

# UPDATE for the Community



## LEARN MORE

### LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In May, the Alliance released “Hospital Value in Washington State” – the first report in the state and one of the few nationally – that combines scores on hospital quality, patient experience and cost. Since its release, we have received many positive comments and some media attention centered on the report’s findings that higher cost doesn’t mean higher quality care. However, as I said when I spoke at the National Employer Summit earlier this year, a database is just a database unless you can actually use the information to inform and drive action. So now that we have the data, how do we use the information in the report to drive value-based purchasing and help those who get, give and pay for healthcare make better choices?

[Read more from the Executive Director](#)

### ALLIANCE UPDATES

- [eValue8 Mental Health Deep Dive: Next Steps](#)
- [Kentucky Creates Core Set of Primary Care Measures](#)
- [Mayo Clinic Helps Providers Address Depression Treatment Through Shared Decision-Making](#)
- [Save the Date for Upcoming Affordability Conferences](#)
- [Joining the Alliance](#)



#### eValue8 Mental Health Deep Dive: Next Steps

In our **last update**, we mentioned that our most recent **eValue8** – a tool developed by the National Alliance of Health Care Purchaser Coalitions (formerly the National Business Coalition on Health) to measure the performance of health plan services and performances – would take a “Deep Dive into Mental Health.” Areas reviewed included:

#### 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 on our [LinkedIn company page](#).

- Collaborative care in primary care setting with early intervention
- Affordable access to quality networks
- Appropriate pharmaceutical management
- Performance metrics and accountability

Members of the Alliance Purchaser Affinity Group reviewed the results in June and made recommendations for purchasers, which were shared with the Alliance Board of Directors.



### Kentucky Creates Core Set of Primary Care Measures

Kentuckiana Health Collaborative (KHC) and the Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services have partnered to develop a [core set of primary care measures](#) aligning the priorities of Medicare, Medicaid, and commercial insurers in the state. More than 70 experts from across Kentucky participated in this effort, which contains 32 unique measures across prevention, pediatrics, chronic and acute care, behavioral health, and cost/utilization.

Washington State established a [Statewide Common Measure Set](#) for healthcare quality and cost in 2014 through a Governor-appointed committee co-led by the Alliance. We are pleased to learn that other states such as Kentucky are working to provide a foundation for health care accountability and performance measurement. A comparison of our Washington list of measures and Kentucky's measures shows tremendous overlap on a majority of measures. For more information on the Common Measures and the work of the Alliance, visit our [website](#).



### Mayo Clinic Helps Providers Address Depression Treatment Through Shared Decision-Making

A new resource from the Mayo Clinic offers [a tool for health care and behavioral health providers](#) to use with their patients in the medication treatment of depression. Available in English and Spanish, the tool includes a printed decision aid and visual demonstrations on how to use the tool.

Shared decision-making is a process that allows patients and their providers to make healthcare decisions together, taking into account the best scientific evidence available, as well as the patient's values and preferences. Depression affects about 7 percent of people in the U.S. Washington State is taking action by transforming health care to deliver coordinated care for both physical and mental health. Medication is one of several approaches a provider and patient may choose to address depression. Included as part of the health plan, this tool can make the choice of medication an easier shared decision between patient and care provider.



### Save the Date for Upcoming Affordability Conferences

The Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI) and the Alliance are offering two excellent opportunities this fall to learn about and engage in the national

**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.**



1,572 followers  
3,833 tweets  
following 859 people



#### Latest Tweets

- It's more than just a number. Data can be a call to action. In our July blog, ED Nancy Giunto talks about using dat... <https://t.co/eXA2rZ0sQh> 3:35PM
- RT @StateofReform: .@sbirch793 has named a new Chief Medical Officer at @WA\_Health\_Care Dr. Judy Zerzan. Deputy CMO Dr. Charissa Fotinos is... 4:16PM
- A wonderful real-life example of how integrating behavioral and physical healthcare saves money and keeps people ou... <https://t.co/UAFQLEcnYE> 12:17PM
- In just one generation, this country's C-section rate has increased 500% Interesting podcast on possible reasons fo... <https://t.co/5HjITKG7JF> 8:24AM
- RT @RegHealthImp: 'Hospitals should consider underused resource to cut costs and promote value-based care' via @Stanford <https://t.co/E7BtE...> 8:14AM

efforts to make healthcare affordable.

- **“Accelerating Strategies for Healthcare Affordability in Washington State,” October 31, 2018, Seattle WA**  
Join us October 31 in Seattle as we convene local and national healthcare leaders to brainstorm affordability strategies. Funded by an NRHI grant, the one-day conference will feature local and national speakers, a panel discussion and breakout sessions, as well as an update on NRHI’s National Affordability movement and Total Cost of Care Benchmarks results. More information and an opportunity to register coming soon
- **Second Annual NRHI National Affordability Summit, October 4, 2018, Washington D.C.**  
NRHI will hold their second annual National Affordability Summit to explore how health, price and waste influence the affordability of healthcare. Details and registration can be found [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](#).