

UPDATE for the Community



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In February, the Alliance released “First, Do No Harm,” our report on unnecessary health care in Washington state. The report used the MedInsight Health Waste Calculator to quantify wasteful care and estimated costs associated with it. We’re pleased that the report has been received with enthusiasm by members and stakeholders across the state. However, our work does not stop with the publication of the report.

The Alliance’s Quality Improvement Committee reviewed and discussed results from the report with the goal of targeting specific measures for improvement. Consensus formed around focusing interventions and strategies to reduce wasteful pre-operative baseline laboratory studies, EKG, chest X-ray and pulmonary function testing prior to low-risk surgery.

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

ALLIANCE UPDATES

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- [Joining the Alliance](#)

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

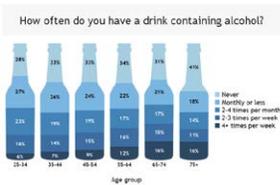
We invite you to follow the Alliance

Puget Sound Energy and SEIU 775 Benefits Group to submit data to Alliance's APCD

The Alliance is excited to announce that Puget Sound Energy and SEIU 775 Benefits Group have agreed to become data suppliers for the Alliance's voluntary All-Payer Claims Database (APCD).

The addition of these two organizations to the Alliance's APCD will add nearly 11,000 covered lives to this already robust database, which dates back to 2004 and includes data on 4 million covered lives in Washington state. Both organizations will begin submitting their quality and pricing data in April and will be included in future Alliance reports.

The Alliance is grateful to PSE and SEIU 775 Benefits Group for taking this important step, which will help us continue to expand our reporting on health care quality and cost. The participation and commitment from the Alliance's data suppliers has allowed us to establish a substantial track record of public reporting and helped Washington become recognized as a national leader in health care transparency. [Read the announcement.](#)



New Highlight: Alcohol Use by Washington Residents

In conjunction with the release of the new [Patient Experience Survey report](#), the Alliance also published a summary "Highlight" of findings about alcohol use by Washington residents. Results show how often respondents "binge drink" as well as how often providers advise binge drinkers to drink less or not at all. [Learn more and view the infographics.](#)

Other recent highlights include:

- [Patient Experience with Primary Care Providers](#)
- [Calculating Health Care Waste in Washington](#)
- [Variation in C-Section rates](#)
- [Overuse of the ER](#)



Alliance Report Featured in USA Today

The Alliance's recent "First, Do No Harm" report on health care waste in Washington state was featured in a column in USA Today by Dr. Marty

Makary. The article, "[We have too much medical care. That's where Bezos, Buffett and Dimon should start](#)" highlights the findings in our report and advocates for a value-based approach to transform the health care system. In addition, Dr. Makary, author of the NY Times bestselling book "Unaccountable," [posted on social media](#): "The Washington Health Alliance report is a landmark study in medicine and a wakeup call to all those puzzled by rising health care costs in America."

New Infographic on Health Care

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.

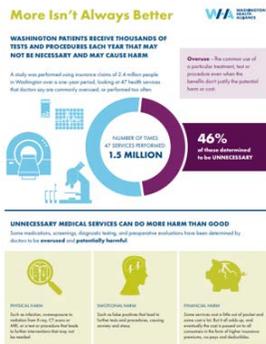
WA Health Alliance

1,549 followers
3,772 tweets
following 847 people

[follow](#)

Latest Tweets

- In her April letter, our Executive Director, Nancy Giunto, talks about taking action on the results of our health w... <https://t.co/fGcedthXac> 10:24AM
- RT @HealthDoers: All National Employer Summit materials are now up on the marketplace! Check it out <https://t.co/Z2LesW5C6t> 9:17AM
- RT @HCSRN: Interested in learning about #healthcare overuse in Washington state? Check out service used by county and measure in this data... 4:52PM
- RT @ABIMFoundation: #ChoosingWisely creates an opportunity for patients and physicians to discuss which tests and treatments are appropriat... 8:51AM
- Interesting findings on age and #alcohol use: Our new data shows that as people get older, they are increasingly li... <https://t.co/xOZ8AWnwNY> 11:00AM



Waste

The Alliance's Consumer Education Committee worked to distill the findings and messages from the "First, Do No Harm" report into a consumer-friendly infographic. Titled "More Isn't Always Better," the infographic aims to inform patients that overuse can cause harm and that they should be empowered to ask questions. Please share this infographic with your employees,

benefits team, and wellness committees.



Welcoming New Board Members and a Thank You to Nancy Steiger

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Nancy Steiger for her time serving on the Alliance's Board of Directors. Nancy was previously the CEO and Chief Mission Officer of PeaceHealth Northwest Network and has held numerous health care leadership positions throughout her distinguished career. Thank you Nancy for your service to the Alliance!

We are also excited to welcome new Members to our Board: Sue Birch, Director of the Washington State Health Care Authority; Merissa Clyde, Director of Health Plan Operations for SEIU 775 Benefits Group; and Carol Wilmes, Director of Member Pooling Programs for the Association of Washington Cities. [Read more about our new Board Members here.](#)



National Employer Summit Content Now Available

In early March the Washington Health Alliance worked with the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement and HealthDoers to co-host the National Employer Summit in Seattle. This event brought together stakeholders from across the country to discuss the purchaser's role in driving healthcare affordability. The information shared proved to be a valuable resource for purchasers, consumers, healthcare professionals, policy-makers, and many others to influence change in their communities.

All content from the Summit is now available via NRHI's new marketplace. For a small fee, you will gain one year of streaming access to a rich package of resources, including:

- Key takeaways from each presentation
- Summary report detailing the problem at hand and applied solutions to start addressing it
- Full length videos of all panels and presenters
- Slide decks to help share this information with your partners and stakeholders
- Contact information for partners who are doing this work on the ground

As a friend of the Alliance, NRHI is offering a \$50 discount on the bundle. Please use code **NRHI50** at checkout. [Visit the marketplace today to learn more.](#)



Nancy Giunto Presentation at Task Force on Low-Value Care

The Alliance's Executive Director, Nancy Giunto, presented at a meeting of the [Task Force on Low-Value Care](#) in Michigan on March 15, sponsored by VBID Health. She discussed 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 premise of Value Based Insurance Design, and the focus of VBID Health, is to align patients' out-of-pocket costs with the value of health services. VBID Health assembled a multi-stakeholder effort to catalyze health care purchaser action around the identification, measurement, and elimination of low-value services.

NEW MEMBERS

We're excited to welcome Celgene Corporation, Magellan Health and Quad+Aim Partners 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.](#)