

UPDATE for the Community



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

National and regional employers, health care providers, and other health care leaders convened in Seattle yesterday for a National Employer Summit addressing “The Purchaser’s Role in Driving Affordability.” Organized by the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement, with the Washington Health Alliance serving as local host, the Summit provided a forum for employers to discuss innovative ideas to curb the rising cost of health care. About 125 people attended the event, and I am pleased that 17 of the presenters were from the state of Washington, allowing us to showcase the amazing work we are doing together here.

Experts from Boeing, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, GE, and many others presented on and discussed the importance of bringing down the cost of health care by finding innovative solutions. These solutions can include value-based purchasing, challenging the status-quo through new benefit and policy designs, and being more transparent about the cost of 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.

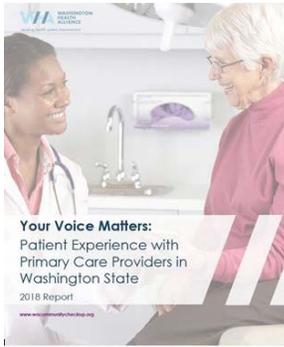
Follow the Alliance on Twitter

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We invite you to follow the Alliance

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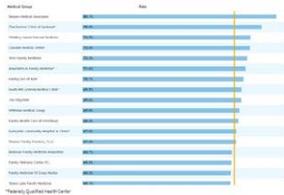


Patient Experience Survey Report Now Available

The Alliance has released its new Patient Experience Survey report, which has statistically reliable and publicly reportable results for 114 primary care medical groups and 351 clinics across the state. While many medical groups take steps to periodically assess their patients' experience using a variety of survey tools, the Alliance's initiative is

the only one of its kind to produce comparable, publicly available patient experience results for primary care providers in Washington state. [Read the full report \(PDF\)](#).

Detailed results from the 2017 patient experience survey are available for each clinic and medical group. Included in these detailed reports are the responses to every survey question, a key driver analysis, trending data from previous patient experience surveys and demographic data. These results are available to purchase for a modest price. Please contact Susie Dade at sdade@wahealthalliance.org for more information.



New Highlight: Patient Experience with Primary Care Providers

In conjunction with the release of the new Patient Experience Survey report, the Alliance also published a summary "Highlight" of the findings that includes interactive dashboards to sort the

results. "Patient-centeredness" is now widely accepted as a core dimension of health care quality and, as a result, there is heightened market focus on patient experience. Experience of care matters to patients and, for them, is an important differentiator among health care providers. [Learn more and view the interactive data visualization](#).



Seattle Business Magazine's Leaders in Healthcare Awards

On March 1, Seattle Business magazine hosted their 2018 Leaders in Health Care Awards, and we're thrilled that they used the results from

the Alliance's Patient Experience Survey to [honor the highest-performing organizations with the Patient Experience Award](#). Only four organizations in the state scored better than average in every category. In addition, Alliance Board Member Dr. Peter Rutherford, CEO of Confluence Health, was the recipient of the [Outstanding Medical Center/Hospital Executive Outside of Puget Sound award](#). Congratulations Dr. Rutherford! [Read a recap](#) of the evening on our blog.

New Highlight: Variation in C-Section Rates in Washington

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

1,527 followers
3,746 tweets
following 841 people

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Latest Tweets

- RT @CastellucciME: Wasting away: Health systems are changing how they practice to tackle the problem of low-value care. <https://t.co/VPpBYx...> 1:25PM
- "#Healthcare has been barreling down a road of high costs, lack of #transparency, and uncoordinated efforts, with a..." <https://t.co/jveofrG9Kg> 11:58AM
- We had a great National Employer Summit in Seattle last week, hosted by @RegHealthImp. Check out our summary of the... <https://t.co/UH6k7cMg89> 11:45AM
- RT @lowninstitute: What's the most effective way to measure low-value care? Check out our featured panel at #Lown2018 to find out how three... 10:23AM
- RT @talktoSIR: .@CambiaGrove and event partners @UWCoMotion, @WAHealthCheckup, @WA_Health_Care are hosting 5 Points: The Policy Maker March... 10:18AM



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 Policy Maker

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 Monday, March 12, which takes a deep dive into understanding the Policy Maker.](#)



Nancy Giunto to Present at Task Force on Low-Value Care

The Alliance's Executive Director, Nancy Giunto, will be presenting at a meeting of the [Task Force on Low-Value Care](#) in Michigan on March 15. She will be discussing the Alliance's recent "[First, Do No Harm](#)" report, which utilized the MedInsight Health Waste Calculator to quantify low-value care in Washington state. The Task Force aims to accelerate concerted action to reduce low-value medical care and thereby reduce pressure on payers and consumers.



New RFP for Spinal Fusion Bundle Episode of Care

The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) has released 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. [View the RFP.](#)



Why the PEBB award to Regence is a big deal in Washington State

The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) announced it is awarding the TPA contract for its public employees (PEBB) self-funded plan to Regence Blue Shield. The

113,000 public employees (over 250,000 when including their enrolled dependents) that receive benefits under the Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) represent one of the largest contracts available in the market for carriers to pursue. For the broader health care marketplace, this may be the most important announcement of 2018. [Read more at State of Reform.](#)

NEW MEMBERS

We're excited to welcome Collective Medical and eviCore as the newest 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.](#)