

UPDATE for the Community



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Dear <<First Name>>,

Health care waste – the overuse of low-value services – introduces the unnecessary risk of adverse physical and financial harm for patients, drives up costs for purchasers and insurers, and strains the system. This is a serious problem in health care. However, by quantifying low-value care in the system, we can establish a baseline, raise awareness, and spur action.

I am pleased to announce that the Alliance is utilizing Milliman's MedInsight Health Waste Calculator, a new analytic tool that highlights inefficient and unnecessary medical services based on evidence-based guidelines. We will be releasing our first results in early February, and the preliminary findings are stunning, showing that just a handful of health care services account for millions of dollars of waste in Washington. Only two other states in the country have utilized this tool, one of which has released results publicly. The public release of the Alliance's Washington state findings will enable a much-needed community dialogue among key stakeholders about low-value care.

But quantifying and putting a price tag on low-value health care is simply not enough. Through collaboration, we'll work together to determine the specific action steps we can take to eliminate potentially harmful waste through a variety of initiatives. I hope you will join us for the next All-Alliance meeting on Thursday, February 1 when we will release the report on low-value health care entitled, "First, Do No Harm" and also that you will collaborate with us to address the problems we reveal.

I also want to provide an update on our work with the State. Late last year, we learned that the Alliance would no longer be under contract to report on performance measurement work for the Washington State Common Measure Set on Health Care Quality

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

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We invite you to follow the Alliance on Twitter @WAHealthCheckup.

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and Cost. Instead, Oregon Health & Science University will be under contract to do the measurement work in its role as the lead organization for the Washington All-Payer Claims Database (WA-APCD).

[Read more from the Executive Director.](#)

ALLIANCE UPDATES

- Register for the All-Alliance Meeting: Health Waste Calculator Report
- Registration Now Open: *National Employer Summit: The Purchaser's Role in Driving Affordability*
- Patient Experience Survey Coming Soon, to be featured in Seattle Business magazine
- New Community Checkup Highlights Released
- State Employee Health Plans Can Be Leaders and Drivers of Value-Based Initiatives
- Washington Named One of Top 10 Healthiest States in the U.S.
- New Members: Amgen, Swenson Healthcare
- Joining the Alliance



Register for the All-Alliance Meeting: Health Waste Calculator Report

Please join us for our upcoming All-Alliance meeting on Thursday, Feb. 1 at Cambia Grove. There will be networking from 2:30-3 p.m., with the meeting from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

The meeting will feature the release and discussion of our new report, "First, Do No Harm." The Alliance utilized Milliman's MedInsight Health Waste Calculator, which has only been used in two other states in the country, to produce a groundbreaking analysis of waste and low-value health care services in Washington state. The results are striking, indicating significant opportunity to reduce health care services identified as overused through the national Choosing Wisely program.

In addition, we are excited to be joined by Dr. John Mafi and Dr. Matt Handley:

- Dr. Mafi is an assistant professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Dr. Mafi was the lead author on the third-most read Health Affairs article in 2017, "Low Cost, High Volume Health Services Contribute the Most to Unnecessary Health Spending."
- Dr. Handley is the Senior Medical Director for Quality and Safety with Kaiser Permanente Washington. Dr. Handley chairs the Washington State Choosing Wisely Task Force and is a tireless voice for evidence-based health care and reduction of overuse.

[Register today!](#)



Registration Now Open: *National Employer Summit: The Purchaser's Role in Driving Affordability*

Join the HealthDoers Network, the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement, and local host Washington Health Alliance, on March 6

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



1,484 followers
3,628 tweets
following 818 people

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Latest Tweets

- We're excited to be a partner in the #5PointsConference series at @CambiaGrove. The first event is Jan. 30. Register... <https://t.co/f6uwY1HZQa> 10:51AM
- RT @OR_QualityCare: Join @HealthDoers & @WAHealthCheckup in Seattle, WA March 6-7 to discuss the purchaser's role in driving #healthcare af... 1:15PM
- RT @CambiaGrove: "We need multistakeholder involvement to put the #data to use"- Nancy Giunto @WAHealthCheckup #undertheboughs <https://t.co...> 5:01PM
- RT @CambiaGrove: Nancy Giunto from @WAHealthCheckup talks about retrieving patient satisfaction data from surveys by asking "how engaged we..." 4:55PM
- RT @CambiaGrove: Kicking off 2018 with @MauraLittle & @WAHealthCheckup Nancy Giunto. Follow along with #undertheboughs <https://t.co/EUV0A8...> 4:24PM

& 7, 2018, as we convene healthcare leaders and employers to explore the role they can collectively play in bringing down the cost of healthcare. We'll discuss:

- Innovative solutions to value-based purchasing, benefit design and incentives, transparency, performance measurement, and policy barriers
- Solutions to overcome barriers for executing on payment reform
- How purchasers can lead efforts to advance healthcare affordability
- National and regional efforts, with an emphasis on how to develop regional partnerships aimed to support collaborative community efforts to meet national purchasers' needs

We are excited to feature national employer Boeing, as well as other leaders in this space, to provide their perspectives. Attendees will include employers, payers, and healthcare professionals/leaders from all over the U.S. who are interested in finding a solution to this growing problem. [Register here.](#)

Seattle
Business
MAGAZINE

LEADERS in
HEALTH CARE
2018



Fourth Patient Experience Survey Coming Soon

We are looking forward to the public release of our fourth Patient Experience Survey. We have statistically reliable and publicly reportable results for more than 330 primary care clinics statewide, and will be releasing our report in February. Also of note, *Seattle Business* magazine will be using our results to provide awards to the highest-performing medical groups. The winners will be announced at the [2018 Leaders in Health Care Awards](#) on March 1.



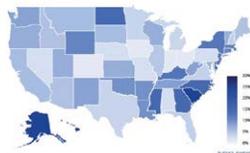
**COMMUNITY
CHECKUP**

New Community Checkup Highlights Released

As part of the new [Community Checkup](#), we have published three new highlights of health care in Washington state. These highlights call out specific measures and results from the Community Checkup and provide action steps to help all stakeholders improve. The new highlights are:

- [Overuse of the Emergency Room](#)
- [Well-Child Visits](#)
- [Health Care Spending](#)

Figure 1. State Employee Health Plan Enrollment as Fraction of State's Commercial Insurance Market



State Employee Health Plans Can Be Leaders and Drivers of Value-Based Initiatives

The Alliance contributed to a new issue brief from the Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy about specific strategies state employee health plans have successfully undertaken to improve quality and value. This brief, developed with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, highlights results that individual states have achieved, the context that made those

reforms possible, and implementation challenges. While this brief focuses on state employee health plans, large commercial payers and purchasers can also learn from the experiences of state employee health plans and their evidence on what works – and they can look to them as collaborators in multi-payer payment reform initiatives. [Read the issue brief.](#)



Washington Named One of Top 10 Healthiest States in the U.S.

A new report from the United Health Foundation has ranked Washington No. 9 on a list of healthiest states in the nation. The report, America's Health

Rankings, evaluated 35 core measures in five model categories: Behaviors, community and environmental conditions, policies, clinical care, and outcomes data. [Read more on the Alliance blog.](#)

NEW MEMBERS

We're excited to welcome Amgen and Swenson Healthcare as new members of the Alliance! [Learn more here.](#)

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.](#)

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IN THE NEWS

[Will Medical Marijuana Have a Place in Employee Health Plans?](#) – Society for Human Resource Management

[Sarah Patterson Named Executive Director of Virginia Mason Institute](#) – Press release

[CEO and president named for new Behavioral Health Hospital - MultiCare Health System](#)

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