



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Last week was an exciting one for the Alliance, as we released the eleventh version of the Community Checkup report. The report includes the third results for the Washington State Common Measure Set for Health Care Quality and Cost, a set of 56 measures used to track progress in our state and a key component of the Healthier Washington initiative.

The Community Checkup has evolved tremendously over the years. In 2008, we reported on 21 quality measures for 14 volunteer medical groups in 5 counties, encompassing 1.6 million insured lives. Our 2017 results include over 100 measures of quality and patient experience with results for 39 counties, 9 ACHs, 300 medical groups, 1000 clinics and over 90 hospitals and 16 health plans. Our voluntary All Payer Claims Database has 4 million commercial and Medicaid insured lives. This dramatic growth is the result of two key characteristics – trust and collaboration. Thanks to so many members who engage with us in our work and for the spirit of collaboration that is foundational in all that we do.

Let's turn now to the results of the 2017 Community Checkup.  
[Read more from the Executive Director.](#)

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## ALLIANCE UPDATES

- [2017 Community Checkup released at All-Alliance meeting](#)
- [New Community Checkup Highlights released](#)
- [Washington Gets an "A" for Physician Quality Reporting](#)
- [Alliance Selected to Continue Work for National Project to Measure and Compare Healthcare Costs Across U.S. Regions](#)
- [Nancy Giunto to speak at "Under the Boughs" event, January 17](#)

## 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](mailto:amoskowitz@wahealthalliance.org).

### Consumer Education Committee (formerly Consumer Engagement Committee)

December 14, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.  
[Alliance Office](#)

### Health Economics Committee

December 14, 2017, 8:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.  
[Alliance Office](#)

### Quality Improvement Committee

December 14, 2017, 2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.  
[Alliance Office](#)

## LEARN MORE

### 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-

- [Seattle Chosen as Host City for the National Employer Summit in March 2018](#)
- [Register for HCA webinar: Provider Introduction to Rural Multi-Payer Payment Model](#)
- [Bree Collaborative Public Comment Request: Hysterectomy Report and Recommendations](#)
- [Register for NRHI Webinar on Eliminating Low Value Healthcare \(a.k.a. Waste\)](#)
- [Welcoming New Members: Accolade, League, and PATH](#)



## 2017 Community Checkup Released at All-Alliance Meeting

We had a full house for our All-Alliance meeting on Dec. 7, where we released the [2017 Community Checkup report](#). In

addition, we heard updates on Healthier Washington from Lou McDermott and Dan Lessler from the Health Care Authority, and Gary Kaplan from Virginia Mason shared about the hard work it takes for medical groups to become highly ranked in the Community Checkup. If you're interested, you can [view the webinar recording](#) of the meeting.



## New Community Checkup Highlights Released

As part of the new Community Checkup, we have published three new highlights of health care in Washington state.

These highlights call out specific measures and results from the Community Checkup and provide action steps to help all stakeholders improve. The new highlights are:

- [Overuse of the Emergency Room](#)
- [Well-Child Visits](#)
- [Health Care Spending](#)



## Washington Gets an "A" for Physician Quality Reporting

The Community Checkup has become the go-to resource for unbiased, trustworthy data about the quality of health care in our state. The report has earned Washington state an "A" in physician quality reporting from a collaborative analysis done by two non-profit organizations, Altarum and Catalyst for Payment Reform. Washington is one of only three states to achieve such a grade. [Read the report here.](#)



## Alliance Selected to Continue Work for National Project to Measure and Compare Healthcare Costs Across U.S. Regions

The Alliance announced that it has been selected by the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI) to continue work on NRHI's Total Cost of Care (TCoC)

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



1,464 followers  
3,586 tweets  
following 812 people

[follow](#)

## Latest Tweets

- Join the Alliance's Susie Dade, as well as [@HealthDoers](#) & [@RegHealthImp](#) as we discuss reducing [#healthcare waste](#) an...  
<https://t.co/icXiy31oWI> 8:25AM
- New website lets you see the Community Benefit provided by hospitals, including those in WA state:  
<https://t.co/MXR7b6d9y1> 3:27PM
- RT [@BetterHealthEWA](#): Reviewing the results from the [@WAHealthCheckup](#) for the BHT region today! Learn more about the 2017 health care qualit... 1:57PM
- RT [@hadley4health](#): Wow, Washington is one of only 3 states which have received an A rating for physician quality. [@WAHealthCheckup](#) 11:30AM
- RT [@lizzymitch2](#): [@WAHealthCheckup](#)

project. The TCoC project is part of NRHI's *Getting to Affordability* initiative, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and seeks to answer such critical questions as: *What does healthcare cost in my community? Why does healthcare cost more in some places than others?* and *What's driving the differences in costs for the same services or procedures?* Under the new grant, the Alliance will convene stakeholders to generate reports on pricing variation and find solutions to barriers to accelerate pricing reporting. In addition, the Alliance will share its learnings on engaging data suppliers to provide pricing data on a voluntary basis. [Read the announcement.](#)

