

# UPDATE for the Community



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March was a turbulent month for the health care industry as the American Health Care Act (ACHA) was introduced and then withdrawn from Congress. Discussion of the bill dominated the news, and there are rumblings that a second attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) may be made soon.

No matter where you stand on the political spectrum, the reality is that no health care plan will resolve the nation's health care crisis without first lowering the cost of care. The AHCA – like the ACA – focuses primarily on insurance coverage. But coverage will not be affordable until health care is affordable – which means the Alliance's mission remains vitally important. [Read more from our executive director.](#)

## ALLIANCE UPDATES

- [CPIN Webinar – Choosing Wisely: Statewide antimicrobial stewardship initiatives](#)
- [Community Checkup website demonstration on May 3](#)
- [Care Transitions Conference to be held on May 10](#)
- [Register for the annual Northwest Patient Safety Conference on May 11](#)
- [Register for the Communication Access in Healthcare forum on May 11](#)
- [CPIN Webinar – Translating data to action: Improving opioid prescribing patterns](#)
- [We're hiring!](#)
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### **CPIN Webinar – Choosing Wisely: Statewide antimicrobial stewardship initiatives**

Join a free webinar on Wednesday, April 26 from 12-1 p.m. Marisa D'Angeli, MD, MPH, the Medical Epidemiologist of Preparedness/Healthcare Associated Infections at the Washington Department of Health, and Sharon Eloranta, MD, the Medical Director of Quality and Safety at Qualis Health will outline two current initiatives regarding outpatient antimicrobial stewardship in

## 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,***

Washington state. They will review the state-endorsed clinical practice guidelines for five antimicrobial stewardship-related infectious syndromes in the outpatient setting, describe how Choosing Wisely and antimicrobial stewardship priorities align, and identify strategies to leverage the multiple efforts to improve your practice. For more information and to register, please visit: [www.wsma.org/CPIN](http://www.wsma.org/CPIN).

### Community Checkup website demonstration on May 3

Make sure you're getting the most out of the [Community Checkup website](#). Join the Alliance's Director of Communication and Development, John Gallagher, on May 3 at 10 a.m. for a webinar demonstrating how to use the site and its various functionalities. There will also be dedicated time for participants to ask questions about using the site. [Register for the webinar](#).

### Care Transitions Conference to be held on May 10

On Wednesday, May 10, 2017, join health and human services providers from throughout the Puget Sound region to discuss patient- and family-centered transitions of care in Des Moines, WA

The conference continues a community conversation that began in 2012 when south King County hospital and home health care administrators, discharge planners, nurses, physicians, pharmacists, policymakers, social service providers, community leaders, and consumers met to discuss new ways to work together to decrease avoidable hospital admissions. Readmissions contribute significantly to the cost of health care—costs borne by insurance companies, hospitals, taxpayers (Medicaid and Medicare), patients, and families.

This sixth annual conference is open to anyone engaged in improving health care quality and transitions of care. Stakeholders in King, Snohomish, Pierce, and Kitsap counties are particularly encouraged to participate. Based upon previous participation, it is anticipated that 300 individuals will attend the 2017 conference, representing more than 75 organizations. [Register for the conference](#).

### Register for the annual Northwest Patient Safety Conference on May 11

The 15th Annual Northwest Patient Safety Conference is a full day event being held in SeaTac on May 11, and featuring keynote speaker David Classen, CMIO of Pascal Metrics, and plenary speaker, Dorothy Teeter, director of the Washington State Healthcare Authority. The only comprehensive patient safety event in the Northwest, this conference brings together hundreds of regional health care leaders. [Learn more and register for the conference](#).

### Register for the Communication Access in Healthcare forum on May 11

Members of the Deaf and DeafBlind Community, the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services' Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and the Department of Justice invite you to Washington's first forum on Communication Access in Healthcare: Barriers and Solutions for Communicating with Deaf and DeafBlind Patients. Held in Tukwila on May 11, stakeholders

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



WA Health Alliance



1,377 followers

3,257 tweets

following 760 people

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#### Latest Tweets

- RT @HRiAInstitute: Finding the story in your data helps make the work your coalition is conducting more meaningful & accessible - @SusanDen... 11:37AM
- RT @AChenTPCHD: #ChoosingWisely helping docs & patients talk about overuse of tests & procedures, make smart and effective care choices [htt...](#) 11:36AM
- No matter your politics, reality is that health coverage will not be affordable until #healthcare is affordable <https://t.co/GNy7AkW5B7> 11:30AM
- New letter from our Executive Director: Improving the #healthsystem requires all of us. <https://t.co/tMZWYXl31l> 10:25AM
- RT @WSMA\_update: Much of public health work is done behind scenes, but has huge impact on our daily lives #NationalPublicHealthWeek <https://t.co/...> 9:47AM

from across the health care field are asked to come together to discuss effective communication access for Deaf and DeafBlind patients. To learn more and register, [email forum coordinator Ellie Savidge](#).

### **CPIN Webinar – Translating data to action: Improving opioid prescribing patterns**

Join a free webinar on Wednesday, May 24 from 12-1 p.m. John Gallagher, the Director of Communication and Development at the Washington Health Alliance; Kathy Lofy, MD, the State Health Officer at the Washington State Department of Health; and Jeb Shepard, Associate Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs at the Washington State Medical Association will explain the various ways in which users can view data on the new Community Checkup website. They will identify variation in opioid prescribing across Washington state and describe opportunities for providers to improve prescribing patterns. For more information and to register, please visit: [www.wsma.org/CPIN](http://www.wsma.org/CPIN).

### **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**

Do you know someone who would like to learn more about membership in the Alliance? Our members can be the best ambassadors for our 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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## **ON THE BLOG**

[Celebrating 5 years of Choosing Wisely](#)

[Washington climbing rankings for health system performance](#)

[Washington state not immune to “deaths of despair”](#)

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