We invite you to follow the Alliance

The Alliance is partnering with the Washington State Medical Association, Group Health Cooperative and Swedish Health Services to expand work on Choosing Wisely®, a national initiative that encourages clinicians and patients to discuss which medical tests and procedures may be unnecessary for their condition, and in some instances, can cause harm. The Washington Health Alliance and the Washington State Medical Association, both previous recipients of Choosing Wisely grants, will continue to partner on efforts to reduce wasteful – and potentially harmful – care. [Read the press release.](#)

Choosing Wisely Summit in October

Attention health care providers! Bring your quality team to learn more about the efforts underway across Washington and leave better equipped to support your organization in reducing unnecessary waste and harm. Breakout sessions will include EMR integration, risk management, communication skill building, measuring performance and change management. [Visit the WSMA website to register.](#)

When: October 30, 2015, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Where: SeaTac Marriott

NEW MEMBERS

This month, we're excited to welcome Confluence Health to the Alliance. Founded in July, 2013, Confluence Health is an affiliation between Central Washington Hospital and Wenatchee Valley Medical Center. [Learn more.](#)

ON THE BLOG

Who defines good patient experience?

Have you ever been in a store, where you found what you were looking for – quickly even – but your experience was so bad you vowed never to go back again? The same is true in health care, though the stakes are so much higher. It's not just about getting care quickly. Your experience as a patient matters – not only for your perception of your care, but for your outcome. [Read the blog post.](#)

Improving Washington's grade on price transparency

No one likes a failing grade. But in the 2015 Catalyst for Payment Reform (CPR) – Health Care Incentives Improvement Institute [Report Card on State Price Transparency Laws](#), Washington didn't fare too well. **In fact, we got an F.** Nearly all states did, and have for the three years the report has been issued, because of ongoing challenges to enacting price transparency nationwide. The bottom line is this: 90 percent of states fail to provide adequate price information to consumers. [Read the blog post.](#)

NEWS TO KNOW

[Washington state gets an 'F' in health care pricing transparency | Puget Sound Business Journal](#)

[Hospitals focus on patient satisfaction | Business Examiner](#)

[To reduce unnecessary care, Choosing Wisely moves from](#)

on Twitter [@WAHealthCheckup](#).

Follow the Alliance on LinkedIn

We invite you to follow the Alliance on our [LinkedIn company page](#).

The Washington Health Alliance brings together those who give, get and pay for health care to create a high-quality, affordable system for the people of Washington state.

awareness to implementation | *Health Affairs Blog*

New formula aims to help weigh value of cancer treatments | *The Wall Street Journal*

Supreme Court to decide on all-payer claims database challenge
| *Fierce Health Payer*
