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## ***Public-Private Coalition Working to Ensure Reform Improves Health Care Affordability and Quality***

***Puget Sound Health Alliance Part of 165-Member National Coalition Pushing for Federal Health Reform that Addresses More than Access to Insurance***

**SEATTLE, March 24, 2009.** Most health care reform proposals focus on how to get more people covered by insurance. However, a large coalition of national and regional groups of doctors and hospitals, employers, patient groups and others – including the [Puget Sound Health Alliance](#) – recognizes that simply having health insurance does not assure that patients can access affordable care that is safe, efficient and responsive to their needs.

The Puget Sound Health Alliance is part of a new nation-wide public-private coalition, [Stand for Quality](#), which joined together with a shared belief that improvements in access, quality, and affordability are inextricably linked. *Stand for Quality* today announced a specific framework for federal health care reform to improve the quality and affordability of health care for all patients. The framework includes six key recommendations:

1. Set national priorities and provide coordination for quality improvement;
2. Endorse and maintain nationally standardized measures;
3. Develop measures to fill gaps in priority areas;
4. Involve doctors and other stakeholders in developing policies on use of measures;
5. Collect, analyze, and make performance information available and actionable;
6. Support a sustainable infrastructure for quality improvement.

For more about the specific recommended framework for federal health care reform and the 165 private and public members of *Stand for Quality*, go to [www.standforquality.org](http://www.standforquality.org).

The Puget Sound Health Alliance is a regional non-profit coalition of more than 200 private and public organizations and individuals who provide, pay for and use health care, working together to improve quality of care at a price more people can afford. The Alliance produces the Community Checkup, a public report comparing care in local doctors offices and hospitals (see [www.WACommunityCheckup.org](http://www.WACommunityCheckup.org)). For more about the Alliance, go to [www.pugetsoundhealthalliance.org](http://www.pugetsoundhealthalliance.org)

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