



What is the current health care crisis?

The US spends a greater percent of gross domestic product on health care than any other major industrialized nation.

- In 2001, the US spent 14.1% of the GDP on health care.
- By comparison Germany spent 10.7%, Canada spent 9.7%, France spent 9.5%, and Sweden spent 8.7% on total health care spending.
- According to a 2004 RAND study 41% of the health care we purchase in the Seattle area as employers and patients does not contribute to better health outcomes. Most experts agree the way to solve this crisis is to inject market forces into our health care system, by **measuring, reporting, rewarding and improving** high quality health care.

What is the Puget Sound Health Alliance (PSHA)?

- The Alliance is a public/private regional collaborative effort to do just that. An organization “stewarding” a *transformation* in health care in the 4 region of King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish county. *Note: the Alliance is not a health plan.*
- Alliance participants agree to share data and quality improvement information and house it along with an information repository that contains clinical care treatment guidelines and tools for all purchasers, plans, consumers, and health care professional participants to use.

What will I get as an employer if I join the Alliance?

- Access to state-of-the-art data specific to your employees’ health care usage and health care needs that will help inform benefit design decisions and wellness programs. These data will include regional data and not be limited to health plan specific data. Data can also be used to contract with health care professionals that are of high quality.
- Access to cutting edge health education tools and programs to help your employees be better consumers of health care.
- Most importantly, have more control and more information about the health care you are purchasing for your workforce.

Why should my organization join the Alliance?

All organizations and companies – **from small purchasers with 10 employees to larger, national companies** - will benefit from the Alliance’s work. In fact, the whole Puget Sound region will benefit and higher quality care will be delivered throughout the region. (OVER)

Is the Alliance a nonprofit organization?

Better Care

Healthier People

Affordable Costs

The Alliance was recently incorporated as a Washington nonprofit corporation and is currently applying for federal tax exempt status. The Alliance hopes to be recognized as a tax exempt public charity by the end of 2005, and have the inaugural board of directors in place in February, 2005. The board will be responsible for hiring an executive director.

Who are the current Alliance participants?

To date, 19 participants have joined and many more are in the final decision stages of joining. Current participants as of today are:

- King County
- City of Seattle
- REI
- Starbucks
- State of Washington
- Washington Mutual
- The Polyclinic
- Port Blakely Companies
- Qualis Health
- Foundation for Health Care Quality
- Pacific Medical Centers
- Peter Dunbar, MD
- Hope Heart Institute
- Group Health Cooperative
- Community Health Plan of Washington
- Regence BlueShield
- Virginia Mason Medical Center
- Seattle Surgery Center
- Puget Sound Energy

How much does it cost to be a member of the Alliance?

Purchasers, health care professionals, and health plans have different dues structures that are compatible with the overall financing strategy.

- For purchasers: \$5 per covered life (# of lives an organization insures) per year, capped at 40,000 lives (\$200,000).
- For health care professionals: financial dues are not required since members will have to finance internal costs of changing their practices to align with the Alliance's protocols. In-kind contributions are expected and voluntary financial contributions are encouraged and welcomed.
- For health plans: membership dues for health plans are based on a health plan's 2003 total revenue for the Puget Sound region (King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish county).

Health Plan Revenue (in 4 county region)	Proposed Dues
Over \$1 Billion	\$80,000
\$500 Million to \$999 Million	\$70,000
\$100 million to \$499	\$60,000
\$50 million to \$99	\$50,000
\$49 million and below	\$40,000

How do I join the Alliance?

Please contact Rachel Quinn at 206.296.4165, or Dorothy Graham at 425.378.7812.

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