OUR FIRST 10 YEARS

BUILDING AN ORGANIZATION
In the beginning, the Alliance focused on convening organizations with a strong interest in transforming health care in Washington – starting with a focus on the Puget Sound region.

WORKING TOGETHER
Through the Alliance, stakeholders have come together to set expectations for community performance on evidence-based practices that improve health while reducing waste and cost. Bringing together those who give, get and pay for health care, we have convened the most influential players in Washington to help reach our goals.

LEARNING FROM THE DATA
Over time, with our reports and work on improving transparency, measuring quality and understanding price, we have been able to affect ongoing, incremental improvement in the value of health care in the state.

A CATALYST FOR CHANGE
Our work has impacted the community directly, with organizations using our data and information to improve performance significantly, with direct results for patient care.

Looking to the Next Decade
As we move into our second decade, the Alliance maintains its focus on our three strategic goals:

- **REDUCING PRICE**
- **REDUCING UNDERUSE OF EFFECTIVE CARE**
- **REDUCING OVERUSE**

To help achieve these goals, we continue to focus on:

- Improving transparency of the health care system through performance measurement and reporting on quality, utilization and price.
- Strengthening purchaser and consumer engagement to leverage buying power and shape demand.
- Aligning payment to providers to achieve higher quality care at a lower price.
- Supporting performance improvement in collaboration with other organizations.

How will we know if we have achieved our goals? We hope providers and hospitals in the region will achieve the top 10 percent in performance nationally in the delivery of quality, evidence-based care and in the reduction of unwarranted variation, resulting in a significant reduction in medical cost trends. It’s a bold vision, but it’s one we are committed to leading the community to accomplish.
THE IMPACT OF OUR WORK

Our work to improve care, lower costs and reduce overuse extends into the community in direct, measurable ways. Here are some examples of how health care organizations have used our measures to drive improvement and improve value.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD CLINICS

The University of Washington Neighborhood Clinics was one of the clinics featured in the first Alliance Community Checkup in 2008. Ever since, they have been using data from the Community Checkup to accurately publish internal outcomes measures and continuously drive improvements in care of their patients with diabetes.

KING COUNTY

Using a custom report from the Alliance that compared its workforce to results from two million Puget Sound residents, King County changed its pharmacy benefit design to increase use of generic prescription medications and refined its employee contribution strategy to encourage the selection of a high-performing delivery system. Together with promoting employee engagement, the employer saved $46 million over a five-year period.

ROCKWOOD CLINIC AND GROUP HEALTH

Rockwood Clinic successfully embedded Choosing Wisely® recommendations into their existing quality improvement culture, including pay-for-performance incentives. Group Health used the Choosing Wisely campaign as way to encourage provider and patient conversations on the necessity and safety of tests, treatments and procedures and to avoid unnecessary or potentially harmful care. They paired this with an electronic medical record trigger tool to help reduce unnecessary testing and reduce wasteful spending.

For more about the Alliance: www.WAHealthAlliance.org
For the Community Checkup report: www.WACommunityCheckup.org