

UPDATE for the Community



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Last week the Alliance released our new report on health care waste in Washington, “[First, Do No Harm](#),” and the response has been outstanding. The report has been featured in dozens of news stories, both nationally and locally, including [NPR](#) and [ProPublica](#), [Modern Healthcare](#), [MyNorthwest/KIRO](#), the [Tacoma News Tribune](#), and the [Spokesman-Review](#). I would also like to thank Cassie Sauer, president and CEO of WSHA, and Jennifer Hanscom, executive director and CEO of WSMA, for their public and private support of this work.

In addition, we had a full house at our All-Alliance meeting on Thursday and were treated to great discussion and presentations from Dr. John Mafi and Dr. Matt Handley. Alliance Deputy Director Susie Dade gave an overview of the findings from our report and outlined action steps stakeholders can take to reduce waste in health care.

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

ALLIANCE UPDATES

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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

- [We're Hiring!](#)



Patient Experience Survey Release and Webinars Upcoming

The Alliance's 2017 Patient Experience Survey, which has statistically reliable and publicly reportable results for more than 330 primary care clinics statewide, will be released on Thursday, Feb. 22. Susie Dade, deputy director of the Alliance, will be hosting two webinars, one on Feb. 22 and one on Feb. 26, from 3:30 – 4:30 on both days. The webinars will feature a presentation of results from the Survey and Susie will answer questions from the attendees. Register for the [Feb. 22 webinar here](#) or the [Feb. 26 webinar here](#).

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.



New Highlight: Variation in C-Section Rates

As part of its Different Regions, Different Care report, the Alliance is publishing highlights showing that rates of medical treatments and procedures vary greatly depending on where you live. Our new highlight on C-section rates shows that Yakima consistently has a lower C-section rate for both commercially- and Medicaid-insured women. And while Washington's state rate is below the national average, we still have room to improve. Learn more and view the interactive data visualization.



Register for 5 Points Conference: The Payor

The Alliance is an event partner on Cambia Grove's 5 Points Conference, a six-part event series during the first quarter of 2018. The goal is to lower the barrier of entry for innovators seeking to make changes in the health care system. The event is also geared to be a refresher course for those working in the health care system who are interested in understanding how each vertical works. [Register for the upcoming event on Thu, Feb. 15](#), which takes a deep dive into understanding the Payor.




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 & 7, 2018, as we convene healthcare leaders and employers to explore the role they can collectively play in bringing down the cost

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**

 1,499 followers
3,663 tweets
following 824 people

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Latest Tweets

- This is going to be a great conference. We hope to see you there! #AffordHC18 <https://t.co/lz9HOK8UE9> 11:03AM
- We've published new results on variation in #csection rates in #Washington state as part of our Different Regions,... <https://t.co/hdd12snzy9> 10:56AM
- @HealthDoers We've facilitated meetings between purchasers and plans to discuss challenges, priorities, and strateg... <https://t.co/Pi3F2b2ZR6> 10:49AM
- @HealthDoers It helps level the playing field and helps employers and employees be aware of cost, make informed decisions. 10:22AM
- @HealthDoers They're participating in RHICs, identifying waste in the system, and using their purchaser power to drive value. 10:10AM

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.](#)



HCA Implementing Opioid Clinical Policy for Uniform Medical Plan

The Washington State Health Care Authority has implemented an opioid clinical policy for the Uniform Medical Plan (UMP). UMP is the self-insured plan for Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) Program members. The focus is on opiate-naïve patients and on the transition from acute to chronic use since these are critical to reducing long-term opiate use and the risk of developing opiate use disorder. The policy limits the quantity of opioids that can be prescribed to opiate naïve patients for non-cancer pain. [Check out the news release](#) for additional information, or [read more on their website](#).



New RFP for Spinal Fusion Bundle Episode of Care Coming Mid-February

The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) will release a request for proposal (RFP) for Centers of Excellence to provide a spinal fusion bundle episode of care in Washington state. Bundled payments are a key strategy for HCA's move toward value-based purchasing. HCA's value-based purchasing roadmap includes the periodic roll-out of bundled payments for bundled episode of care benefits to members enrolled in an eligible Public Employees Benefits Board health plan. HCA will [post the RFP to their Bids and Contracts webpage](#) in mid-February.

NEW MEMBERS

We're excited to welcome Peninsula Community Health Services as the newest member 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.](#)

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: **Finance & Administration Manager.** [Learn more at our Careers webpage.](#)