



Project ECHO Programs

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Why Project ECHO?

- Started by UNM hepatologist Sanjeev Arora, MD, as a Hep C program in 2003
 - Only 2 clinics in NM were treating Hep C
 - His pt wait time was 8 mos.
 - **ECHO** = Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes
 - Project ECHO reduced his wait times to 2 weeks
 - Increased number of Hep C patients treated
 - Study: outcomes of PCP treatment equal to specialist tx. Other studies





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How Does Project ECHO Work?



People need access to specialty care for their complex health conditions.



There aren't enough specialists to treat everyone who needs care, especially in rural and underserved communities.



ECHO trains primary care clinicians to provide specialty care services. This means more people can get the care they need.



Patients get the right care, in the right place, at the right time. This improves outcomes and reduces costs.

- “Workforce Multiplier”
- Collaborative model of medical education & care management
- Empowers clinicians
 - Better care to more patients
 - Where the patients live



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How Does Project ECHO Work?

- Mission: To *democratize & de-monopolize medical knowledge* and get *best-practice care* to underserved people.
- [Hub & Spoke](#)
- Designed for *complex conditions* that require *guided practice over time*
- Learning through case review
- Brief “didactic” at each session
- “Moving knowledge, not patients”



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Is Project ECHO Telemedicine?

The ECHO model *does not provide direct patient care.*

Instead, it dramatically increases access to specialty treatment in rural and underserved areas by *providing front-line clinicians with the knowledge and support they need to manage patients with complex conditions.*

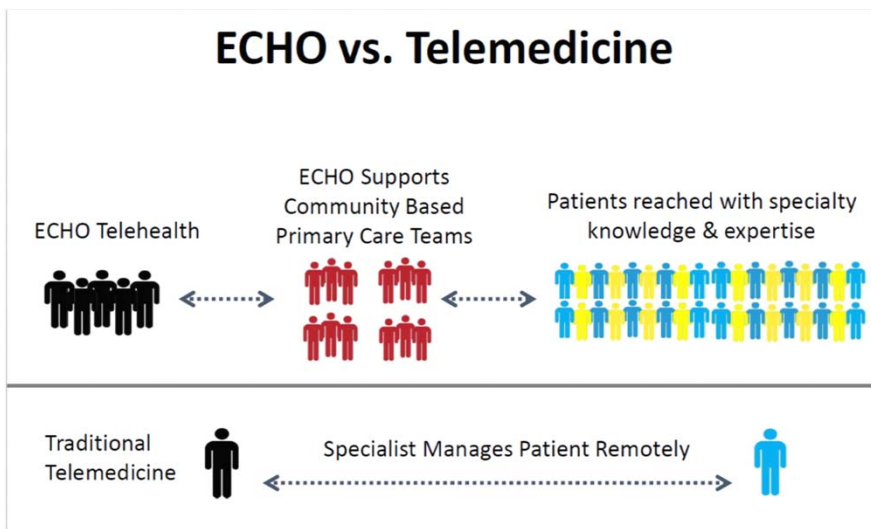
It is an education, capacity-building, telementoring model.



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ECHO vs. Telemedicine



Source: Michelle Iandiorio, MD, Project ECHO New Mexico



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Economic Impact (PRELIMINARY)



University of Missouri Health

Asthma ECHO Preliminary Data

29 counties with ECHO participants in MO	FY15 visit/days	FY16 visit/days	reduction in number of visits/days	average cost per day/visit**	Reduction in cost	% reduced
in-patient hospital days	3392	1982	1410	\$2,440	\$3,440,400	42%
emergency department visits	7552	6407	1145	\$629	\$720,205	15%
				Year 1 cost reduction	\$4,160,605	

Data courtesy of Missouri Telehealth Network



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Benefits to Spoke Health System

- Reduces variations in care
- Increases access for rural and underserved patients
- Provides workforce training and force multiplier
- Improves professional satisfaction/retention (also recruitment)
- Supports the Health Home model
- Reduces travel and excessive testing
- Improves quality and safety
- Disseminates best practices



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Benefits to PCPs

- No-cost CMEs (often)
- Professional interaction with colleagues with similar interest (“learning community”)
- Mix of work and learning
- Access to specialists
- Increased confidence about the subject
- Able to treat their patients at a higher level



Renita Madu, family medicine PA at a FQHC, cured her patient of Hep C with help from Project ECHO.



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Renita Madu's Experience

- “They helped me and guided me through this process.”
- “I have specialists on speed-dial.”
- “They spoke to me one on one as a colleague.”
- “I don't have to worry about patients getting lost to care.... They already knew us: Their Medical Home. They stayed home.”
- “I was able to develop a running protocol, train new staff and my employees.”
- See her talk at <http://telemedicine.arizona.edu/echo>



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ECHO Hubs and Superhubs: United States

Key: ECHO Hub Type

- Superhub (8)
- Hub (61)
- U.S. VA Hub (6)
- U.S. VA Hub (9)

Key: US State Shading

- ECHO Impact (33)
- Awaiting ECHO impact (17)

Updated: Jun 15 2017

Now in >65 subject areas with >130 entities worldwide

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ATP Rheumatology TeleECHO Clinic

- Started September 2017
- Partners: [ATP](#) & [AZ Center for Rural Health](#)
- [Dominick Sudano, MD](#): Hub Expert/Facilitator
- 2nd ECHO to be hosted in Arizona ([1st is at St. Joseph's](#))

Dominick Sudano, MD, Assistant Professor, Arizona Arthritis Center, and Hana S. Masood, MD, Rheumatology Fellow, University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson, prepare for a rheumatology ECHO session.

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ATP Rheumatology TeleECHO Clinic



Amy Waer, MD, ATP Medical Director and Project ECHO Director, and Phyllis Webster, ATP Telemedicine Coordinator and Project ECHO Coordinator.

<http://telemedicine.arizona.edu/echo>

This activity is supported by an educational grant from Lilly. For further information concerning Lilly grant funding visit www.lillygrantoffice.com.



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Thank you!

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