

UPDATE for the Community



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“Americans aren’t buying more health care overall than other countries. But what they are buying is increasingly expensive.”

I’m sure this quote from the recent Wall Street Journal article, [“Why Americans Spend So Much on Health Care”](#) comes as no shock to any of you. Health care spending in our country is skyrocketing, currently accounting for 18% of the American economy and predicted to reach 20% in just two years.

Yet, although it is abundantly clear that health care in the US costs too much, what isn’t as clear is WHY it costs so much and HOW to make it more affordable.

[Read more from the Executive Director](#)

ALLIANCE UPDATES

- Alliance Member Honored by Seattle Chamber of Commerce
- Bree Collaborative Public Comment Request: LGBTQ Health Care and Suicide Care Reports and Recommendations
- Report: Patients often choose higher-priced places to receive MRIs
- Alliance waste report continues to receive national attention
- New Member
- Joining the Alliance

Alliance Member Honored by Seattle Chamber of Commerce

Trisha Tyler, SPHR Pacific Northwest

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.](#)



Health Business Leader at Alliance member Mercer, was presented with the 2018 Women in Business & Leadership Initiative (WIBLI) **Outstanding Female Leader Award** from The Seattle Chamber

of Commerce. The award was given in recognition of her leadership and commitment to gender equity. Trisha was praised by her colleagues for her passion, professionalism, and leadership. Thank you to Mercer for being such an active member of the Alliance, including membership in our Consumer Education Committee, and to Trisha for this wonderful recognition.



Bree Collaborative Public Comment Request: LGBTQ Health Care and Suicide Care Reports and Recommendations

Your feedback is requested on two draft recommendations: LGBTQ Health Care Report and Recommendations and Suicide Care Report and Recommendations. Our workgroups will review comments before submitting final drafts for review and adoption by the Bree Collaborative. We estimate that the surveys will take 10-15 minutes to complete. *Feedback must be received by 5pm Friday, August 24.*

- **LGBTQ Health Care**
[Read the draft LGBTQ Health Care Recommendations](#) | [Take the Survey](#)
- **Suicide Care**
[Read the draft Suicide Care Recommendations](#) | [Take the Survey](#)

More information: www.breecollaborative.org/involved/. To give additional feedback please email bree@qualityhealth.org or visit www.breecollaborative.org.



Report: Patients often choose higher-priced places to receive MRIs

According to a [recent study](#) by the National Bureau of Economic Research, patients often choose higher-priced locations rather than more affordable options for lower-limb MRI scans. The study also found that less than 1% of the patients surveyed use price transparency tools to decide where to

receive the imaging.

Patients surveyed passed an average of six lower-priced providers between their home and where they receive care. According to the report, if they visited the lowest cost provider within the distance they traveled for care, patients would reduce out-of-pocket costs by 27% and money spent by their insurance plan by more than 40%

Alliance waste report continues to receive national attention

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



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- Thank you for sharing, @MarcosDachary .
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- Although reducing #healthcare overuse is everyone's responsibility, this story from NPR shows how a simple letter b...
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- RT @MarcosDachary: Hopefully Susie Dade at @WAHealthCheckup can give us a sneak peak on what WA State is about to do to reduce preOperative... 4:37PM



The Alliance's "First, Do No Harm: Calculating Health Care Waste in Washington State" report continues to receive national attention. Not only are we being cited and quoted at Senate hearings and in journal articles, but our leadership has been invited to speak to it at several national events.

Executive Director Nancy Giunto will be presenting at the Rhode Island Business Group on Health's Summit on Low-Value Care on October 5. She will share the stage with Beth Botz, President and CEO of the Virginia Center for Health Innovation (VCHI). Virginia is the only other state in the nation that is publicly reporting on waste and overuse using Millman's Health Waste Calculator.

Also in October, Deputy Director Susie Dade will present at the Association of Governmental Risk Pools in Portland, and the National Association of Health Data Organizations (NAHDO) conference in Park City followed by the Milliman Client Conference in Las Vegas.

New Member



This month, we're excited to welcome Harmony Biosciences, LLC as the newest member of the Alliance. Read more about Harmony Biosciences [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](#).