

UPDATE for the Community



September 2020: Using Data to Drive Value

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

You often hear me talk about driving our work to action and I'm delighted to share some exciting news on a project that will do just that. The Alliance has been awarded a \$350,000 grant by [Arnold Ventures](#) to work with self-funded purchasers to reduce the amount of low-value care delivered across Washington state. Arnold Ventures, a philanthropy dedicated to improving lives by investing in evidence-based solutions is focused on four areas, criminal justice, education, finance, and health. It has [funded](#) more than a thousand projects since 2010, supporting "efforts to understand problems and identify policy solutions."

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

ALLIANCE UPDATES

- [Alliance's Newest Community Checkup to be Released](#)
- [Register Now for the Next All-Alliance Webinar on October 1st from 9-10:15 am PST](#)
- [The Alliance Welcomes PhyPal as its Newest Member](#)
- [Joining the Alliance](#)



[Alliance's Newest Community Checkup to be Released](#)

Later this month, the Alliance will release its 14th Community Checkup [report](#) with results for 1,978 clinics, 327 medical groups, 106 hospitals, 16 health plans, 39 counties, and all nine Accountable Communities of Health on more than 110 performance measures. This report analyzes claims data for four million people for July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 and is noteworthy for two reasons.

LEARN MORE

Join Us

Do you know someone who would like to learn 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

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We invite you to follow the Alliance on

This is the first ranking of medical groups using the Alliance's new Quality Composite Score, providing a more nuanced and streamlined approach to evaluate performance on up to 29 measures across four separate domains:

- **Prevention and screening** looks at the degree to which individuals are receiving recommended services on a timely basis, such as well-child visits, adolescent well-care, and screenings for chlamydia, breast, cervical, and colon cancer;
- **Care for chronic diseases** considers whether conditions such as diabetes, high cholesterol, depression, and hypertension are well-managed;
- **Coordinated, cost-effective care** evaluates whether care avoids costly inpatient readmissions and potentially unnecessary emergency room visits; and
- **Appropriate, cost-effective care** examines a variety of measures associated with the inappropriate use of specific services when other evidence-based alternatives exist, such as prescribing generic medications, avoiding the inappropriate use of antibiotics, and eliminating the use of diagnostic imaging in certain cases of low-back pain.

This is also the first time the Alliance has produced two Community Checkups in less than six months, enabling the Alliance to provide more relevant, and thus, more actionable results. In addition to the medical group ranking, this report contains:

- a comparison of Washington state performance to HEDIS national benchmarks, the most common health insurance plan measurement tool in the country;
- a look at statewide adolescent well-care visits and providers that are beating the trend; and
- a special feature to assist purchasers in using the Community Checkup for health care decision-making.



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Drug prices have been escalating at five times the rate of inflation and there is an estimated \$6 billion in drug and prescription-related waste in Washington state per year. Budget-busting price tags have become commonplace. The pipeline of very expensive new innovations is full and multiple handoffs in the distribution channels that deliver drugs from the manufacturer to the patient add layers of complexity and cost. Do any of these handoffs really add value? Are the price tags on new drugs justified? There is no question that we need to address these issues, but how? In this webinar, we move from admiring the problem to embracing new roles we have as purchasers, insurers, health care providers, and patients. Among the questions we will discuss:

- How do we break through the dysfunction of the current system?
- How do we reduce or moderate prices without stifling innovation?

Twitter @WAHealthCheckup.

Follow the Alliance on LinkedIn We invite you to follow the Alliance on our LinkedIn company page.

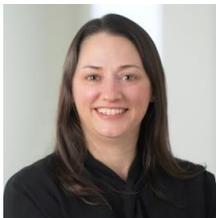
The Washington Health Alliance brings together those who give, get and pay for health care to create a high-quality, affordable system for the people of Washington state.

- How can we ensure appropriate access to life-changing and life-saving medications at a cost that is reasonable – or at least justifiable?
- What are biosimilars and what do I need to know about them?
- How can purchasers, insurers, providers, and patients act differently to be part of the solution?

Joining us will be **James Robinson, PhD, MPH**, Professor of Health Economics at the University of California, Berkeley's School of Public Health and Chair of the Berkeley Center for Health Technology and



Sarah K. Emond, MPP, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review, a leading non-profit health policy research



organization known as the nation's independent watchdog on drug pricing.

Attendance is limited to Washington Health Alliance members. If you are interested in joining the Alliance, please contact Theresa Lampkin Tamura at ttamura@wahealthalliance.org.



The Alliance Welcomes PhyPal as its Newest Member

The Alliance is pleased to welcome PhyPal, founded in Seattle two years ago with the vision of redefining the traditional patient-physician engagement model through innovative technology and highly personalized healthcare adaptive processes. PhyPal is a suite of AI-driven digital health solutions that assist the physician during every part of their workflow, allowing them to better focus on their patients. PhyPal supports a physician during a patient appointment, much like a friend or a 'pal' would, hence the name PhyPal. Using Apps, iOS Apps, Wearables, Web Applications, and a secure data repository, PhyPal performs multivariate nonlinear regression modeling to help solve complex medical challenges.

[Learn more about PhyPal 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 at [Join Us](#).

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