

# UPDATE for the Community



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It has been an eventful summer for the Alliance, and I want to update you on the Alliance's direction in the coming months. As you know, the state decided to select two out-of-state vendors to run the WA-APCD, and it is fair to ask how that decision will impact the Alliance's core work of convening and performance measurement and reporting. The Alliance will continue in our role as a trusted convener, for which we have a well-established reputation. But our work as the state's voluntary All-Payer Claims Database is far from over. In fact, we intend to not only continue our APCD but to expand it. [Read more from our executive director.](#)

## ALLIANCE UPDATES

- [New report shows show where you live has impact on opioid prescriptions, other treatments and procedures](#)
- [Choosing Wisely® report shows variation between counties remains high](#)
- [Dorothy Teeter and Nancy Giunto to speak about health care transformation at State of Reform](#)
- [CPIN webinar: Honoring Choices® Pacific Northwest \(September 28, 2016\)](#)
- [We're hiring!](#)
- [Joining the Alliance](#)

### **New report shows show where you live has impact on opioid prescriptions, other treatments and procedures**

The Alliance recently published the report *Different Regions, Different Care: A Report on Procedure Rate Variation in Washington State*. For the first time, the Alliance was able to look at rate variation for the entire state and for a greater number of procedures and treatments. This report also breaks down results by age and gender, which can illuminate other differences in the volume of care patients receive. Of particular importance in the report's findings were opioid prescription patterns, which varied significantly among regions, as the chart below shows. The Alliance hopes that the data will lead to further action to address the problem of opioid addiction. [Read the report.](#)

## LEARN MORE

### Join Us

Are you interested in learning 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.](#)

### NEW! Follow the Alliance on Facebook

We invite you to follow the Alliance on Facebook.

### 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.

### **Choosing Wisely® report shows variation between counties remains high**

The Alliance issued another report in August on variation. The report, *Less Harm, Less Waste: Choosing Wisely in Washington State*, offers county-by-county results for 10 different Choosing Wisely® recommendations. The report was released in conjunction with the Washington State Choosing Wisely Task Force, a group of more than 20 medical leaders from the largest health care organizations in the state. The Task Force is co-sponsored by the Alliance, the Washington State Medical Association (WSMA) and the Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA). We want to thank Qualis Health for supplementing the available data with Medicare results for three measures in the report. [Read the report.](#)

### **Dorothy Teeter and Nancy Giunto to speak about health care transformation at State of Reform**

State of Reform is a biannual health policy conference that brings together health care leaders, legislators and other policy makers to foster a dialog. The 2016 Inland NW State of Reform Health Policy Conference in Spokane on September 14 will focus on the opportunities and challenges facing our health care system on the east side of Washington. Our executive director, Nancy Giunto, will be sharing the stage with Dorothy Teeter, director of the Washington State Health Care Authority, to talk about health care transformation in our state. [Learn more about the conference.](#)

### **CPIN webinar: Honoring Choices® Pacific Northwest (September 28, 2016)**

Learn more about the Honoring Choices® Pacific Northwest program, sponsored by the Washington State Medical Association and the Washington State Hospital Association. The Clinical Performance Improvement Network is an educational program designed to assist physician practices' efforts on quality improvement. *This activity has been approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™.* [Register online.](#)

### **We're hiring!**

Do you know someone who wants to join with like-minded individuals and health care industry leaders to successfully transform the health care system in Washington state? We have an exciting opportunity to join our team: **Senior Health Data Analyst.** [Learn more about Alliance careers on our website.](#)

### **Joining the Alliance**

Are you interested in learning more about membership in the Alliance? [Learn more about the value of Alliance membership.](#)

---

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Welcome Orexigen Therapeutics and rebmeM as the newest members of the Alliance. [Read more.](#)

---

## **ON THE BLOG**

[New Washington Health Alliance report finds that where people live influences their likelihood of getting opioid prescriptions and other treatments and procedures \[press release\]](#)

*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.*

Price transparency gets graded in new report

Alliance leverages voluntary APCD as a public resource for promoting transparency

---

---