

Leading health system improvement

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

Health Affairs article highlights Alliance health care equity efforts

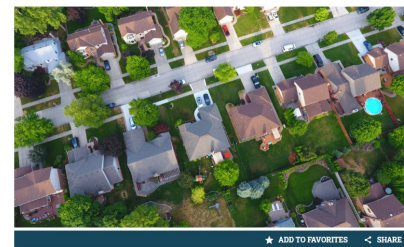
An article published in Health Affairs Forefront last week, coauthored by Executive Director Drew Oliveria and Director of Data Management and Analytics Mark Pregler, highlights the Alliance’s new efforts to shine a light on equity in the quality of care in Washington state. The article, titled: “Improving Quality And Equity Through Neighborhood-Level Measures Of Social Need,” highlights how where someone lives can directly impact the quality of care they receive in primary care settings.

Improving Quality And Equity Through Neighborhood-Level Measures Of Social Need

Anna M. Morenz, Andrew Oliveira, Mark Pregler, Joshua M. Liao

JUNE 2, 2023

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Read the full article on Health Affairs.

This report draws information from **the Alliance’s 2023 Community Checkup**, which paired the quality data from the All-Payer Claim Database, representing 4.5 million Washingtonians, with the Neighborhood Atlas (Area Deprivation Index). The Neighborhood Atlas, a tool validated by the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, measures the relative socioeconomic advantage or disadvantage of an area down to the neighborhood level.

The article was written along with Anna M. Morenz, MD, a board-certified internal medicine physician and practicing primary care internist at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, and Josh Liao, MD, the medical director of payment strategy at the University of Washington (UW) Medicine.

Read more.

In case you missed it:

Alliance releases first-ever report on health care costs and equity

The Washington Health Alliance in May released **its first-ever report looking at the total cost of care across Washington state** through an equity lens in an effort to

drive the conversation toward removing barriers to high-quality, affordable, and equitable health care.

With this report, we show for the first time how where someone lives can impact the cost of caring for them. We do not intend to just highlight the trends uncovered in the report, but to actively engage with our members, and other health care stakeholders, to identify how we close these care gaps to ensure the health and wellness of all Washington residents,” said Alliance Executive Director Drew Oliveira, MD, MHA.



Read more about the latest report.

Take action on flagging colorectal cancer screening rates

With as many as 4 out of every 10 Washingtonians with commercial insurance not receiving proper colorectal cancer screenings, the Alliance, in partnership with Guardant Health, is outlining how to take an effort to close this crucial care gap.

Colorectal cancer is a life-threatening disease that can be among the costliest to treat. However, colon cancer screening is an easy and effective way to detect cancer in its early stages and prevent its development. Studies show that regular screening can significantly reduce the incidence and mortality of colon cancer by more than 20 percent.

Despite this, many Washington residents are not getting timely, appropriate screenings, which are typically covered by their health insurance. The latest figures from the Alliance's 2023, drawn from our voluntary All-Payer Claims database representing 4.5 Washington residents, show that among the commercially insured, just 61% on average are getting screened properly.

In October, the Alliance, along with Guardant Health, will host an hour-long webinar to discuss barriers to care and how employers can host a workplace screening event.

As we finalize the details of the webinar, those interested in learning more or taking action sooner can contact Denise Giambalvo, the Alliance's Director of Member Engagement and Business Strategy at dgiambalvo@wahealthalliance.org.

Upcoming Alliance Events

Bolstering Mental Health in the Post-Pandemic Hybrid Workplace

June 14 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. PDT - Downtown Seattle and Virtual

Free parking for up to 40 people is available for those who attend the event in person.

As companies across Washington find a new normal following the pandemic shutdowns, supporting the mental health needs of

employees remains a persistent focus.

Join the conversation with peers across health plans, health care providers and employers, unions, and business trusts.

What we will cover:

- The future of mental health care and how employers can best serve the needs of their employees.
- The important role the advanced primary care model plays in improving access to behavioral and mental health services.
- The behavioral health concerns involving youth and young workers, and how best to respond to them.

Hear from health care purchasers:



Sarai Childs,
Executive Director,
Business Health Trust



Bill Dinger,
Head of Caregiver
Benefits and Wellbeing,
Providence Healthcare

And hear firsthand from employers about how they are improving access to and engagement in behavioral health services while adapting to new post-pandemic challenges.

View the full agenda.

The forum will feature a keynote from **Sandrine Pirard, MD, PhD, MPH, West Region Chief Medical Officer, Carelon Behavioral Health.**

A light breakfast and boxed lunch will be provided to those that attend the event in person. Along with the free parking onsite, street parking is also available at the standard rate for the City of Seattle.

Register to attend in-person.

Register to attend virtually.

Home Blood Pressure Monitoring with Clinical Support: Active patient engagement for better health

June 20 from 10 to 11 a.m. PDT - Virtual

Nearly one in every two adults in the United States has high blood pressure, but only half of them are able to keep it under control. This dramatically increases the risk of heart attack, stroke and other potentially life-threatening cardiac events.

But providing and utilizing at-home blood pressure monitors is easy, inexpensive, and effective. With this knowledge, patients can work with their health care team to manage their high blood pressure and reduce the likelihood of more serious medical events.

Come learn about the risks associated with high blood pressure, and the importance of supporting the availability and use of at-home blood pressure monitoring to limit the risks of serious cardiac events and improve the health of all Washingtonians.

Speakers include:

- Dr. D.C. Dugdale, Medical Director, Value Based Care, UW Medicine

Register
here.

Welcome to new member: Everside Health

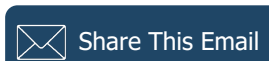
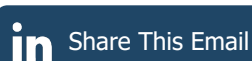
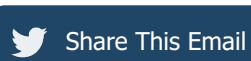
Everside Health is one of the nation's largest providers of direct primary and mental health care—Improving outcomes with tech-enabled predictive care, reducing costs, and providing holistic solutions, in person and virtually, for employees, patients, and their families.

Learn more about Everside Health.

The Alliance has moved.

After many years at 600 Stewart St., we moved our office a block away to the Tower Building. Our new address is 1809 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1609, Seattle, WA 98101.

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, contact Executive Director Drew Oliveira at doliveira@wahealthalliance.org.



Visit our Website



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