



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Last month I shared that the Alliance received a scholarship through the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement's Getting to Affordability initiative, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, for registration and travel to the [National Affordability Summit](#) in Washington, D.C. on September 27th.

We have just returned from the summit and I am eager to share some of our key takeaways. I left the conference feeling optimistic and even more convinced of the importance of the Alliance's work. It was heartening to be in the same room with people from across the country who are passionate about improving the health care system, knowing that we are all fighting the same battle.

The overarching goals of the summit were to gain a deeper understanding of why health care costs so much and discuss actionable strategies that can move the market to value. These goals dovetail with our mission at the Alliance, and there were several areas of focus I wanted to share. [Read more from our Executive Director.](#)

ALLIANCE UPDATES

- [Thank you for a great turnout at our All-Alliance Meeting!](#)
- [Improving Value in Health Care: The 2017 Choosing Wisely Summit, Friday, Oct. 27](#)
- [Opioid Medication and Pain infographic now available in 21 languages](#)
- [Healthier Washington quarterly webinar: How shared decision making supports value-based care](#)
- [Healthier Washington Symposium is Oct. 18-19](#)
- [Registration open for free conference on practice transformation success](#)
- [New Consumer Reports resources for treating pain](#)

UPCOMING ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Alliance members are welcome to attend any Alliance Board, committee or work group meeting, except executive sessions or board retreats. Please RSVP to Adria at amoskowitz@wahealthalliance.org.

Board of Directors

October 4, 2017, 2:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.
600 Stewart Street, 2nd Floor
Conference Room

Board of Directors

October 24, 2017, 2:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.
600 Stewart Street, 2nd Floor
Conference Room

Consumer Education Committee (formerly Consumer Engagement Committee)

October 19, 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.
Teleconference

Health Economics Committee

October 12, 8:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.
Alliance Office

Quality Improvement Committee

October 12, 2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.
Alliance Office

LEARN MORE

- [Joining the Alliance!](#)



Thank you for a great turnout at our All-Alliance Meeting!

A big “thank you” to all of you who joined us for our All-Alliance meeting on Sept. 20. We heard from several of you how valuable the networking time was, and we were treated to an excellent panel

discussion where we learned about bold steps organizations are taking to enhance health care value. We are grateful for the participation of our esteemed panelists:

- Fred Brown, Executive Director, Health Care Cost Management
- David Buchholz, MD, Medical Director, Provider and Customer Engagement, Premera Blue Cross
- Rick Cooper, Northwest Regional Market President for DaVita Medical Group
- Nancy Kokenge, Area Vice President Client Consultant, Arthur J. Gallagher & Company
- Bob Malte, Chief Executive Officer, EvergreenHealth

If you missed the meeting or would like to review anything that was discussed, you can [view the webinar](#) or [download the slide deck](#).

IMPROVING VALUE IN HEALTH CARE THE CHOOSING WISELY SUMMIT



Improving Value in Health Care: The 2017 Choosing Wisely Summit, Friday, Oct. 27

[Register](#) to join health care leaders, stakeholders and national Choosing Wisely® representatives in Seattle on Friday, October 27 for the 2017

Choosing Wisely Summit: Improving Value in Health Care, a day-long, in-depth look at how the Choosing Wisely® initiative can be used to avoid unnecessary medical tests, treatments and procedures in your care setting.

The full-day conference is designed to give practices and organizations of all sizes the tools and inspiration to integrate Choosing Wisely recommendations into daily operations. Conference highlights include:

- Keynote presenter Richard Baron, MD, president and CEO of the American Board of Internal Medicine and ABIM Foundation, will offer a look at the campaign's key accomplishments and goals for the future.
- Matt Handley, MD, senior medical director of quality and safety at Kaiser Permanente Washington, will discuss the importance of having a structured implementation plan to successfully make changes at the system level—and outline the steps you need to take for success.
- Paul McGann, MD, chief medical officer of quality improvement at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, will show how MACRA's Quality Payment Program aligns with Choosing Wisely recommendations—and how working on one benefits the other.
- Graham McMahon, MD, president and CEO of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, will

