

# UPDATE for the Community



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Last month, the Alliance, in partnership with the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA), unveiled the first set of results for the [Washington State Common Measure Set for Health Care Quality and Cost](#), a set of 52 measures that enable a common way of tracking important elements of health and how well the health care system is performing. Measuring the performance of our health care system is an important step toward identifying where it can be improved, but the HCA is taking the Common Measure Set to the next level, by incorporating 19 of the measures into [UMP-Plus](#), a new benefit option for Washington State public employees in the Puget Sound region. [Read more from our executive director.](#)

## ALLIANCE UPDATES

### Still time to register! Learn how to engage patients through shared decision making

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Washington Health Alliance, the Washington State Health Care Authority and Group Health Cooperative are co-sponsoring two free, one-day train-the-trainer workshops on the SHARE approach, a five-step process for shared decision making. The master trainer workshops will train health care leaders who will in turn go back to their organizations and communities to train others in shared decision making. These workshops are the launch of a statewide learning network to support ongoing implementation of shared decision making.

***The Washington Health Care Authority is pleased to provide a limited number of scholarships to offset travel expenses. [Apply here](#) (Note: preference is for participants living over 100 miles from the venues).***

- [Register for the February 2 workshop \(9 spots left\)](#)
- [Register for the February 4 workshop \(26 spots left\)](#)

## LEARN MORE

### 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 on Twitter [@WAHealthCheckup](#).

### Follow the Alliance on LinkedIn

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

*The Washington Health Alliance*

## Register today for a half-day, interactive workshop for health care purchasers (March 1, 2016)

Employers and other purchasers are often frustrated by the high cost of health care. Do you have a strategic understanding of the role that health care purchasing plays in your corporate bottom line? Do you know which providers actually deliver value? Would you like to be in the driver's seat with your broker or health care plan? Are you delegating decision-making inside your organization but not sure if you are planning for the future? If you answered yes to any of these questions – this free workshop is for you. [Register for Moving the Health Care Market to Value: Leveraging the Power of Purchasers.](#)

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

## Save the date! Washington Colorectal Roundtable

The first Washington Colorectal Cancer Roundtable will be March 25, 2016 at the Conference Center at the SeaTac Airport. The event is co-hosted by the American Cancer Society and Healthier Communities, Washington. More information about the event will be coming soon. [Learn more about the 80% by 2018 Colon Cancer Screening Challenge.](#)

## Community Checkup and Washington State Common Measure Set results now online

The Alliance has published the first results for the Washington State Common Measure Set for Health Care Quality and Cost, as well as results for the ninth Community Checkup, on the [Community Checkup website](#). The website includes first-ever medical group and clinic-level results for six new counties, as well as reports on health plans and ACHs.

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## ON THE BLOG

[Helping employees find high-value health care](#)

[The Common Measure Set: a transformative tool for benefit strategy](#)

[New study finds stark difference in prices between private insurance and Medicare](#)

## NEWS TO KNOW

[Patients struggle with high drug prices | \*The Washington Post\*](#)

[Why Washington state patients are unlikely to see health care price transparency any time soon | \*Puget Sound Business Journal\*](#)

[Online database aims to help health care consumers in Yakima Valley, across state make the right choices | \*Yakima Herald\*](#)

[Taking stock of Choosing Wisely | \*Health Affairs\*](#)

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