

UPDATE for the Community



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I'm pleased to announce that the Alliance has just released a new highlight with [statewide opioid prescribing rate data](#) as part of our Different Regions, Different Care series. The highlight shows that more than 1 in 8 Washingtonians received an opioid prescription in the latest measurement year, and that prescription rates vary greatly depending on where you live in the state.

Our new and enhanced interactive dashboard lets you sort the data by Hospital Referral Region and Health Service Area, and for the first time you can view results based on payer type and see variation between the commercially and Medicaid insured populations. [Read more from our Executive Director.](#)

ALLIANCE UPDATES

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All-Alliance Meeting

Register for All-Alliance Meeting on Dec. 7: Community Checkup Release

Register today for our next All-Alliance Meeting on Thursday, Dec. 7, where we will be releasing the 2017 Community

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

Checkup report! The meeting will be held at Cambia Grove, with networking from 2-2:30 and the program from 2:30-4. [Register now.](#)



Castlight Health Strengthens Health Navigation Platform with Washington Health Alliance Partnership

Castlight Health, Inc. announced a new partnership with the Washington Health Alliance, the state's leader in healthcare cost and quality transparency. The partnership integrates Castlight's comprehensive health navigation platform with Washington state's largest healthcare cost and quality database to help the state's Castlight customers, including Boeing, Esterline Technologies, Microsoft and Providence Health & Services and their employees make smarter health benefits and healthcare decisions. [Read the press release.](#)



Choosing Wisely Summit Recap

On October 27, attendees at the Choosing Wisely Summit in Seattle tackled a variety of topics related to implementing Choosing Wisely in their organizations. Local and national stakeholders gathered to bust myths, create strategies to build meaningful rapport and compelling reports, and connect Choosing Wisely to other quality improvement strategies.

Members of the Washington State Choosing Wisely Task Force generously shared their time and proven strategies. These included tackling the more challenging Choosing Wisely recommendations, incorporating Choosing Wisely metrics into quality improvement dashboards and performance measurement, and implementation strategies in medical groups, hospitals and health systems. We were also fortunate to have speakers representing the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Foundation, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Consumer Reports, Puget Sound Energy, the Washington State Health Advocacy Association, and Susie Dade spoke on behalf of the Alliance. Each shared specifics related to the importance of decreasing low-value care and increasing quality communication between providers and patients.

Many thanks to all who attended and for your continued efforts to infuse Choosing Wisely practices in your organizations!



Update on the Alliance's Patient Experience Survey

The third wave of mailed surveys for the Alliance's patient experience survey went out at the end of October. This third mailing is intended to boost the response rates for approximately 45 clinics that have not yet reached their target number of completed surveys. It looks very promising that we will have statistically

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.



WA Health Alliance



1,446 followers
3,527 tweets
following 808 people

follow

Latest Tweets

- Excellent Health Affairs post from @lizzymitch2 of @RegHealthImp about the road to affordability in health care. <https://t.co/zHzbxMvXnv> 7:30AM
- More than half of all #opioid overdose deaths in Washington involve a prescription opioid. <https://t.co/yI0yxPm6HQ> 12:41PM
- New decision aids from @WA_Health_Care will assist people with hip or knee osteoarthritis who are considering joint... <https://t.co/Qy0OxFOyP> 12:31PM
- Make sure to check out our new report on #opioids in WA state. <https://t.co/yI0yxPm6HQ> 11:49AM
- "The Alliance's all-payer-claims database will offer @CastlightHealth employer customers and their employees object... <https://t.co/pXqr9i9cSR> 9:43AM

reliable and publicly reportable results for approximately 340 primary care clinics statewide. We still expect to report results during the 1st quarter of 2018.



Inslee Announces New Director of State Health Care Authority

Gov. Jay Inslee announced the appointment of Susan Birch as director of the Washington State Health Care Authority. Lou McDermott, who has served as interim director since the departure of Dorothy Frost Teeter in June, will become deputy director.

Birch is currently the executive director of the Colorado Department of Health Policy and Financing. Over the past six years she has overseen public insurance, health delivery and policy development, and implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Colorado. [Read the announcement.](#)



Health Care Authority supports better patient outcomes by certifying decision aids for knee or hip surgery

The Health Care Authority (HCA), in its ongoing work to support people in making informed health decisions, has certified four patient decision aids (PDAs) to assist people with hip or knee osteoarthritis who are considering joint replacement surgery. [Read the news release.](#)



Choosing Wisely: A Special Report on the First Five Years

A new report highlighting the accomplishments of the first five years of the Choosing Wisely campaign has been released by the ABIM Foundation.

The report outlines the many ways the campaign is inspiring conversations, projects and collaborations to reduce overuse in health care. [Read the report.](#)

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.](#)

NEW MEMBER

We're excited to welcome the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as a new member of the Alliance! [Learn more here.](#)