

UPDATE for Alliance Participants



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Participant,

This is an auspicious time for the Alliance. Thanks to a 2012 grant from the State, last month we were able to include county-level results for all of Washington in the Community Checkup for the first time. Reflecting our expanded reach, we changed our name to the Washington Health Alliance and launched a [brand new website](#) with statewide data and increased functionality for visitors and members.

Now we are embarking on the next stage of our statewide expansion. Over the coming weeks, we will begin visiting six communities around the state to introduce the Alliance in meetings with local leaders from hospitals, medical groups, regional health improvement collaboratives, public health and business. Our goal for the meetings is to help people better understand the Alliance and our reporting, including our plans for statewide expansion, and to collect feedback on their interests and concerns. [Read more](#)

ALLIANCE NEWS

[Save the Date: February All Alliance Meeting](#)
[Visit the New Alliance Website](#)
[The Alliance Welcomes New Members](#)

UPCOMING ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Alliance Participants are welcome to attend any Alliance Board, committee or work group meeting, with the exception of Board Retreats. [Click here](#) for the Alliance meeting calendar. RSVP to [Wendy Cox](#)

All Alliance Meeting

2/25, 7:30 - 9:30 am
One Union Square Boardroom, 600 University Street

Board of Directors

1/28, 2:30 - 4:30 pm, [Alliance Office](#) Building
Community Conference Room, Suite 205

Consumer Engagement Committee

2/12, 10 - 11 a.m., Teleconference

Health Economics Committee

2/13, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m., [Alliance Office](#)

3/13, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m., [Alliance Office](#)

Quality Improvement Committee

2/13, 2 - 4 p.m., [Alliance Office](#)

3/13, 2 - 4 p.m., [Alliance Office](#)

Purchaser Affinity Group

2/12, 12:00 - 2:00 pm, [Alliance Office](#)

Choosing Wisely Task Force

3/13, 4:15 - 5:45 pm, [Alliance Office](#)

[Community Checkup Available](#)
[CPIN Webinar on Community Checkup](#)
[Spotlight on Improvement](#)
[December Board Update](#)
[Resources](#)

Save the Date: February All Alliance Meeting

Tuesday, February 25

7:30 – 9:30 am

One Union Square Boardroom

The Alliance will release results from the second Patient Experience Survey and give other updates. Stay tuned for more details.

Visit the New Alliance Website!

Along with our new name, the Alliance has a new organizational website: www.wahealthalliance.org. The new site is designed to be easier to use, with increased functionality. There's also a mobile version, so you can easily access information from your mobile device. Visit the site and spend some time exploring it. While there, don't forget to sign up for the RSS feed so you are alerted to news from the Alliance as it happens. If you have questions or feedback, please contact [John Gallagher](#).

The Alliance Welcomes New Members!

Thanks to the support of our participating organizations and individuals, the Alliance is able to produce the Community Checkup and meet many other milestones in transparency, aligning incentives, improving quality, and engaging consumers. Welcome, new members.

[Cambia Health Solutions](#) is a locally grown total health solutions company that cares about its customers, employees and the communities. That includes making a positive economic impact through jobs, local business partnerships, and investments that drive a more person-focused, economically sustainable health care system.

[Health Care Cost Management Corporation](#) helps member health plans control health care costs by negotiating better pricing on health benefits and services than these same plans could achieve on their own.

[Medical Insurance Consulting Group, Inc.](#) provides a comprehensive suite of consulting services to a variety of self-insured health, welfare and pension

UPCOMING EVENTS

Community Checkup Webinar

January 22, 12:15-1:15 pm

Alliance Deputy Director Susie Dade will review the Alliance's 2013 Community Checkup report in this CPIN webinar. [Learn more and register](#)

Choosing Wisely in Primary Care

January 24, 7:00 am-4:00 pm

This course is designed to help primary care physicians and allied health professionals engage in conversations with patients to make smart and effective health care choices, with the goal of reducing overuse of tests and procedures. [Learn more and register](#)

Health Care Data: Business Intelligence and Predictive Analytics for Physician Practices Conference

February 28, 7:30 am-4:30 pm

SeaTac Marriott, 3201 South 176th Street

At this Washington State Medical Association (WSMA) Conference learn how to develop a business analytics strategy that will keep your medical practice thriving and competitive well into the 21st century. [Learn more and register](#)

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](#). With more than 850

funds. Their mission is to promote the delivery of the highest quality of care in the most cost efficient manner. Their services enable our clients to optimize clinical outcomes while preserving affordability.

[Rael & Letson Consultants and Actuaries](#) serves clients from Taft-Hartley trust funds to municipalities and school groups. Rael & Letson is a regional firm serving the western United States from Alaska to Southern California, including Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada, Montana, Idaho, and Oregon.

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Community Checkup Available

The 2013 Community Checkup executive summary is now available online. In addition, overviews of all county-level results, by payer and by county, are available in PDF format. Fully searchable county-level results will be available on the [Community Checkup](#) website soon. [Click here](#) for 2013 Community Checkup Executive Summary (pdf). [Click here](#) for 2013 county-level results overviews.

Should you have any questions, please contact [John Gallagher](#), the Alliance's Director of Communication and Development.

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CPIN Webinar on Alliance Community Checkup

Wednesday, January 22

12:15 - 1:15 pm

Alliance Deputy Director Susie Dade will describe the importance of community-wide performance measurement for identifying successes and opportunities for improving quality; review specific ambulatory quality results and how well (or poorly) medical practices in the Puget Sound region are performing based on the 2013 Community Checkup; and outline future measurement activities of the Alliance, including statewide expansion of measurement and reporting. [Learn more and register](#)

The Clinical Performance Improvement Network (CPIN) webinars are approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. For information about these webinars and more visit wsma.org/cpin.

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followers, we're leveraging the power of social media to share important, real-time information about health care. Join the conversation by following the Alliance on Twitter.

For comments about the Update for Alliance Participants, please email [John Gallagher](#).

The Washington Health Alliance is statewide partnership involving employers, physicians, hospitals, patients, health plans, and others working together to improve quality and efficiency while reducing the rate of health care cost increases.

Spotlight on Improvement

Yakima's Memorial Hospital's Chronic Disease Self Management Program decrease outpatient visits and emergency department visits among participating patients with chronic diseases. [Read the Spotlight on Improvement.](#)

Board of Directors Update

The Board approved the 2014 Alliance budget and a five-year plan incorporating strategies that will advance the Alliance's goals to reduce the price of health care; reduce overuse of health care; and reduce underuse of effective health care. The Board also previewed the Alliance's role and preliminary steps for creating a statewide All Payer Claims database, which is made possible due to a federal grant received by the State of Washington. The Board voted to approve the initial scope of work conceived by a grant steering committee and to sign the State's proposed contract.

The Alliance's Medical Home Pilot project ended in December and the project director gave a recap on outcomes and lessons learned. The pilot project collected data from 7 health plans and 8 medical groups. The focus was on how payment reform might affect hospital utilization, including reducing avoidable ER and inpatient visits with better care coordination. Results of the Medical Home Pilot project will be released this summer.

The Alliance unveiled a new logo and gave the Board a preview of the 2013 Community Checkup Report. A common theme in the report is that there is much variation between delivery systems and that each delivery system contains both strengths as well as areas for improvement.

New Resources

Advances Newsletter

This is a monthly report on the projects and progress of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The January issue includes the article "New Recommendations from the RWJF Commission to Build a Healthier America." [Read Advances](#)

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

[BID Tweets](#)

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