

# UPDATE for the Community



## November 2020: Alliance Resources Help Consumers Make Good Health Care Decisions

### LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Results from our recent member survey indicate that many of you are unfamiliar with the Alliance's Own Your Health [website](#) (OYH), which offers consumer-friendly guidance to help people make well-informed decisions about their health care. As a member of the Alliance you have access to the OYH library of resources, including articles, videos, and infographics on a wide range of subjects, from [selecting a health plan](#) and [how to safely get non-COVID medical care](#) to [understanding advance directives](#). The following are just a few examples to give you an idea of what's available and how you can use it to help your members or employees get high quality health care.

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

### ALLIANCE UPDATES

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### Alliance Members Convene to Address Cannabis in the Workplace



Just because cannabis is legal in Washington state does not eliminate its challenges to employers and the workforce. To gain a better

### 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, 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.](#)

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understanding of the range of issues facing employers and begin to address them, the Alliance participated in a national research project with eight of its members. The topics discussed included:

- the distinction between FDA approved and non-approved products;
- the limited number of FDA-approved products available for medical use; and
- the lack of federal oversight on both medical and recreational cannabis contributing to inconsistencies with content, quality, and dosage.

The group discussed a range of workplace policies and the problems posed by cannabis users who inadvertently underestimate its effect or duration. If you are interested in learning more, please contact [Theresa Lampkin Tamura](#).

This effort is part of a research grant by Greenwich Biosciences and was facilitated by Gallagher Benefit Services through the National Alliance of Health Care Purchasers.

### Update on the Common Measure Set



The Washington State Common Measure Set for Health Care Quality and Cost enables a common way of tracking important elements of Washington state's health and health care performance and is intended to inform public and private health care purchasing of health insurance benefits. The results of the Common Measure Set are used to help determine how well the state's health care system is performing and to enable a shared understanding of target areas for improvement. The focus of the measures includes access, prevention, acute care, and chronic care. The Alliance publishes a [list](#) of the Common Measure Set and results as part of its [Community Checkup](#).

At its October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Performance Measures Coordinating Committee (PMCC), the body that oversees the Common Measure Set, addressed several recent changes made by the National Committee on Quality Assurance to several HEDIS measures and approved several [proposed](#) changes for 2021.

The PMCC:

- 1) **approved** the addition of two measures:
  - Contraceptive Care – Most & Moderately Effective Methods (to address contraceptive care that is not limited to one type of contraception); and
  - Use of Opioids at High Dosage (to align with HEDIS reporting of  $\geq 2$  prescriptions for  $>120$  MG for  $\geq 15$  days for those 18 years-old and older).
- 2) **replaced** three measures:
  - Prenatal Care with Prenatal & Postpartum Care (this HEDIS measure is more comprehensive, as it includes a postpartum component and will reduce the reporting burden for plans and providers);

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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.*

- Well-Child Visit with Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visit (this HEDIS measure captures more age groups and reflects HEDIS changes); and
- Comprehensive Diabetes Care with Medical Attention for Nephropathy with Kidney Health Evaluation for Patients with Diabetes (this reflects HEDIS measure changes that were developed with assistance from the National Kidney Foundation to measure those 18–85 year-olds with diabetes (type 1 and type 2) who received a kidney health evaluation, defined by an estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) and a urine albumin-creatinine ratio (uACR), during the measurement year).

3) **removed and retired** two measures:

- Adult BMI Assessment; and
- Children's Access to Primary Care Practitioners.

At the PMCC's June 19, 2020 meeting, it **approved** the addition of one measure for 2021:

- Depression Remission or Response for Adolescents and Adults (this captures members 12 years of age and older with a diagnosis of depression and an elevated PHQ-9 score, who had evidence of response or remission within 4 to 8 months of the elevated score).

With these changes, the total number of measures contained in the Common Measure Set for 2021 increased to 64.

The Washington State Health Care Authority provides information on the Common Measure Set and the PMCC [here](#).

**Reserve Your Seat Now for the Free Value-Based Summit presented by the Bree Collaborative and the Washington Health Alliance, sponsored by Cambia Grove!**



What's keeping us from adopting more value-based payment models?

Find out what's standing in our way and how everyone – purchasers, health plans, and providers – can contribute to a more rapid acceleration of value-based payment in our state at a free virtual Value-Based Care Summit on November 12th from 8:30 to 11:30 am PST.

Join us for:

- comments by nationally-renowned keynote speaker, Donald Berwick, MD, MPP, FRCP;
- a look at where we are now from Washington State Health Care Authority Director Sue Birch, BSN, RN, MBA and Chief Medical Officer Judy Zerzan-Thul, MD, MPH;
- a presentation focused on successful Accountable Care Organizations by David B. Muhlestein, PhD, JD, Chief Strategy & Chief Research Officer, Leavitt Partners, LLC;
- a panel discussion featuring President of Optum Western

- Washington Lloyd David, President-West of Landmark Health Rebecca Kavoussi, Chief Administrative Officer at Eastside Health Network David LaMarche, MBA, and Kaiser Permanente Washington's Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Strategy Karen Schartman; and
- closing remarks by Washington Health Alliance Executive Director Nancy Giunto and Chair of the Bree Collaborative Hugh Straley, MD.

Space is limited--register [here](#).

### **The Alliance Welcomes Newest Member Unify Consulting**



Unify Consulting, with offices in Seattle, San Francisco, Chicago, Sioux Falls, Fargo, Silicon Valley, and Salt Lake City, is transforming the world of consulting with its triple focus: business agility; technology enablement; and data-driven insights.

As healthcare providers, payers, and life science organizations are looking for new ways to transform care, the path to harness technology, expert-driven insights, and optimal patient experience is often unclear. That's where Unify Consulting comes in, to merge the wisdom of seasoned healthcare professionals with the power of modern technologies to vault clients towards a new path of certainty and lasting progress.

Unify's team of healthcare industry and consulting professionals are focused on innovation and efficiency to drive success and implement practical solutions. They work with providers, health plans, pharmaceuticals, biotech, and new technology companies to help increase margins, optimize care models, smooth navigation through regulatory compliance, and better-align strategy to operations.

Learn more about Unity Consulting [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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