



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Since the Alliance's founding, we have served as a convener, building trust among those who give, get and pay for health care to create change in the health care system. We know the only way we are going to improve health care in our state is to make sure key stakeholders have a seat at the table. The value of the Alliance and its approach was recently recognized in an [editorial in the Journal of the American Medical Association](#) (subscription required) as one that offers "continuing hope" that we can reshape our health care system into one that is higher quality and more affordable. [Read more from our executive director.](#)

ALLIANCE UPDATES

Align: A Summit on Increasing Health Care Value

With the AF4Q program scheduled to conclude next spring, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation hosted a national summit last month to bring together representatives from all 16 communities to share how they have increased value in health care. The Alliance was well-represented, with a panel of our board and committee members talking about the health care value tools we've developed, and our director of communication and development (and part-time bed and breakfast owner) John Gallagher educating an audience on how serving a good breakfast is a lot like running a successful consumer engagement campaign. [Read more on the blog.](#)

Coalition for Health Care Cost Transparency

A broad coalition of business leaders, health care providers, health plans and community groups have pulled together to support the implementation of a fully-functioning and sustainable All-Payer Claims Database in order to reduce costs and improve quality through better transparency. The Washington Health Alliance is part of this coalition, and we encourage you to learn more about why health care transparency is good for our state's economy. Visit the [Coalition for Health Care Cost Transparency website](#) to learn more.

Disparities in care: Strategies in population health management

Earlier this year the Washington Health Alliance released its second [Disparities in Care report](#), which looked at the variation and quality of care of Medicaid enrollees in our state. On Thursday, December 11, we will be hosting an exciting panel of speakers who will discuss population health strategies and how they can reduce disparities in care. [Learn more about the event and how to register.](#)

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ON THE BLOG

[AF4Q and increasing value in health care](#)

[What does consumer engagement have to do with breakfast? \[video\]](#)

[Washington takes on health care price transparency](#)

[Employers role in the health care value equation](#)

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NEWS TO KNOW

[Reshaping US Health Care: From Competition and Confiscation to Cooperation and Mobilization | *The Journal of the American Medical Association*](#)

[Polls: Employers still prioritize health coverage | *Associated Press*](#)

[Companies facing federal deadline for medical coverage should focus on health care value | *Puget Sound Business Journal*](#)

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BECOME A MEMBER

Enjoy the full benefits of Alliance membership and help lead health care system change in our state. Contact [John Gallagher](#) for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Disparities in care

December 11, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

EvergreenHealth Medical Center, Red Auditorium 1-551, Kirkland. [Learn more.](#)

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](#).

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.