



UPDATES AND RESOURCES FOR PURCHASERS

- [Register for the All-Alliance Meeting on June 20](#)
- [Join us for the July Purchaser Affinity Group](#)
- [Spread the word about National Safety Month](#)
- [New Patient Experience Survey upcoming](#)

Register for the All-Alliance Meeting on June 20

Join us for our All Alliance Meeting on June 20th at Cambia Grove, as we hear from guest speaker Dr. Michael L. Schoenbaum, Senior Advisor for Mental Health Services, Epidemiology, and Economics at the National Institute of Mental Health. His presentation is titled, "Behavioral Health: Advancing Integrative Care and Measurement-Based Care." Qualis Health will also join us to discuss progress on the development and activities of the state's new Practice Transformation Hub. A part of the Healthier Washington initiative, the "Hub" is designed to provide support for the transformation of the health delivery system through investment in knowledge, training, and tools that effectively coordinate care, promote clinical-community linkages, and help provider organizations transition to value-based payment models. The meeting is open to Alliance members only. [Register for the meeting here.](#)

Join us for the July Purchaser Affinity Group

Please join us for the next Purchaser Affinity Group meeting on July 20, from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. at the Alliance office. We will be welcoming guest speaker Lisa Woods, Senior Director of Health Care Benefits for Walmart Stores, Inc. She will be speaking on "Current and Emerging Strategies for Value-Based Purchasing." Also presenting at the meeting will be Marcia Peterson from the Washington State Health Care Authority and Krista Christensen from the Virginia Mason Neurosciences Institute. They'll be sharing early results from the state's implementation of a bundled payment initiative for total joint replacements. This meeting is open to purchaser members of the Alliance only.

Spread the word about National Safety Month

Own Your Health

The Own Your Health campaign empowers you to become an active participant in your own health care and provides handy tools to help you take control of your health. Washington Health Alliance partners with organizations to create custom Own Your Health campaigns specific to your audience. [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.](#)

Community Checkup

The Community Checkup is our annual report highlighting health care quality and value at medical groups and hospitals in Washington state. Employers and labor union trusts rely upon the Community Checkup to help them understand the health care market in Washington. The community as a whole sees the report as a critical component in the overall effort to transform the health care system. The report demonstrates that everyone has room to improve. [Learn more.](#)

June is National Safety Month and a great opportunity to raise awareness about important issues like prescription painkiller abuse, driving, biking, and working safely, and preventing slips, trips, and falls. Injuries are a leading cause of disability for people of all ages, and the leading cause of death for Americans ages 1 to 44. But there are many things people can do to stay safe and prevent injuries. [View the toolkit.](#)

New Patient Experience Survey upcoming

The Washington Health Alliance is gearing up to conduct our fourth patient experience survey later this year. This is a survey that asks adults (25 and older) about their experience of care with their primary care provider. The survey will be in the field during the 3rd and 4th quarters and results will be shared early in 2018. The Alliance anticipates surveying approximately 300,000 people and hopes to have results for approximately 490 primary care practices across all 39 counties. Results will share information related to:

- How well providers communicate with patients
- How well providers use information to coordinate care for patients
- Getting timely appointments, care and information
- Helpful, courteous and respectful staff
- Overall rating of the provider.

HEALTHY WORKFORCE RESOURCES

Each newsletter we share materials from our Own Your Health, Choosing Wisely® and other initiatives that you can use in your employee communications. Feel free to use any or all of these suggested messages as they meet your needs.

3 Things to Know about the Cost of Health Care

Health care is expensive and getting more so. This new article on Own Your Health can help bust some myths about the cost of health care and give your employees tips to keep in mind when looking for care. [Read the article.](#)

What to do if you have low-back pain?

Low-back pain is one of the most common reasons for workers under age 45 to miss work. Almost two-thirds of all adults will have a problem with low-back pain at some point. [What can patients do?](#)

Managing asthma or COPD

Washington state has one of the highest rates of asthma in the country, and the rate has been steadily rising. Asthma has no cure. Even when you feel fine, you still have the disease and it can flare up at any time. But, with today's knowledge and medical treatments, most people who have asthma are able to manage the disease. [Learn more.](#)

NEWS TO KNOW

[Health-Care Purchasers Take the Wheel | CFO](#)

[Mythbuster: The Opioid epidemic is not affecting my population | Catalyst for Payment Reform](#)

[Growing employer interest in innovative ways to control healthcare costs | McKinsey on Healthcare](#)

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.

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We invite you to follow the Alliance on Facebook.

For comments about the Update for Purchasers or to change or unsubscribe your email address, please email John Gallagher at jgallagher@wahealthalliance.org.

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.

Through innovative strategies and initiatives, we help the entire health care system—from exam room to board room—focus on improving quality and value. We are committed to being the catalyst for change for the health care system in Washington.