Join Us

Do you know someone who would like to learn 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.](#)

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 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



1,432 followers
3,492 tweets
following 807 people

[follow](#)

Latest Tweets

- Big thanks to @KCPubHealth for translating our and @Bree_WA's #opioid infographic into 21 additional languages!... <https://t.co/fgGXWXubRp> 9:47AM
- Please submit feedback by Oct. 27! <https://t.co/YTOB5OyxBP> 9:32AM
- Our latest Community Update newsletter is out! See what's new and exciting at the Alliance: <https://t.co/rjMJSchLYO> 9:13AM

outline strategies for leveraging continuing medical education to change physician behavior and provide examples of clinical education strategies used around the country that support Choosing Wisely.

If your practice or organization is working to integrate Choosing Wisely recommendations into daily operations, this conference will give your team the tools and inspiration to implement change within your care setting.

[Learn more about and register for the Choosing Wisely Summit.](#)

This activity has been approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. This activity has been approved for ABIM MOC points.

Register for tomorrow's @WA_Health_Care #HealthierWA webinar, "How shared decision making supports value-based care" <https://t.co/StFCMPyVHr> 3:57PM

- RT @WA_Health_Care: Your feedback is requested by Oct 27 on .@Bree_WA Collaborative reports and recommendations in three topic areas: [https...](#) 3:06PM



Opioid Medication and Pain infographic now available in 21 languages

The Opioid Medication and Pain infographic developed by the Bree Collaborative and the Alliance has been translated by Public Health – Seattle &

King County into 21 additional languages, from Arabic to Vietnamese. As a result, more people will have access to important messages about the risks of opioids. Our thanks to Public Health – SKC for amplifying the reach of this infographic.



Healthier Washington quarterly webinar: How shared decision making supports value-based care

The Health Care Authority's Chief Medical Officer Daniel Lessler, Associate Medical Director Emily Transue, and Practice Transformation

Manager Laura Pennington will explain how the use of Shared Decision Making in clinical settings support value-based care and the vision of a healthier Washington during a webinar Oct. 4, from 1 to 2 p.m. [Register to attend.](#)



Healthier Washington Symposium is Oct. 18-19

The Healthier Washington Symposium brings together key partners from around the state to learn, collaborate and engage. Partners are invited to bring new ideas and proposals for

strengthening Healthier Washington efforts, and have opportunities for reaction and dialogue. This year the theme is "A Commitment to Value." [Learn more here.](#)



Registration open for free conference on practice transformation success

Steering Toward Success: Achieving Value in Whole-Person Care is a free, one-day conference designed to help

behavioral health agencies, primary care practices, providers and interested stakeholders who are transitioning to whole-person care. This conference will provide an opportunity to learn best practices, strategies, and the latest information on practice transformation including value-based care, and physical and behavioral health integration, from some of the state's leading experts. The conference is presented by the Healthier Washington Practice Transformation Support Hub and its partners, including the Alliance. The conference will be offered on Oct. 26 in Moses Lake. [Learn more.](#)



New Consumer Reports resources for treating pain

The Consumer Reports Consumer Health Choices initiative has a new e-hub focused on treating pain. Sections include “Avoiding Opioid Painkillers” and “Where Does it Hurt?” These

guides help patients talk with doctors about specific tests and treatments they may be considering. [Visit the e-hub.](#)

Joining the Alliance

Our members can be the best ambassadors for our work. If you know someone who would like to learn more about membership in the Alliance, we have an online tool to help you talk about the value of Alliance membership. [Learn more at our Join Us website.](#)

IN THE NEWS

[It Takes a Community: Owning the Opioid Epidemic – Key Takeaways | NRHI](#)

The Alliance's John Gallagher provides a recap of a recent Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement and HealthDoers event focused on regional efforts to curb the opioid crisis.

[Hospitals, Health Insurers Biggest Sources of Rising Health Costs | Bloomberg](#)

Hospitals and health insurance companies are the biggest drivers of health-care cost increases, with some insurance costs on par with drug prices.