

UPDATE for the Community



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2014 Washington became one of the first states to agree upon a common measure set for health care quality and cost. The impetus was to align measurement efforts across a wide variety of organizations, send a common message about performance accountability and create the basis for purchasing health care based on better value, i.e., high quality at an affordable price.

That version of the Common Measure Set was a “starter set,” intended to be a first iteration that evolved over time. Because the work of improving health and health care is ongoing, the Common Measure Set adapts to changing conditions to include other priority issues and sources of data. The most recent updates focus on pediatric-related measures that will help more Washington children have a healthy start to life. [Read more from our executive director.](#)

ALLIANCE UPDATES

- [CPIN Webinar – Translating data to action: Improving opioid prescribing patterns](#)
- [Hey health care providers, did you know?](#)
- [New Community Checkup highlight shows HPV vaccinations in Washington](#)
- [Community Checkup demonstration webinar available](#)
- [May is Global Employee Health & Fitness Month](#)
- [We're hiring!](#)
- [Joining the Alliance!](#)

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

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](#).

register, please visit: www.wsma.org/CPIN.

Hey health care providers, did you know?

Sometimes, the Washington Health Alliance just hears about a program that they want to promote because of the benefits that it offers to people in need. Here is a great example: Angel Flight West. A member of the Alliance's Purchaser Affinity Group is a pilot and volunteers his time with this program. As a health care provider, we thought you'd like to know about it.

Sometimes, your patient needs care that your facility can't offer. So you refer them to a specialist. The patient's insurance -- private or public -- will cover the treatment but they have no way to get there. And when the destination is hundreds of miles away, getting there can seem impossible.

That's where Angel Flight West comes in. With a network of volunteer pilots and commercial airline partners, AFW arranges more than 4,000 flights each year throughout the 13 Western states. In Washington state, using their network of about 160 Washington-based pilots, over 600 of these flights were arranged in 2016.

It's all free. There's no charge to the passenger, the physician or hospital, or the requester. AFW's generous pilots donate all costs.

To learn more about how Angel Flight West can help, please call (888) 426-2643 or visit the website, www.angelflightwest.org.

New Community Checkup highlight shows HPV vaccinations in Washington

An estimated 80 million Americans have HPV, and the CDC reports that in the U.S., more than 1 in 5 adults aged 18-59 has high-risk HPV. The good news is that most HPV-caused cancers can be prevented with a vaccine. HPV vaccines are safe and highly effective in preventing infection from certain types of HPV when given before a person is exposed to the virus, starting at age 9. However, according to the 2016 Community Checkup, on average, just 17 percent of adolescent boys and 22 percent of adolescent girls in Washington state received the recommended doses of HPV vaccine. [Read the highlight](#).

Community Checkup demonstration webinar available

The Alliance's Director of Communication and Development, John Gallagher, recently hosted a webinar demonstrating some of the many features of the Community Checkup website. Topics covered include how to compare scores, view scores by topic, how to interpret the results, and much more. [Watch the recording](#).

May is Global Employee Health & Fitness Month

Global Employee Health and Fitness Month is dedicated to encouraging employers from all sectors—public, private, and nonprofit— to promote fitness and encourage employees and their families to be physically active on a regular basis. [Learn more](#) and take the pledge to make physical activity a priority in your workplace.

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

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.

 WA Health Alliance



1,389 followers
3,326 tweets
following 779 people

[follow](#)

Latest Tweets

- RT @wapatientsafety: "#Disparities really do exist in #diabetes communities." L. Packard @QualisHealth RE: #inequities in care. #WPSC2017 h... 10:53AM
- RT @QualisHealth: We're excited to share today at the Northwest Patient Safety Conference #WPSC2017. Visit our booth! #QIO 10:52AM
- New Executive Director letter: Updates to Common Measure Set focus on #pediatrics <https://t.co/qm3BtwEOHG> 1:21PM
- RT @IHME_UW: We're living longer — but just how long varies across Washington, study shows <https://t.co/wTWqn9RdVV> via @seattletimes 10:44AM
- RT @cnnhealth: Life expectancy differs by 20 years between some US counties, new research shows <https://t.co/hCTLyUILKt> <https://t.co/j2GIMV...> 9:38AM

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.](#)

ON THE BLOG

[Washington state health care variation confirmed in new report](#)

[HPV vaccination rates in Washington remain stubbornly low](#)

[Celebrating 5 years of Choosing Wisely](#)
