

UPDATE for the Community



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am delighted to report that the legislation to move us closer to a single statewide All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) has successfully moved through both houses of the Washington legislature. It passed the House 91 to 5 on April 16th and passed the Senate 44 to 1 on April 26th. It is currently awaiting Governor Inslee's signature.

It has been a long road to get here, with many unexpected twists and turns, including an unsuccessful bid for leading the current WA-APCD in 2016. And through it all, the Alliance was fortunate to have the knowledge and support of board members and leaders of our Government Affairs Committee including Past Alliance Board Chair and Senior Deputy to King County Executive Fred Jarrett, Washington Roundtable President Steve Mullin and Former King County Executive Director and Housing and Urban Development Deputy Director Ron Sims.

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

ALLIANCE UPDATES

- [Executive Director to Speak in Spokane](#)
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**Executive Director to Speak in
Spokane**

Alliance Executive Director Nancy Giunto will be delivering the keynote address at the Employer

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](#).

Sponsored Healthcare Conference in Spokane Valley on May 7th, hosted by the Healthcare Coalition of the Inland NW Society for Human Resources Management (INSHRM). HR professionals, benefits consultants, healthcare providers, and employers in Eastern Washington created the group because of the “shared frustration of the state of healthcare in their community.”

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.

INSHRM describes the conference as an opportunity to provide participants with “knowledge of how healthcare works, the pitfalls of the current system, and, most importantly, strategies for navigating and containing costs of the complex system as it stands today.” Giunto will draw from the Alliance’s recent work for her presentation, including:

- eValue8™
- Community Checkup
- Inpatient Price Variation Report
- Statewide Spending Trends
- Hospital Value Reporting
- First, Do No Harm

Giunto hopes to inspire participants with all of the ways Alliance analysis can improve quality and reduce costs in her talk entitled, “Using Health Data to Transform Human Resource Leaders into Human Resource Heroes.”



Politics Play No Part in Recognizing Prescription Drug Cost Problem

Lowering prescription drug costs continues to be the highest health care priority according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Of the 1,200 recently surveyed as part of a KFF Health

Tracking Poll last month, 68% of the public say lowering prescription drug costs should be “a top priority” for Congress. Support was across political ideology, with 66% of Republicans, 64% of Independents, and 77% of Democrats in agreement that prescription drug costs need to be addressed.

Reducing pharmaceutical costs is an important issue to the Alliance, as well. In our most recent eValue8™ report, Cigna PPO performed equal to the best rated plan nationally in pharmaceutical management, with a score of 83.4%. A high use of generics, better than a 90th percentile rating for avoiding the use of antibiotics, and tracking specialty pharmacy spending were among the factors considered. The rest of the plans were rated as follows: Kaiser Permanente Washington HMO 75.3%, Regence Blue Shield PPO 73.6%, UnitedHealthcare PPO 73%, Kaiser Permanente Washington PPO 67.2% and Aetna PPO 66.4%. To see the eValue8™ results, click [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.](#)