

UPDATE for the Community



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

There is no denying it that low-value care is getting a lot of attention these days. Our special guest at last week's All-Alliance webinar, Dr. Mark Fendrick, the creator of Value-Based Insurance Design and Director of the University of Michigan's Center for Value-Based Insurance Design, had it right when he said, "It shouldn't have taken a pandemic for Americans to understand the impact of out-of-pocket costs and its ability to stop patients from getting the care they need."

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

ALLIANCE UPDATES

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Alliance to Unveil A New Quality Composite Score



**COMMUNITY
CHECKUP**

For the first time, the Alliance will report results using a single score. The Quality Composite Score (QCS) uses a single score to combine 29 measures from the

Community Checkup to compare the quality of medical care being delivered across populations for both the commercially and Medicaid-insured. The first QCS report will be released later this month and will include results for the nine Accountable Communities of Health, 27 counties for those with Medicaid coverage, and 24 counties for those with commercial insurance.

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](#).

The QCS summarizes results across four “domains”:

- prevention and screening, such as well-child visits from birth to 6 years-old; adolescent well-care; and screenings for chlamydia, breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer;
- care for chronic diseases, for conditions such as ADHD, cholesterol, depression, diabetes, high blood pressure, and hypertension;
- effective and cost-effective care, whether doctors and hospitals manage care to avoid costly inpatient readmissions and potentially unnecessary emergency room visits; and
- appropriate and cost-effective care, including prescribing generic medications and avoiding the inappropriate use of antibiotics, as well as the use of x-rays, MRI and CT scans in certain cases of low-back pain.

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.

We appreciate the efforts of the members of the Alliance’s [Quality Improvement Committee](#), who were instrumental in the development of the QCS, including the development of the domains, the weighting of measures, and the composite score methodology.

Board Opioid Impact Initiative Continuing to Move Forward

The Alliance Board Opioid Impact Initiative, designed to reduce the level of opioid prescribing for acute low-back and dental pain, is entering the next stage of development. Theresa Lampkin Tamura, Karen Johnson, and researcher Liz Wood from Washington State University Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, have created a pre-intervention survey for each stakeholder group, purchasers, payers, and providers, represented on the Alliance Board of Directors. The survey will help identify each board-related organization’s current state of monitoring opioid prescribing and consumer education, to develop an effective intervention plan. The survey is expected to be distributed next week.

Alliance Office Re-Opens



We are pleased to announce that this week, the Alliance’s office at 600 Stewart Street re-opened at 50% occupancy, in keeping with Governor Inslee’s Phase 2 of the [Safe Start Washington Phased Re-opening Plan for King County](#). If you are planning on visiting, you will need to be masked upon entry and to notify us when you are in the lobby, so we can escort you upstairs. Before entering the office, your temperature will be taken with an infrared thermometer and we ask that you use the hand sanitizing station at the front desk. Also, please be mindful about surfaces and wipe down all areas that you use, including flat surfaces, equipment, chairs, and office door knobs. We are required to maintain 6’ of distance at all times.

If you are planning on making your way to the office via public transportation, please check services before leaving because some routes are on a reduced schedule. Seattle Metro Transit is fare-free until the end of July, Link Light Rail resumed charging on June 1 and Sound transit resumed charging as of July 1st.

We look forward to welcoming our members and visitors back safely when you are ready to visit in person again!

Director of Performance Improvement and Innovation Karen Johnson to Arrive in Seattle



We are delighted that Director of Performance Improvement and Innovation Karen Johnson will be joining us in-person at the Alliance office starting on July 6th. Karen has been working from home in Kansas City and is due to arrive in Seattle this week, having made stops in Denver, Jackson Hole, and Boise, along the way. Karen's 30+ years in health care make her uniquely qualified to bring the diverse interests of different stakeholder groups together. We look forward to the opportunity to working with her to make her passion a reality – making health care work better for more people at a cost they can afford. If you'd like to personally welcome Karen, you can reach her at kjohnson@wahealthalliance.org or 206.454.2953.

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.](#)