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**Community Checkup Report on Local Patient Care Goes Online**

**Individuals Can Now Search and Sort Results Based on Location,  
Nearby Clinics or Hospitals, or Specific Health Topics**

*First time report on regional health care performance now easy-to-use*

SEATTLE, September 9, 2008—Everyone in the Puget Sound region can now look up how well certain types of health care are being provided in the region, using the new online Community Checkup report. The new format enables people to search and sort the report measuring local performance for several health conditions. Results are organized by topic and by medical groups, clinics and hospitals in King, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston and Kitsap counties.

The new online Community Checkup report (see [www.WaCommunityCheckup.org](http://www.WaCommunityCheckup.org)) shows searchable results for the 14 medical groups and the many clinics featured in the Alliance's first Community Checkup report published in January of 2008. In addition, for the first time the new online report includes performance results for 26 hospitals in the region, using publicly-available data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"The online Community Checkup report is the one place where everyone can go to easily learn about important aspects of local health care," said Mary McWilliams, executive director of the Puget Sound Health Alliance. "We each have a role in improving quality and value in health care, so it's important that everyone find the Community Checkup report easy to use."

The Community Checkup report shows how consistently recommended care is provided to patients in the areas of diabetes, heart disease, depression and low back pain, use of generic drugs, use of antibiotics and prevention. The online report also includes information on how consistently hospitals provide recommended care for patients who have surgery or are treated for heart attack, heart failure or pneumonia.

McWilliams added, “Our goal is to help people understand that all health care is not the same and there are specific actions that doctors, hospitals, patients, health plans and employers can take to help improve the overall quality and affordability of health care in our region.”

The online report shows how often recommended care is provided to patients of certain clinics, medical groups and hospitals, as compared to the average performance across the region for each condition or category of care.

“In some cases the regional average is very high, so even the clinics or hospitals shown as performing at an ‘average’ rate are doing well,” said Karen Onstad, director of health information for the Health Alliance. “In other cases, the regional average rate is low, so even those listed with an ‘above average’ symbol have room for improvement.” Medical leaders and others involved in the Alliance have expressed interest in identifying performance targets to use as the point of comparison in future editions of the Community Checkup report.

Using the new online Community Checkup report, individuals can also search and sort best-in-class tools and information for patients, doctors and employers on topics ranging from specific conditions like asthma or diabetes to wellness and prevention.

“In January, the first Community Checkup report was given an ‘editors’ pick’ by the national Consumer Health Ratings group,” said Diane Giese, director of communication for the Health Alliance. “However, they said that the report format was cumbersome. This new approach is a vast improvement that makes it easy for everyone to easily use the report.”

The Health Alliance will publish the second Community Checkup report later this year. At that time, the online report will show the updated results for even more medical groups and clinics, and include a measure of care for people with asthma.

The Puget Sound Health Alliance is a non-profit made up of those who provide, pay for and use health care, working together to improve quality of care at a price more people can afford. More than 50 individuals and 170 organizations have joined the Alliance, including Boeing, Starbucks, Puget Sound Energy, REI, Washington Mutual, WA State Health Care Authority, King County and many other employers, physician clinics, hospitals, consumer groups, unions and trusts, health plans and others. See [www.pugetsoundhealthalliance.org](http://www.pugetsoundhealthalliance.org). For the full report, go to [www.WACommunityCheckup.org](http://www.WACommunityCheckup.org)

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