
Update to the Community

June 2009

In this issue

- Progress At-A-Glance
- Rules of Use for 2009 Community Checkup
- Alliance Highlighted in National Newsletter from NRHI
- News Resources on Health Topics Available from the Alliance
- Alliance Joins WA Academy of Pediatrics in Developing Vaccine Policy in Washington
- Save the Date
- Upcoming Events

Dear Community Member

This is an invigorating time to be engaged in transforming health care. Economic growth and fiscal health in both the private and public sectors depend on a more sustainable health care system that provides value for the dollars we spend. Each day there are new thought leaders and legislators weighing in on the direction of national health reform.

The Alliance is providing real health reform on the ground. All the national proposals incorporate public reporting on quality and cost and options for reimbursement approaches that pay for value not just volume. The importance of our work to inform health reform discussions is being recognized by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, who will send one of their national leaders, Dr. Michael Painter, to join us at the July 16 "All Alliance" meeting. Please join us too at that important event (scroll down for more detail), during which we will release the new and expanded Community Checkup report, which will have more current results for many more clinics and medical groups, in addition to clinic-level results for care provided to people covered by Medicaid. We intend to highlight lessons from the report and examples of progress in this community to help inform effective health care reform nationally. Even if the hockey metaphor is out of season, help us skate to where the puck is going!

Regards,

Mary McWilliams
Alliance Executive Director

Progress At-A-Glance

Thanks to the hard work of the Board, committees, workgroups, volunteers and staff, the Alliance continues to make progress, including:

- **2009 Community Checkup draft results now being reviewed by medical groups.** The final report is scheduled for release in July 2009.
- **"Rules of Use" for the Community Checkup changed, starting with the next report.** The Board recently approved revisions to "Rules of Use" of the report for business purposes under certain conditions. More information is below.
- **Join us for the roll out of the 2009 Community Checkup results at the All Alliance meeting on July 16.** This is open to Alliance participants only. More details are below.

Want to find out more? *Keep reading!*

Rules of Use for 2009 Community Checkup

Earlier this year, the Alliance Board of Directors approved a new "Rules of Use" policy that will permit organizations to use the public reports for business purposes, like marketing, contract discussions and benefit planning. However, certain conditions will apply that must be adhered to in order to ensure fair and constructive business use of the results. The new policy will take effect with the 2009 Community Checkup scheduled for release in mid-July. Alliance staff has incorporated the feedback received during the public comment period and plans to broadly distribute the new Rules of Use later this week. The document will also be posted to the Alliance website.

Alliance Highlighted in National Newsletter from NRHI

Just released last month, the Community Checkup report showing differences in care for Medicaid versus commercially-insured populations was highlighted in the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement's (NRHI) national newsletter. NRHI is a national coalition of Regional Health Improvement Collaboratives -- regionally-based, multi-stakeholder organizations that are working to improve the quality and value of health care delivery. To see the full newsletter, please visit our [Alliance In the News](#) section on our website.

News Resources on Health Topics Available from the Alliance

As announced in January, the Alliance has begun publishing a monthly column and videos for use by reporters, columnists, bloggers and others who write about health care. Anyone may use the materials in print or online newspapers, newsletters, blogs, magazines and other publications. The Alliance produces these tools as a way to get trusted health information into the hands of local consumers. Resources are currently available on: heart health, colorectal cancer, disparities and health equity and blood pressure. To view all materials please visit the [media resources](#) section of our website.

Alliance Joins WA Academy of Pediatrics in Developing Vaccine Policy in Washington

As part of a national effort to support childhood immunizations, the Alliance, along with other organizations from around the region, will join in a state-level immunization congress hosted by the WA Academy of Pediatrics. Beginning this summer, a multi-stakeholder committee will discuss vaccine financing issues. The goal will be to finalize the plan for the state's vaccine purchase and delivery system so that pediatricians will know what to expect once the state's current system expires and vaccines delivered to children will be uninterrupted.

Save the Date

- **All Alliance Meeting - July 16** - Attend to be among the first to see the next set of results in the Community Checkup report. The new report will show results for more clinics, based on updated and expanded data. This is a particularly important set of results, as this is the first time the report results will be available for use in marketing, contract discussions, benefit planning and other business purposes in order to motivate and reward performance improvement. Dr. Michael Painter, a national leader from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will be present to help commemorate this major step forward. July 16th from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., at the One Union Square Boardroom. This is open to Alliance participants only. Please RSVP to Natalie Moe at nmoe@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org.

Upcoming Events

~~~~~

### **Healthcare Unbound Conference: E-Health and Other Innovative Applications in Health Care to Manage Disease and Promote Wellness - June 22-23**

The Sixth Annual Healthcare Unbound Conference & Exhibition will take place on June 22-23 in Seattle, WA. Come to the nationally recognized conference and exhibition, conducted annually by the Center for Business Innovation. This year the focus is innovative applications of remote monitoring, home telehealth and e-health to manage diseases and to promote wellness. Key topics of this year's event include: 1) government initiatives, including the economic stimulus bill and regulatory changes, and their impact on the market, 2) the patient centered medical home, 3) innovations in aging-in-place technologies, 4) the evolving role of wireless technologies, and 5) how the convergence of consumer and healthcare technologies will improve health outcomes and reduce costs. Note: Alliance participants get a \$100 discount off the registration fee. For more information, please visit <http://www.tcbi.org/index.php?conference=hu2009>

### **Improving Health, Reforming Health Care: An Employer Call to Action - November 8-10**

Attention, health care stakeholders! Join the National Business Coalition on Health (NBCH) and its coalition employer members at the health care buyer's premier conference-two days of in-depth training, networking, & product demonstrations with health care's largest employer customers. Meet with peers and experts alike, capitalizing on this unique opportunity to discuss health care issues and insights as NBCH presents Improving Health, Reforming Health Care: An Employer Call to Action. The 2009 Annual Conference will convene nearly 500 health care leaders in Scottsdale, Arizona, November 8-10, to focus on the overarching and interconnected imperatives of health and health care transformation. More information at: <http://www.nbch.org/events/conference.cfm>

## Suggestions or Comments about this Update?

~~~~~

Email: diane@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org

Contact Us Form: <http://www.pugetsoundhealthalliance.org/contact.cfm>

~~~~~