

# UPDATE for the Community



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## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“A database is just a database unless you can actually take it to action.”

I made that statement when I spoke at the National Employer Summit last month and I want to expand on what I mean by it and why I think it’s so important.

Data is a crucial first step, but without mechanisms for taking action the data alone won’t produce much change. The Alliance goes to the next level by bringing together stakeholders from all parts of the health care system and gaining consensus on priority issues to be addressed. Our committees, comprised of experts in multiple areas, serve as a guide as we undertake this work.

In addition, our reports provide actionable information that allow members to gain new insights and work to improve value in health care. I want to highlight examples of the different kinds of actions that can be taken with Alliance reports and information.

[Read more from the Executive Director.](#)

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## ALLIANCE UPDATES

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### Join Us

Are you interested in learning 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-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. [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

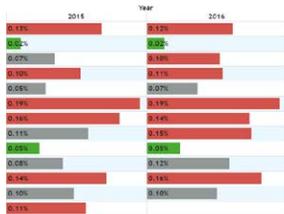
- [Joining the Alliance](#)



### Alliance Editorials in Puget Sound Business Journal and Everett Herald

The Alliance's Nancy Giunto and Steve Mullin, president of the Washington Roundtable, co-authored an op-ed in the Puget Sound Business Journal titled, "[Washington needs transparency in health care services, testing.](#)" The article focuses on the results of the "First, Do No Harm" report on health care waste and the actions that the Alliance and its members are taking to address overuse of low-value services.

In addition, the Everett Herald published an editorial called "[Do no harm" with wasteful medical procedures](#), which focused on our report and features quotes from Nancy Giunto and Dr. Al Fisk of The Everett Clinic.



### New Highlight: Bariatric Surgery Rates Increasing

As part of our Different Regions, Different Care reporting, we have released a new "Highlight" showing [rates of bariatric surgery in Washington state](#). The Highlight includes a number

of key findings, including the fact that women ages 45-64 in Everett were nearly four times more likely to have bariatric surgery than their peers in Seattle. The Highlight includes Action Steps stakeholders can take to make sure bariatric surgeries are appropriate and medically indicated.



### HICOR Releases Community Cancer Care Report

We're excited to help promote the Hutchinson Institute for Cancer Outcomes Research (HICOR)'s [new Community Cancer Care Report](#), which

was released at a conference last week. It is the first publicly accessible statewide report showing clinic-level quality measures linked to cost in cancer care. The report includes data for cancer patients covered by Washington state's largest public and commercial insurance providers. It is designed to facilitate discussions among clinicians providing cancer care, insurance plan administrators, and employer groups who purchase insurance.

[Read a recap of the conference.](#)



### Learning Module: Working Collaboratively to Achieve Price Transparency

As part of its Getting to Affordability initiative, the Network for Regional

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

1,556 followers  
3,798 tweets  
following 856 people

[follow](#)

### Latest Tweets

- Check out our op-ed with @waroundtable in @PSBJ! <https://t.co/fhF4Fna56u> 3:27PM
- We're excited to welcome @SEIU1199NW and @CareSelectNDSC as the newest members of the Alliance! <https://t.co/SDQgict8AY> 12:10PM
- Thanks to the @EverettHerald for this great editorial on our "First, Do No Harm" report! <https://t.co/So4Gci7IMK> 11:38AM
- RT @waroundtable: Check out this op-ed from Roundtable President Steve Mullin: Washington needs transparency in health care services, testi... 10:26AM
- RT @PSBJ: Fred Hutch report aims to improve quality and costs of cancer care, writes @CoralGarnick <https://t.co/FGbeytiRwY> 10:04AM

Healthcare Improvement (NRHI) and the Washington Health Alliance partnered to address how to work collaboratively to achieve price transparency. The organizations created a [learning module that features interviews with members of the Alliance's Board of Directors](#), who discuss the journey to gain access to pricing data, and ultimately achieve price transparency, in Washington state.



### **Building Our Next Health System: Highlights from the Lown Conference**

The Lown Institute recently held their Annual Conference, with the theme of “Breaking the cycle of high cost and low value: America’s next health system.” The Alliance’s Deputy Director, Susie Dade, presented on our “First, Do No Harm” report, which used Milliman’s MedInsight Health Waste Calculator to quantify low-value health care services in Washington state. “There’s an inclination to say, ‘Just do the test, it’s cheap,’ but when you add them together you get hundreds of millions of dollars in waste,” Dade said during her presentation. [Read the recap.](#)



### **Save the Date: NRHI National Affordability Summit**

The Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI) will be holding their second annual National Affordability Summit in Washington, DC on Oct. 4, 2018. The event will explore how three key issues – health, price, and waste – influence the affordability of healthcare. It will highlight regional success stories from those who are working to impact affordability in their markets. Dr. Stuart Altman, Sol C. Chaikin Professor of National Health Policy at The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University, will be the keynote speaker. [See details about the conference here.](#)

### **NEW MEMBERS**

We’re excited to welcome SEIU Healthcare 1199NW and NDSC as the newest members of the Alliance! [Learn more here.](#)

### **Joining the Alliance**

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about membership in the Alliance, we have an online tool to help you learn about the value of Alliance membership [Learn more at our Join Us website.](#)