

RURAL QUALITY

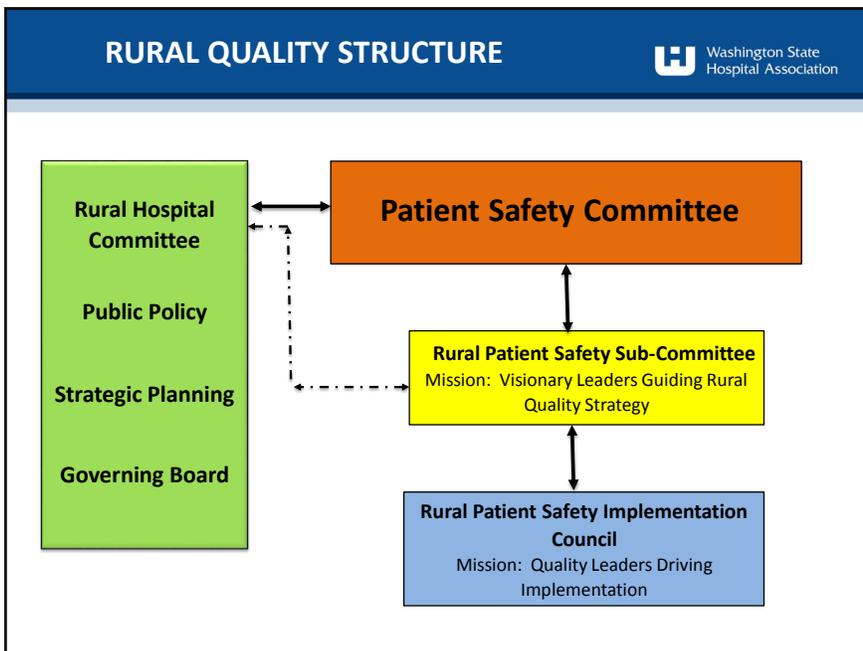
WSHA's Focus on Rural Quality

In rural quality, you need a strong partner. A partner you can trust to help you achieve what is most important and guide you through the gauntlet of quality measures. WSHA has a Rural Patient Safety Sub-Committee and implementation council whose purpose is to do just that. This member driven work is under the guidance of the WSHA Patient Safety Committee linking rurals to this strength and dynamic work.

The Rural Patient Safety Sub-Committee will guide the vision with equal focus on quality in inpatient and ambulatory care. Members are appointed by the Rural Hospital Committee chair. There is strong representation from inpatient and outpatient services.

The Rural Quality Implementation Strategy Council drives implementation. Comprised of Quality Leaders, this group will help take the vision from idea to reality.

Here is a link to the members of these groups.



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- Focus on Rural Quality
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We are here to help:

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Do you know your parents and loved ones wishes

Wishes honored. Peace of mind. Family harmony. Quality care. These are the hallmarks of Honoring Choices Pacific Northwest.

Honoring Choices Pacific Northwest is an effort co-sponsored by the Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA) and Washington State Medical Association (WSMA) with a vision for everyone in the state to receive care that honors personal values and goals near the end of life.

As patients become more active in making health care choices over the course of their lives, it's important that providers be better partners in that planning throughout a patient's life and are comfortable starting – and having – those conversations. By teaching physicians and other caregivers to initiate these conversations, we can better support our patients' decisions.

This is why WSHA and WSMA have gathered together professionals from organizations across the state to work on a strategic plan – and [website](#) – for promoting advance care planning through increasing awareness, knowledge and resources.

www.HonoringChoicesPNW.org is designed to help people create end-of-life care plans and guide them through sharing those plans with loved ones and health care providers. The resources and tools on the website are free and available to anyone.

[Health care professionals can also find valuable resources](#) on the site and participate in trainings to prepare them for conversations around end-of-life care, recording patient wishes and ultimately honoring those choices.

For additional information contact Pam Ehrbar at:
pam@honoringchoicespnw.org

Newsworthy

Congratulation to Pullman Regional Hospital for earning 2015 Outstanding Patient Experience Award by rating agency *Health-grades*. The HCAHP surveys were based on inpatient stays in 2013.

Your missing out if you did not register for the Quality Leaders networking meeting at Kittitas in Ellensburg on November 13, 2015.

The day will be filled with sharing. We will have a round table on what is working and what is not, as well as hearing and seeing how Kittitas has incorporated Lean into their processes to cut waste and become more efficient.

Partnership for Patients 2.0.

This year in addition to core measures, the Rural Hospitals will be working on a Diabetes measure.

Type 2 diabetes affects the health in each of our communities and is the 7th leading cause of death in the U.S.. Minority groups constitute 25 percent of all adults with diabetes in the U.S., and represent the majority of children and adolescents with type 2 diabetes..

WSHA offices moved in August to a new location in downtown Seattle. The new address is:
999 Third Avenue,
Suite 1400
Seattle, WA 98104-4041

Phone numbers did not change

University of Washington Undertakes a study on Rural Americans with Psychiatric Disorders.

In Washington state, a shortage of primary care physicians can make it hard for people in rural areas to get access to health care. Getting treated for mental health disorders is just as difficult.

Now, the University of Washington is setting out to study how to best treat people with psychiatric disorders in rural areas.

More than half of the counties in Washington state have no practicing psychiatrist, psychologist or social worker, according to UW.

The trial will enroll 1,000 patients with post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, or both, from Washington state, Arkansas and Michigan.

UW is leading a \$11 million study, funded by Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, a nonprofit in Washington D.C., for what the university says is the largest clinical trial ever of rural Americans with psychiatric disorders.

The goal of the study is to determine which of two models is better for treating psychiatric patients in areas with a huge lack of mental health resources. More than half of the counties in Washington state have no practicing psychiatrist, psychologist or social worker, according to UW.

In one model, primary care providers refer patients to off-site mental health care providers who work with the patient using telemedicine (over the phone or computer). In the other model, off-site mental health providers guide an on-site nurse or clinical social worker as well as the primary care providers.

"This new study will help us take an important step towards realizing our department's vision: to make sure that all Americans have access to effective mental health care," said Dr. Jürgen Unützer, a UW professor and a co-leader of the trial.

Puget Sound Business Journal; Aug 25, 2015, 1:59pm PDT **Updated** Aug 25, 2015,

For your reading pleasure:

What's Different about Rural Healthcare at <http://www.ruralhealthweb.org/go/left/about-rural-health/what-s-different-about-rural-health-care>

Performance Measurement for Rural Low-Volume Providers. Final Report by the NAF Rural Health Committee; September 14, 2015 at http://www.qualityforum.org/Publications/2015/09/Rural_Health_Final_Report.aspx

2015 Disparities in Care; Aiming for Health Equity in Washington State at <http://wahealthalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/2015-disparities-in-care.pdf>