

# UPDATE for the Community



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The new year has just begun, but the Alliance is already off to a busy start. Earlier this week, the Alliance and The Bree Collaborative issued a call to action, inviting health care leaders across the state to join a coordinated response to Washington state's opioid addiction crisis. The impetus for this call to action came from the Alliance's Quality Improvement Committee. Joining with The Bree Collaborative, they decided they were in a unique position, as a group of clinician leaders, to reach providers and health plans with the message of concrete actions that they can take to stem the epidemic. Letters have been sent to chief medical officers at major health care systems and to health plans in our state, with specific recommendations and actions they can take. [Read more from our executive director.](#)

## ALLIANCE UPDATES

- [The Alliance and The Dr. Robert Bree Collaborative issue call to action for providers and health plans to address opioid prescribing for acute, short-term pain](#)
- [Community Checkup Report released at All-Alliance Meeting on December 7](#)
- [New Choosing Wisely® section launches on Own Your Health website](#)
- [We're hiring!](#)
- [Joining the Alliance!](#)

### **The Alliance and The Dr. Robert Bree Collaborative issue call to action for providers and health plans to address opioid prescribing for acute, short-term pain**

The Alliance and The Dr. Robert Bree Collaborative issued a call to action earlier this week inviting health care leaders across the state to join a coordinated response to Washington state's opioid epidemic. The call to action engages providers, health plans and consumers in order to prevent addiction before it starts. Recommendations ask providers to use evidence-based prescribing practices for acute, short-term pain. Health plans are asked to use health data to identify patterns of overprescribing and high utilization. And patients are encouraged to ask questions and explore other options when prescribed an opioid.

## 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.](#)

### **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.](#)

***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.*

### **More information about the call to action**

- [Press release](#)
- [Call to action for health care systems](#)
- [Call to action for health insurance plans](#)
- [Opioid prescribing guidelines for providers \(fact sheet\)](#)
- [Opioid medication & pain: what you need to know \(fact sheet\)](#)
- [Alliance report highlighting opioid prescribing patterns in Washington state](#)

### **Community Checkup Report released at All-Alliance Meeting on December 7**

The 2016 Community Checkup report, which includes the second set of results for the Washington State Common Measure Set for Health Care Quality and Cost, was released this week. The report finds that unwarranted variation continues to be a problem in our state. This pattern of significant variation underscores how important it is that we continue to measure, analyze and report results to target opportunities for improvement. The Alliance had planned to release the results on a new Community Checkup website, however, the launch of the new website has been delayed. [Read the report and access select results.](#)

### **New Choosing Wisely® section launches on Own Your Health website**

The goal of Choosing Wisely is to help providers and patients have conversations about the overuse of tests, treatments and procedures and support provider efforts to help patients make smart and effective care choices. The articles in this new section on the Own Your Health website can help consumers make informed decisions about their health care and help them talk to their about options for treatment. [Browse the new Choosing Wisely section on Own Your Health.](#)

### **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 two exciting opportunity to join our team: **Communications Manager** and **Senior Health Data Analyst**. [Learn more about Alliance careers on our website.](#)

### **Joining the Alliance**

Our members can be the best ambassadors for work, and we have an online tool to help you talk about the value of Alliance membership. [Learn more at our Join Us website.](#)

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## **2016 COMMUNITY CHECKUP**

[2016 Community Checkup Report: Improving Health Care in Washington State](#)

[2016 Community Checkup Chart Pack: Graphs and Figures](#)

[2016 Community Checkup County Results: Adams-Garfield](#)

[2016 Community Checkup County Results: Grant-Pacific](#)

[2016 Community Checkup County Results: Pend Oreille-Yakima](#)

[2016 Community Checkup Accountable Communities of Health Results](#)

[2016 Community Checkup Health Plan Results](#)

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## **ON THE BLOG**

[Alliance launches 2016 Community Checkup report](#)

[Transparency in health care is the new normal](#)

[Governor Inslee announces executive order to address opioid epidemic](#)

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