

# UPDATE for the Community



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In a victory for health care transparency, the Washington State Legislature, with strong bipartisan support, [passed a bill](#) to establish a functional, state-mandated All-Payer Claims Database (APCD), which is a good step forward in giving health care purchasers and consumers more information about pricing among health care providers in our state. [Read more from our executive director.](#)

## ALLIANCE UPDATES

### Aligning Forces for Quality program ends, but our work continues

Last April brought to a close the Washington Health Alliance's participation in the [Aligning Forces for Quality \(AF4Q\) program](#). AF4Q has been the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's signature effort to lift the overall quality of health care in targeted communities and provide models for national reform. Getting in on the ground floor of this program in 2006 was a tremendous opportunity for the newly formed Alliance. [Read more about the impact of Aligning Forces on the Alliance.](#)

### Thank you to our community meeting hosts in eastern Washington

Our next Community Checkup report will for the first time display quality results for medical groups and clinics in Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Kittitas, and Yakima counties. In advance of the new reports, we held public meetings earlier this month in these communities to talk about the Alliance and public reporting of health care quality and to learn more about local quality improvement efforts. Read more about how transparency and performance measurement are being embraced across the state in our [executive director's letter](#).

### Joining the Alliance

Are you interested in learning more about membership in the Alliance? [Learn more at our new join us website.](#)

### JOIN US

Interested in learning more about joining the Alliance? Learn more about [the value of Alliance membership](#).

### LEARN MORE

### 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. The website is regularly updated with new information and data; for example, new results for hospital measures from the Leapfrog Group and Hospital Compare. [Learn more.](#)

### Follow the Alliance on Twitter

We invite you to follow the Alliance 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.*

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## NEW MEMBERS

This month, we're excited to welcome a brand new member, Compass Professional Health Services, and a returning member, Vera Whole Health, to the Alliance. Both bring expertise in innovative health care delivery models. [Learn more](#).

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## ON THE BLOG

### [Four keys to success for value-based payment reform](#)

For many people, the first time they heard about “value-based” payment is with the passage of the “doc fix” bill, which averts a 21-percent cut in Medicare payments to doctors while at the same time moving future reimbursement to pay-for-performance and away from traditional fee-for-service medicine. But for the last four years, a team of researchers from the University of Washington has been [evaluating seven value-based payment reform pilot programs](#) (funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) in six states – Washington, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts – to identify keys to their success, barriers discovered along the way and lessons to inform policymakers and practitioners.

### [AF4Q and taking local action to transform health care](#)

With the end of April came the end of the Washington Health Alliance's participation in the [Aligning Forces for Quality \(AF4Q\) program](#). AF4Q has been the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's (RWJF) signature effort to lift the overall quality of health care in targeted communities and provide models for national reform. The Alliance was one of the first four pilot sites selected by RWJF in July 2006 to launch the AF4Q program; the three other organizations included Minnesota Community Measurement, the Greater Detroit Area Health Council and the Memphis Business Group on Health. The AF4Q program became a highly competitive national grant program that lasted nine years and ultimately included 16 states and communities across the country – impacting 37 million people, 600 hospitals and more than 30,000 primary care physicians.

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## WHERE WE'RE SPEAKING

### [Pharmacy Quality Alliance 10th Annual National Meeting](#)

May 14, Arlington, VA (Conference)

### [National Readmission Summit 2015](#)

May 28, Seattle, WA (Conference).

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## NEWS TO KNOW

[Overkill | The New Yorker](#)

[How Americans can get a better deal on health care | Group Health Research Institute](#)

[Implementing Value-Based Payment Reform: Learning From The Field Of Practice | Health Affairs Blog](#)

