



We are excited to announce that Shannon Brownlee, author of *Overtreated* and senior vice-president at the Lown Institute, will be the speaker at our next All-Alliance meeting on September 24. Her presentation will be followed by a panel of local leaders representing providers, purchasers and health care consumers who will continue the conversation about overutilization of health care services. Register today for the event!

And we are asking for volunteers from our purchaser members to participate in a user research session to give us advice on the next generation of the Community Checkup. If you are interested in participating in this research and informing the ongoing development of the Checkup, please contact us at [Emily Inlow-Hood](#).

## PURCHASER LIBRARY

### [Resources for Prostate Cancer Awareness](#)

Access helpful templates, tools and resources from the American Cancer Society to help raise awareness of prostate cancer during the month of September.

### [ProPublica Releases Surgeon Scorecard](#)

The non-profit news organization ProPublica released its Surgeon Scorecard, which calculates death and complication rates for eight common procedures covered under Medicare. Hospitals and surgeons were included in the results, which are searchable by zip code. [Read the Alliance's blog post about the Scorecard](#).

### [Consumer-Purchaser Alliance explores value of patient reported outcomes \(PROs\)](#)

PROs are powerful tools to better measure and improve health care delivery and health outcomes. They enable patients to make more informed decisions about their care and to identify providers most likely to meet their needs. Purchasers and consumers can use the actions outlined in this brief to start advancing and advocating for the collection and use of PROs to improve health

## 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.](#)

care.

#### [Health Insurance Cost Sharing Research](#)

The RAND Corporation features resources, research and articles focused on health care cost sharing.

#### [Consumer Reports Offers Free Reports & Videos](#)

Help your employees make smarter choices about their health and health care with these resources from Consumer Health Choices.

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## HEALTHY WORKFORCE RESOURCES

*Each month 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. .*

#### **Finding trustworthy health information**

Information about health and health care is easy to find online, but how do you know which information to trust? [These trustworthy websites](#) are a good place to start, but you should always check with your health care provider before making any health care decisions based on something you find online.

#### **Taking care of yourself**

Taking care of yourself means taking an active role in your health and health care so you can stay as healthy as you can. Your primary care doctor may tell you to exercise more or eat better, but it's up to you to follow through on this advice. [Learn more.](#)

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## NEWS TO KNOW

[Mega-Health Deals Bloom In July, Anthem Bids \\$48b For Cigna | Associated Press](#)

[Surprise! That Urgent Care Center May Send You A Big Bill \(Just Like The ER\) | Kaiser Health News](#)

[Consumers demand price transparency, but at what cost? | Modern Healthcare](#)

[Hospitals focus on patient satisfaction | Business Examiner](#)

[Better together? Like hospital operators, health insurers in America are seeking to merge | The Economist](#)

[Washington state gets an 'F' in health care pricing transparency | Puget Sound Business Journal](#)

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#### **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](#).

#### **Follow the Alliance on Facebook**

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](mailto: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.*