

UPDATE for the Community



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I'm proud to say that 2019 brought the Alliance several firsts-in-the-nation and in our state. We:

- reported on the wide [variation](#) of actual prices for inpatient treatment (including facility and physician charges) not only across Washington, but *within* individual hospitals; revealed the underlying reasons *why* there was a decline in
- inpatient spending with our statewide trend analysis [results](#); and [ranked](#) medical groups on waste, using the Milliman
- MedInsight Health Waste Calculator™ for both Medicaid and the commercially-insured and found an encouraging statewide *downward* trend for the tests, treatments, and procedures we measured.

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

ALLIANCE UPDATES

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Open Position

The Alliance has an opening for a new [Director of Performance Improvement and Innovation](#). If you are interested in applying for this position, please send cover letter, resume and salary requirements to:

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](#).

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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.

No unsolicited phone inquiries please. We will only consider resumes that meet a significant number of [qualifications listed](#).

Washington State's Health Reforms Highlighted in *Milbank Quarterly*

Washington State was out in front on health care this year as the first state to create a public long-term care insurance program and the first to add a public option to its state health insurance marketplace. Two new *Milbank Quarterly* opinions describe these innovative reforms, which other states and the federal government will be watching closely.



In *First in the Nation: Washington State's Long-Term Care Trust Act*, Laurie Jenkins, Speaker-Designate of the Washington State House of Representatives, explains the process that led to the development of the law, its financing, and the broad range of services, including in-home care, that it covers. The law will help support not only

the state's aging population but also their unpaid family caregivers.



In *Washington State's Quasi-Public Option*, the American Enterprise Institute's James C. Capretta points out that while the public option for individual health insurance is sometimes considered an easier alternative to a single payer plan, "Washington State's experience shows that the public option also must clear high

political and practical hurdles." Given these challenges, the state will contract with private carriers to administer the public plans and allow physicians and hospitals to opt out.

Welcome New Member

**EXACT
SCIENCES**

The Alliance is pleased to announce our newest member, [Exact Sciences](#), a molecular diagnostics company focused on the early detection and prevention of colorectal cancer with its

non-invasive screening product, Cologuard. Exact Sciences estimates that 3 million people have used Cologuard since it was launched, resulting in the detection of 14,000 early-stage cancers and 98,000 pre-cancerous polyps. Exact Sciences is now expanding its detection screening to address liver cancer, for which there are an estimated 3 million high-risk Americans.

[Learn more about Exact Sciences 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.](#)

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