

# UPDATE for the Community



## LEARN MORE

### LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I'm sure you agree that the measurement of health care quality is an important mechanism to help us understand how to achieve better health and health care for all Washingtonians. The reporting that the Alliance has produced over the last 15 years has enabled us to understand where care quality is strong and where there are opportunities for improvement. Such is the case with the first release of the Quality Composite Score [report](#) for Washington counties and Accountable Communities of Health.

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

### ALLIANCE UPDATES

- [The Alliance Shares Its Expertise to Assist Oregon in Identifying Low-Value Care](#)
- [Alliance Members Assist Other Organizations in Re-Opening Safely](#)
- [The Alliance Welcomes New Member Advanced Professionals Insurance and Benefit Solutions](#)
- [Joining the Alliance](#)



#### The Alliance Shares Its Expertise to Assist Oregon in Identifying Low-Value Care

The Oregon Health Leadership Council (OHLHC) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) just released a report using the Milliman MedInsight™ Health Waste Calculator, [Better Health for Oregonians: Opportunities to Reduce Low-Value Care](#). Of the 9.6 million tests, procedures, and treatments studied from 2016 to 2018, nearly 40% were considered low-value, resulting in more than 800,000 Oregonians receiving at least one low-value treatment at a total cost of \$530 million. The Alliance team was

#### 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](#).

pleased to support Oregon in this work.

Similar to the Alliance's findings, the Oregon study found opiates prescribed for acute low-back pain in the first four weeks as being predominantly low-value, responsible for more than 772,000 low-value services, affecting more than 350,000 people at a cost of nearly \$49 million. Jill Leake, OHLC's Director of Clinical Strategies, says the Oregon analysis was a provider-led effort and a collaboration between OHA, OHLC's board, as well as its Best Practice Committee, comprised of medical directors and clinical leaders from health systems and health plans.

Leake, who is a nurse with nine years of clinical experience and a background in population health, says she appreciates bringing patient and provider voices into the policy realm. "We're hoping that people see this report and see that their organizations can help in this effort. Fairly small changes can make a big difference."

*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.*



### Alliance Members Assist Other Organizations in Re-Opening Safely

As more businesses began to re-open their doors in keeping with [Safe Start Washington's](#) requirements, many of them were having trouble obtaining the supplies they needed. Hearing about the problem, Business Health Trust (BHT), a nonprofit organization that provides health insurance to small businesses across the state, took action. BHT, a member of the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce that is also a member of the Alliance, started working with local companies to source the needed supplies, cloth and disposable masks, and hand sanitizer that members needed.

After seeing the initial need for these supplies, BHT partnered with King County which procured 3.5M masks and 25,000 bottles of hand sanitizer to provide to small businesses across King County. These "Safe Start Kits" are available to any business in King County through an all-volunteer effort to house supplies, package them, and distribute them. BHT Executive Director Sarai Childs calls it a regional effort and collaboration with members donating warehouse space, more than 300 volunteers packing up supplies and breaking down boxes, Amazon providing transportation, and mayors and many others delivering the free kits.

The Alliance also benefited from the Safe Start effort with a new hand sanitizer station and refills, disinfectant cleaner, and reusable face masks, making it possible for us to re-open our doors. To date, more than three million masks have been distributed. Alliance member organizations Vimly Benefit Solutions, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, and Advanced Professionals Insurance Services were among the organizations that provided volunteer assistance. Childs says, "It's been rewarding to be able to help folks who are struggling at this time and doing our part for helping people get masks so they can wear masks." Childs sees it as a practical extension of BHT's wellness program and says BHT will continue to provide "Welcome Wellness" kits to new members as well as replenishing supplies during renewal season for its more than 800 current members.

Businesses can still order masks on BHT's landing page:



### **The Alliance Welcomes New Member Advanced Professionals Insurance and Benefit Solutions**

The Alliance is pleased to welcome Advanced Professionals Insurance and Benefit Solutions (AP) as our newest member. AP is committed to making healthcare benefits simpler and more affordable for small and medium-sized businesses. Originated in 1997 and headquartered in Seattle, AP has extensive industry knowledge and long-standing relationships across the insurance and employee benefits industry. AP has several COVID-19-related resources available on its [website](#) as part of its “Return to Workplace Webinar Series,” including “Legal and Regulatory Considerations,” “Top 10 Considerations for Employee Benefit Plans,” and “Navigating the Impact of the Cost to Employee Benefits.”

[Learn more about Advanced Professionals Insurance and Benefit Solutions 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.](#)