

UPDATE for the Community



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happily, spring is here and we can finally put our snow shovels away!

Last month was a big one for the Alliance. At our All-Alliance meeting, we welcomed more than a hundred people (thank you for your support!), heard from Chris Koller, President of the Milbank Memorial Fund, and released our newest reports on inpatient price variation and statewide spending trends. We also released the latest installment of the eValue8™ analysis and responded to an invitation by the US Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension (HELP) Committee to submit recommendations on how to address rising health care costs.

[\(Read the full letter HERE\)](#)

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](#).

ALLIANCE UPDATES

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AMGA Foundation

Congratulations to UW Medicine for the 2019 Acclaim Award



The American Medical Group Association (AMGA) awarded UW Medicine the prestigious 2019 Acclaim Award for systemic transformation to identify and treat depression. At AMGA's

March meeting, UW was presented the award and in a breakout session, presented its initiative [The Road to Care Transformation](#):

[Accomplishing Reliability Excellent Care That Is Patient-Centered and Mission-Driven.](#)

The UW Medicine project was used to support 38 clinics with nearly 400,000 primary care patients and 450 primary care providers. It used a Patient Health Questionnaire to target the presence and severity of depression (PHQ-9), standardized diagnosis and treatment, and implemented a system for follow up. Results were profound. Screening for depression rose from 52.1% in 2016 to 73% in 2018, the remission rate was three times higher for enrolled patients, and there was a 50% improvement in achieving a positive response to treatment.

The Acclaim Award was created 20 years ago, when the AMGA recognized that there was no award for quality in ambulatory care setting. With it, the AMGA seeks to recognize health care delivery organizations that are measurably improving the quality and value of care, improving patient experience and outcomes, continuously learning and innovating, and improving population health.

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.



An initiative of the ABLM Foundation

Choosing Wisely® Has International Reach

Since Choosing Wisely® began in 2012, its premise of avoiding unnecessary medical tests, treatments, and procedures has garnered much support here in the United States, but its reach has crossed our borders. As a Commonwealth Fund [report](#) shows, Choosing Wisely campaigns have now been adopted by more than twenty countries. Here, the Alliance, Washington State Medical Association, and Washington State Hospital Association co-sponsor Choosing Wisely along with twenty other organizations to identify those wasteful and potentially harmful medical services in Washington state. The results from the Alliance's [First Do No Harm](#) report, a Choosing Wisely initiative, were used to support Vera Whole Health Chief Medical Officer Kevin Wang's recent editorial in the Puget Sound Business Journal, *Primary Care Is The Key to Fixing Health Care*.

New Member



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

Joining the Alliance

Our members can be the best ambassadors for our work. If you know someone who would like to learn more about membership in the Alliance, we have an online tool to help you talk about the value of Alliance membership. [Learn more at our Join Us website](#).