<https://t.co/LErYizuaFO> 10:50AM



### Nancy Giunto to Speak at "Under the Boughs" Event, January 17

*Under the Boughs* is a monthly series hosted by Cambia Grove and sponsored by the UW BioEngage program that discusses major themes related to healthcare transformation.

The Alliance's Executive Director, Nancy Giunto, will speak at their January event about how the Washington Health Alliance is using data to transform health. The event will be held at 3:30 p.m. on January 17 at Cambia Grove, 1800 9th Ave, Suite 250, Seattle, 98101.



### Seattle Chosen as Host City for the National Employer Summit in March 2018

As part of its *Getting to Affordability* work, the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI) is hosting a national Employer Summit in March of 2018. This Summit will focus

on the role of employers in achieving affordable, high-value care and is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday March 6 and 7, 2018. Seattle and the Washington Health Alliance were selected as hosts based on a number of criteria including a significant presence of large employers (local and national) who have implemented innovative approaches to value-based purchasing and a high level of employer engagement with the local NRHI member. We are very pleased to help host this national event!



### Register for HCA webinar: Provider Introduction to Rural Multi-Payer Payment Model

The Health Care Authority (HCA) is committed to addressing core issues facing rural health and rural communities and is in the early stages

of developing a Rural Multi-Payer Model and expects detailed development will occur in the coming year. This work seeks to transform payment for some of Washington's most critical providers toward methodologies that embrace value-based payment reform, sustainability, delivery system transformation, and true patient engagement. The HCA will introduce early details of the Rural Multi-Payer Model in a webinar December 14, 2017 from

12 to 1 p.m. Aimed at health care providers, the webinar will share how features of the new model will address realities for rural providers and clinicians at critical access hospitals. [Register here.](#)



### **Bree Collaborative Public Comment Request: Hysterectomy Report and Recommendations**

Your feedback is requested on the Bree Collaborative's [Hysterectomy Report and Recommendations](#). Their workgroups will review comments before submitting a final draft for review and adoption by the Bree Collaborative. Take the survey here: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/Bree-Hysterectomy](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Bree-Hysterectomy). They estimate that the surveys will take 10-15 minutes to complete. *Feedback must be received by 5 p.m. Friday, December 22nd.* More information: [www.breecollaborative.org/involved/](http://www.breecollaborative.org/involved/). To give additional feedback please contact Ginny Weir, Program Director of the Bree Collaborative at [GWeir@qualityhealth.org](mailto:GWeir@qualityhealth.org) or (206) 204-7377 or visit [www.breecollaborative.org](http://www.breecollaborative.org).



### **Register for NRHI Webinar on Eliminating Low Value Healthcare (a.k.a. Waste)**

One in every six dollars flowing through the American economy is going to healthcare, and more than 30 percent of those dollars are wasted on low-value care or administrative waste. Current payment systems provide perverse incentives that reward this waste and do not reward high value care. If we are to achieve better and more affordable healthcare we must reduce this waste, which requires better data, strong multi-stakeholder collaboration, and changes in how we pay providers. The Alliance's Susie Dade is among a number of guest speakers, and she will be discussing our use of the Health Waste Calculator. Please join us on Jan. 16 from 12-1 p.m. as we start the conversation on eliminating waste, and making the health care system more efficient and affordable. [Register here.](#)

### **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.](#)

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## **OWN YOUR HEALTH**

### **Exercise is an Important Part of Preventive Care**

When it comes to preventive care, you probably think about health screenings and vaccinations. But you may be missing one of the most important aspects of preventive care. While going on a hike, playing basketball, or swimming in a lake all sound like fun activities, they're also critical to staying healthy. Read more on

Own Your Health.

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## IN THE NEWS

Washington Health Alliance's Community Checkup Report Finds Thousands of People in State Fail to Receive Recommended Health Care – Puget Sound Business Journal

Washington Health Alliance Selected to Continue Work for National Project to Measure and Compare Healthcare Costs Across U.S. Regions – Press release

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## NEW MEMBERS

We're excited to welcome Accolade, League, and PATH as new members of the Alliance! [Learn more here.](#)

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