

UPDATE for Alliance Participants



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Participant,

Welcome to the Washington Health Alliance! Our expansion as a statewide organization is now officially reflected in our new name and look. It will take us some time to expand our work, but we are excited by the opportunity to branch out and to help amplify the great work others across the state have already undertaken.

Going statewide is a natural progression for the Alliance. We have been able to establish our work as a valuable contributor to health care improvement, particularly in performance measurement and reporting. Proof of that can be found in a just-released national report from the Health Care Incentives Improvement Institute (HCI3), a nonprofit focused on improving health care quality and value. HCI3 awarded Washington one of only two states with "A" grades in its "State Report Card on Transparency of Physician Quality Reporting." The Alliance's Community Checkup report, along with its patient experience survey report, formed the basis for the state's outstanding score.

The 2013 Community Checkup results [are now available](#). As the first step in our statewide expansion, we are reporting county-level results for all 39 counties in the state.

UPCOMING ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Alliance Participants are welcome to attend any Alliance Board, committee or work group meeting, with the exception of Board Retreats. For complete upcoming meeting schedules, go to News & Events/Events Calendar at washingtonhealthalliance.org.

Quality Improvement Committee

1/09, 2:00 - 4:00, [Alliance Office](#)

All Alliance Meeting

12/13, 7:30 - 9:30, [One Union Square Boardroom](#)

Purchaser Affinity Group

12/17, 12:00 - 2:00, [Alliance Office](#)

Health Economics Committee

December meeting canceled

1/09, 8:30 - 10:30, [Alliance Office](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

All Alliance Meeting

December 13

One Union Square Boardroom
600 University Street. [RSVP](#)

Community Checkup Webinar

January 12, 12:15 - 1:15

Alliance Deputy Director Susie Dade will review

We recognize that many communities across Washington have undertaken major efforts to improve the quality of care patients receive. We also realize that public reporting will be a new and challenging concept for many, as it was in the Puget Sound region when the Community Checkup was first introduced. But what we learned from our experiences with the Community Checkup is that those concerns were allayed once the Alliance demonstrated its intent to report valid and statistically reliable results and how useful its data is to understanding performance and opportunities for improvement. The Alliance's goals align with those of other stakeholders committed to improving our health care system.

The Alliance plans to engage directly with a few communities around the state, to learn more about the work being done and to discuss how the Alliance and its mission can support local efforts underway. We know that other communities have valuable lessons to share. Starting in 2014, we intend to identify two population centers where we can collaborate on introducing reporting on measures of effective care at the medical group and clinic level. Over time, the Alliance plans to roll out medical group and clinical level reporting statewide. Based on our experiences, we believe that this will provide a benchmark for discussion about performance and how to improve the quality of care for all Washingtonians.

In addition to our new name and logo, we have a brand new website at www.wahealthalliance.org. The new site offers increased functionality and a design for mobile platforms. You'll be able to see a calendar of events and a member sign up for All-Alliance meetings through the site. We've even included the opportunity to sign up for an [RSS feed](#) so that you can be alerted to news from the Alliance as it happens. I encourage you to explore the new site.

This is an exciting moment in the Alliance's history, but we would never have reached it without your support. As we considered a new name for the organization, we asked many of our stakeholders what they saw as the key characteristics of the organization. What we heard was heartening: they saw us as collaborative, transformative and trusted.

the 2013 Community Checkup report in this CPIN webinar. [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 865 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](#).

Washington Health Alliance is a 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.

That is a testament to the support of our participants and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Together, you all have invested in the Alliance and worked over the past nine years to build an organization where all the stakeholders in health care can come together to align their efforts to transform the system.

In this season of giving, I thank you for what you have given us.

Mary McWilliams
Executive Director

ALLIANCE NEWS

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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 be alerted to news from the Alliance as it happens. If you have questions or feedback, please contact [John Gallagher](#).

CPIN Webinar on Alliance Community Checkup Results

Wednesday, January 12, 12:15 - 1:15 [Register](#)
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. [Read](#)

[the report](#)

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.

Alliance Closes Data Collection on New Patient Experience Survey

Earlier this month, the Alliance closed data collection on its most recent patient experience survey. Good News! Out of 197 clinics, the Alliance expects to have results on one or more of the four measures for 186 clinics – an increase of 30 clinic sites from 2012. These results will be publicly reported during 1st quarter 2014. Unfortunately, we did not get sufficient responses for 11 of the clinics to have publicly reportable results on any of the four measures. For more information, please contact Susie Dade at sdade@wahealthalliance.org

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Disparities in Care 2013 Report

Using Medicaid data from the 2012 Community Checkup, the Disparities in Care 2013 Report shows the variation of effective, evidence-based care by race, ethnicity, and preferred language. The Alliance hopes the Report will assist discussions on how we can improve care for everyone in Washington State. [Read the report](#)

The Alliance Welcomes A New Member

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.

[Pacific Hospital Preservation & Development Authority](#) champions effective health care for the vulnerable and disadvantaged in our community.

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Alliance Purchaser Members to Sponsor eValue8 again in 2014

The eValue8 RFI questions are organized into eight modules which closely align with how plan

sponsors think about health plan activities. Health plans across the country have had a lot of input into development of the eValue8 tool, along with other highly reputable national organizations such as the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Catalyst for Payment Reform (CPR), the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA), and other federal, state and academic centers. The eight modules include:

1. Business Profile of the Health Plan
2. Physician & Hospital Management & Measurement
3. Helping Members Stay Healthy
4. Helping Members Become Good Consumers
5. Helping Members Manage Acute/Episodic Conditions
6. Helping Members Manage Chronic Conditions (includes Behavioral Health)
7. Pharmaceutical Management
8. Client Support, Data Analyses and Reporting

Together with its purchaser members, the Alliance invited six commercial health plans to participate in the eValue8 process. We are pleased to announce that five of the six have agreed to participate. The five include: Aetna, Cigna, Group Health, Regence BlueShield and UnitedHealthcare. Premera Blue Cross was also invited but has declined to participate. Health plans have until mid-February to respond to the RFI and scored results will be available during the second quarter of 2014. For more information, please contact Susie Dade, Alliance Deputy Director, sdade@wahealthalliance.org

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Spotlight on Improvement

Yakima decreased emergency department visits by 28% with community members who participated in Chronic Disease Self-Management Education. [Learn More](#)

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Board of Directors Update

The Alliance Board of Directors does not meet in the month of November.

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New Resources

Advances This is a monthly report on the projects and progress of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The most current issue gives a recap on the RWJF Price Transparency Summit. [Read the December Issue.](#)

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](#)

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