

## Why Join the Puget Sound Health Alliance?

- ✓ *Do you think that health care should be safe, effective and efficient?*
- ✓ *Are you concerned about the quality of health care that patients receive for the money spent?*
- ✓ *Are you frustrated with health care “system” roadblocks that make it hard for patients to be as healthy as possible?*
- ✓ *Do you wish you had useful comparisons of effective care in the region to help you make health care decisions?*

In the Seattle region, 41% of patients did not receive basic care that is known to be effective. (RAND, 2004)

The **Puget Sound Health Alliance**—a private, non-profit organization which includes more than 50 individuals and 160 organizations which represent over 1.5 million covered people in the region—exists to help solve and address such problems. With the common goal of *improving the quality of health care for a healthier community, at a price more people can afford*, we work together to define, measure, report and reward high quality, efficient health care. Alliance participants are leaders in clinics, hospitals, business, unions, community organizations, insurers and government in the Puget Sound region, all seeking the same result: *improved value in health care*.

On 37 of 40 measures, health plans that publicly reported on quality care outperformed those who did not.  
(NCQA, 2006)

A major project of the Alliance is to measure health care in the region based on national best practices, then publish reports about how well we are doing as a community to

make sure patients consistently receive effective care.

The reports are to be used by doctors, patients, employers and others to provide, seek out and support care that keeps patients as healthy as possible.

Less than 30% of the public has seen quality comparisons of hospitals or doctors.  
(Kaiser/AHRQ, 2006)

### *Together We Can Accomplish What No Organization Could Do Alone*

Everyone has an interest in improving the health care system. We each make decisions – personally or professionally – that affect health care quality and cost. Joining the Alliance is an opportunity to have an impact with others in the Puget Sound region.

Nearly \$400 billion – about 30% of the total spent on health care each year – is wasted on poor quality care.  
(Remaking American Medicine, 10/06)

**Help people be healthier and more productive**—as part of the Alliance, you will have access to evidence-based information on high-value services and programs, with ways

U.S. adults who suffer from physical or mental illness frequently miss work or are unable to carry out usual activities, adding up to 3.7 billion lost days every year. (Harvard Medical School Report, 10/07)

to work with others so your efforts have more impact on patient or employee health. No one gains when a sick person receives ineffective care, or spends time dealing with health care system complexities. Healthier people

have less absenteeism, are more productive and more satisfied at work.

**Protect your wallet or bottom line**—Health care cost increases threaten budgets large and small, private and public. The Alliance builds consensus around local changes that improve health, especially for people with chronic conditions – while cutting out waste and inefficiency – to improve value for all.

More than half of all Americans suffer from chronic disease such as diabetes or heart disease, creating a \$1.3 trillion impact on the economy each year. (An Unhealthy America: The Economic Burden of Chronic Disease, 10/07)

**Enable employers and unions to focus on their business, instead of health care**—

“As a health care customer, we’re spending almost \$2 billion a year on health care for employees, retirees and families. To stay competitive, we have to be able to control that expense, if not reduce it.” Doug Kight, Boeing VP of HR, 06/07

Employers’ and unions’ first priority should not be to struggle with what to do about rising health care costs. An efficient, high quality health care system will free employers and unions to focus on succeeding in their own industry.

**Align support for quality health care**—Instead of dealing with conflicting financial incentives, doctors, hospitals and plans are encouraged by the Alliance to improve how often patients get

Our way of paying for health services tolerates – and often rewards – mediocrity. The Commonwealth Fund Report, 09/06

effective care. Using materials and programs developed by the Alliance, employers and individuals are supported in taking specific actions to improve health care quality, too.

**Ensure that your voice is heard in this open and important process affecting health care in the region. Share ideas with others. Network with community leaders.**

## How To Join

Each participant pays an annual fee to support the Alliance. For more information or to join, contact Mary Caverly at [mcaverly@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org](mailto:mcaverly@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org) or 206.448.2570 x122.