

UPDATE for the Community



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

While we did take a few minutes to watch the eclipse last month, there was no summer lull for us at the Alliance. We released our first [Hospital Value Report](#), welcomed three new members (Columbia Valley Community Health, Spark Therapeutics, and Trutina Financial), presented on our opioids work at a national conference, and recruited a stellar panel for our upcoming All-Alliance meeting.

In addition, I am pleased to announce that the Alliance has received a scholarship through the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement's Getting to Affordability initiative, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, for registration and travel to the [National Affordability Summit](#) in Washington, D.C. on September 27th. [Read more from our Executive Director.](#)

ALLIANCE UPDATES

- [Penn State course using Community Checkup to show consumer choices in health care](#)
- [Alliance presents on opioids at NRHI summit](#)
- [As new report shows colorectal cancer rates rising, Washington lags in appropriate screening](#)
- [Registration open for free conference on practice transformation success](#)
- [Register for the Northwest Communication and Resolution Program Leader Retreat](#)
- [Save the Date: Healthier Washington Symposium is Oct. 18-19](#)
- [Download the new Choosing Wisely iPhone app](#)
- [Joining the Alliance!](#)

Penn State course using Community Checkup to show consumer choices in health care

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



In a [new Alliance blog](#), we hear from an instructor at Penn State who teaches a course on Consumer Choices in Health Care. Her classes use the Community

Checkup to learn about tools available to health care consumers and students engage in practice scenarios where they need to find data to help inform care decisions. [Learn more](#) about the exciting ways the Community Checkup is being used at Penn State.



Alliance presents on opioids at NRHI summit

The Alliance was one of seven organizations chosen to present at a Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI) summit, "[Leading Transformation Efforts to Improve Health](#)." The event was held August 15 in Madison, WI, and brought together national thought leaders and regional health improvement collaboratives. John Gallagher, Director of Communication and Development for the Alliance, presented on our work addressing the opioid epidemic in Washington state. He discussed moving the data results in the [Different Regions, Different Care](#) report to the [infographics](#) developed for consumers and providers in partnership with the Bree Collaborative.

As new report shows colorectal cancer rates rising, Washington lags in appropriate screening



A new study from the American Cancer Society published in JAMA shows that rates of colorectal cancer are rising among younger adults, ages 20-54.

Colorectal cancer is the second-most common cancer in Washington and the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in the state. In 2011, over 1,000 Washington residents died of this disease. [Read our new Alliance blog](#) about how Washington state can improve colorectal cancer screening rates.



Registration open for free conference on practice transformation success

Steering Toward Success: Achieving Value in Whole-Person Care is a free, one-day conference designed to help behavioral health agencies, primary

care practices, providers and interested stakeholders who are transitioning to whole-person care. This conference will provide an opportunity to learn best practices, strategies, and the latest information on practice transformation including value-based care, and physical and behavioral health integration, from some of the state's leading experts. The conference is presented by the Healthier Washington Practice Transformation Support Hub and its partners, including the Alliance. The conference will be offered on Sept. 25 in Tacoma and on Oct. 26 in Moses Lake. [Learn more](#).

Register for the Northwest Communication and Resolution Program Leader Retreat

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.



1,421 followers
3,442 tweets
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Latest Tweets

- Register for our upcoming All Alliance meeting on "How Data Informs Action." Open to Alliance members only. <https://t.co/NMjqOABWlD> 11:37AM
- Ask These 5 Questions to Save on Health Care <https://t.co/thGb4X3id3> #ChoosingWisely @ConsumerReports @ABIMFoundation 10:28AM
- The Alliance's John Gallagher provides tips on #healthcare cost-saving measures: <https://t.co/RcynlQJgE9> 10:22AM
- @HCSRN Thanks so much for sharing and for the kind words! 4:59PM
- The Alliance's John Gallagher provides tips in this article on how to avoid potentially unnecessary care. <https://t.co/RYXb6Sxm91> 8:57AM



Learn how your organization can implement an effective communication and resolution program at this retreat for healthcare leaders. The retreat, titled

“Achieving Benefits, Avoiding Pitfalls,” will be held at the Seattle Airport Marriott on Sept. 27-28. The retreat is hosted by the Collaborative for Accountability and Improvement and The Foundation for Health Care Quality. [Register here.](#)



Save the Date: Healthier Washington Symposium is Oct. 18-19

The Healthier Washington Symposium brings together key partners from around the state to learn, collaborate and engage. Partners are invited to bring new ideas and proposals for

strengthening Healthier Washington efforts, and have opportunities for reaction and dialogue. This year the theme is “A Commitment to Value.” [Learn more here.](#)



Download the new Choosing Wisely iPhone app

The ABIM Foundation has launched a [Choosing Wisely iPhone app](#) to further awareness of the campaign among clinicians and patients. The app makes the 500 specialty society recommendations available at the touch of an iPhone screen with iPad and Android apps coming soon.

Providers can search the recommendations using keywords as well as filter by specialty, age, setting and service (i.e., imaging, medication, treatment, lab, test). Additionally, recommendations are linked to relevant patient-friendly resources which consumers can share via text or email.

Joining the Alliance

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about membership in the Alliance, we have an online tool to help you learn about the value of Alliance membership. [Learn more at our Join Us website.](#)