

# Have you heard about Choosing Wisely?

Thanks to Special Innovation Project funding from CMS, Qualis Health is performing three key tasks to bolster the Choosing Wisely initiative in Washington:

- **Publishing aggregate results** of our analysis of Medicare Fee-for-Service claims data for the four measures listed in the sidebar
- **Mailing confidential reports** to providers whose rate of ordering one or more of the selected “low-value” services is statistically higher than the state average
  - The results of the individual provider reports are strictly confidential and not shared with public or private health plans, regulatory agencies, or accrediting organizations. The purpose of the mailing is simply to heighten awareness of the Choosing Wisely initiative.
  - We acknowledge there are inherent limitations in using administrative data to accurately describe clinical decisions. Nonetheless, we hope the analysis stimulates conversation among providers and between clinicians and their patients—and we especially wish to hear from you if you receive a confidential individual report, which will be released in mid-September.
- **Promoting the use of free tools and resources** to encourage discussions about “low-value” services—among stakeholders across the state and, most importantly, between healthcare providers and patients

Qualis Health welcomes feedback from the provider community regarding this project. Please contact:

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Choosing Wisely® is a national initiative sponsored by the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation.

It helps promote informed discussion between clinicians and their patients about certain “low-value” healthcare services, such as:

- CT scan or MRI for simple syncope
- CT scan or MRI for uncomplicated headache
- Antibiotics for upper respiratory infections
- Antipsychotic medications for the behavioral symptoms of dementia

Physician specialty societies identified the “low-value” treatments and created recommendations for the benefit of fellow physicians and their patients.

The recommendations are NOT intended to establish coverage decisions by health plans, but instead support clinician-patient communication appropriate to each patient’s unique situation.



[Go to www.Medicare.QualisHealth.org/ChoosingWisely](http://www.Medicare.QualisHealth.org/ChoosingWisely)

Learn more about the program  
See the full results of our analysis  
Download patient education materials

# Analysis of Washington Medicare Claims for Choosing Wisely®

In the charts below, each point represents one or more Washington providers with the indicated a) utilization rate, and b) number of Medicare Fee-for-Service patients with the selected diagnosis seen during the study period.

Across the state, some healthcare providers seeing patients with these diagnoses never treat them using the tests or medications in question, while others order them every time. Such broad variability presents an opportunity for improvement.

