



LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear member,

Reducing overuse of health care resources is one of the Alliance's strategic priorities. That's why we have been pleased to be able to partner with the Choosing Wisely® campaign, a national initiative helping physicians and patients have conversations about the overuse of tests and procedures. In April 2013, the Alliance was awarded a grant from the ABIM Foundation to help advance the goals of the Choosing Wisely campaign. In the months that have followed, we've developed resources to help purchasers, consumers and providers make better decisions about overuse of tests and procedures. [Read more.](#)

ALLIANCE UPDATES

Choosing Wisely technical specifications

The Washington State Choosing Wisely Task Force® released in May *Choosing Wisely Technical Specifications*, a set of measures that could be used to evaluate provider implementation of Choosing Wisely recommendations. Learn more about the initiative and download the specifications at <http://wahealthalliance.org/alliance-reports-websites/choosing-wisely/>. [back to top](#)

The Alliance appointed co-chair of statewide health performance measures committee

Governor Inslee just announced his selection of members for statewide health performance measures committee, a panel charged with recommending standard statewide measures of health performance by 2015. The committee is co-chaired by Dorothy Teeter, director of the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) and Alliance board member, and Mary McWilliams, executive director of the Washington Health Alliance. [Read the press release on HCA website \(Word 604 KB\)](#)

Spotlight on Washington: 2014 scorecard on Washington's health system performance

The Commonwealth Fund recently released the *Scorecard on State Health System Performance, 2014*. [Read how Washington state's health system performance stacks up.](#) [back to top](#)

Statewide hospital data now in Community Checkup

Community Checkup, our public report on health care quality in Washington state, has been updated with statewide hospital data. This is the first time we have displayed statewide hospital results from Hospital Compare, Leapfrog and the Washington Department of Health. You can now see how different hospitals compare across the state. [View hospital scores](#). [back to top](#)

New federal funding gives states and innovators tools and flexibility to implement delivery system reform

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is making up to \$730 million available as part of the State Innovation Model initiative to help states design and test improvements to their public and private health care payment and delivery systems. [Learn more about the State Health Care Innovative Planning](#). [back to top](#)

Bree Collaborative asking for public comments

Bree Collaborative is asking for public comments on the Potentially Avoidable Hospital Readmissions Report and Recommendations. The survey should only take 5-10 minutes to complete. Feedback must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, June 13, 2014. [Please read the report and take their survey](#). [back to top](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON IMPROVEMENT

Learn about The Everett Clinic's precedent-setting decision to begin posting self-pay prices on their website, beginning with six common imaging services. This action was met with positive attention from the media, health care professionals, patients and community members across the state. [Read Spotlight on Improvement](#). [back to top](#)

NEW MEMBERS

Thanks to the support of our members, the Alliance is able to produce the Community Checkup, moving the needle toward a more transparent and high-quality health care system. This month, we're excited to welcome two new members, Forum Solutions and Optum. [Learn more on our website](#). [back to top](#)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

At the May Board meeting the stage was set for topics for the June mini-retreat, which will be in executive session. Consultants to assist with the three-year business plan, Paul Lambert and Ted von Glahn, described the relevance of their experience and their approach to the project over the next four months.

John Gallagher reviewed the work to date on statewide expansion as well as challenges and next steps.

The board approved the second scope of work with the Office of Financial Management for the Alliance to develop a data center under the state's grant. Mark Pregler described preliminary plans for leveraging the Alliance's data infrastructure to meet the grant requirements and APCD legislation.

The board received a status report from Milliman on their deliverables to the Alliance.

During executive session, board members disclosed any potential conflicts of interest (COI) that were listed on their annual COI form and Caroline Whalen reported on the search progress for the Executive Director position. [back to top](#)

ALLIANCE IN THE NEWS

[Everett Clinic starts listing some 'retail' prices online](#)

The Seattle Times

[Washington Health Alliance names four new health executives to its board](#)

Puget Sound Business Journal

[Ron Sims to lead board overseeing state's health insurance exchange](#)

The Seattle Times

NEW RESOURCES

Provider consolidation in health care: challenges and solutions. *Health Affairs* briefing. May 19, 2014.

The 90-minute briefing at the National Press Club covers provider consolidation trends, market theory, limited and tiered networks, reference pricing, anti-trust and competition policies, price controls and other issues related to provider consolidation. [View the video or listen to the podcast.](#)

Advances

Monthly report on the projects and progress of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The June issue shares information about creating a “culture of health.” [Read Advances newsletter.](#)

V-BID Center update

The University of Michigan Center for Value-Based Insurance Design tweets relevant articles from around the country. [Read V-BID tweets.](#) [back to top](#)

UPCOMING ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Alliance participants are welcome to attend any Alliance board, committee or work group meeting, except board retreats. RSVP to wcox@wahealthalliance.org.

Board of Directors

Closed session retreat in June.

Consumer Engagement Committee

June 11, 10:00–12:00 a.m. [Alliance Office](#)

Health Economics Committee

June 12, 8:30–10:30 a.m. [Alliance Office](#)

Quality Improvement Committee

June 12, 2:00–4:00 p.m. [Alliance Office](#)

Choosing Wisely Task Force

June 12, 4:15–5:45 p.m. [Alliance Office](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

All Alliance Meeting

Wednesday, June 25

7:30–10:00 a.m.

[One Union Square Boardroom](#)

The topic is hospital and physician market concentration and the impact on pricing and value. Keynote speaker David Lansky, CEO Pacific Business Group on Health. [Learn more.](#)

Disparities in Care in Your Community Webinar

Wednesday, July 23

The Alliance will be hosting a webinar about our Disparities in Care report. This webinar is for groups working on health needs assessments and other health improvement initiatives in their community. Detailed county-level results from our Disparities in Care report will be provided to attendees following the meeting.

Upcoming CPIN Webinar

Wednesday, June 25

12:15–1:15 p.m.

Patient Communication

Cynthia G. Ferrucci, MD, FACP

Internist, UW Medicine Belltown [Learn more.](#)

This activity has been approved for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*.

LEARN MORE

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. The website is regularly updated with new information and data; for example, new results for hospital measures from the Leapfrog Group and Hospital Compare. [Learn more.](#)

Follow the Alliance on Twitter

We invite you to follow the Alliance on Twitter [@WAHealthCheckup](#).

he 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.