

UPDATE for the Community



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hospital costs is a big topic these days. It's not surprising when [one-third](#) of our health care dollars go to care in hospitals. And on the consumer side, medical bills are getting national attention. Just look at NPR and Kaiser Health News' [Bill of the Month](#) series, Vox's [reporting](#) on ER bills, and hospital collection efforts that are making [national news](#). A recent Kaiser Family Foundation [poll](#) shows that nearly 80% of Americans support legislation to protect people from surprise medical bills.

Here in Washington, the new year rings in the implementation of our [Balance Billing Protection Act](#), considered to be the nation's strongest to prevent surprise medical billing and balance billing.

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

ALLIANCE UPDATES

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Recent Alliance Appearances from the Podium

The Alliance's work appeared as part of:

- Accolade CEO Raj Singh's presentation to the Seattle Metro Chamber's business roundtable;
- Dr. Eric Larson's address at the Hilde and Bill Birnbaum Endowed Lecture "The Affordability Initiative: Delivering on the Promise of Health and Health Care for All"; and
- Presentations by Milbank Memorial President Chris Koller and surgeon and author Dr. Marty Makary at the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement's National

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](#).

Kudos!



Congratulations to Alliance members who are being recognized for their work as Outstanding Leaders in Health Care by *Puget Sound*

Business Journal at their December 6th awards event. We appreciate your generosity in sharing your dedication and expertise with the Alliance:

- Board member Greg Marchand from Boeing for Community Impact
- Dr. Nancy Davidson from Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center for Researcher of the Year
- Sr. Susanne Hartung from Providence St. Joseph Health for Inspiration
- Leanne Berge from Community Health Plan of Washington and Community Health Network of Washington for Public Health Leadership
- Paula Houston and Dr. Patricia Dawson from UW Medicine for Equity Leadership
- Maura Little from Cambia Grove for Up and Comer
- J. Michael Marsh from Overlake Medical Center & Clinics for Community Connector
- Susan Mullaney from Kaiser Permanente for Strategic Leadership
- Dr. Edward D. Verrier from UW Medicine for Physician Educator of the Year

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.](#)

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.

