

Project ECHO: A Methodology to Share Knowledge

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How is this done?

- The ECHO concept is a methodology for sharing knowledge among common stakeholders facing similar challenges
- This is effective face to face or by leveraging new communication tools



How the Concept Developed

- Patients who needed to see a hepatologist in New Mexico were waiting months to get in
- He partnered with rural health centers to offer training, guided practice and mentorship
- They demonstrated that for this complex care, the outcomes at the spokes sites were as good as those at the academic medical center

Outcomes of Treatment for Hepatitis C Virus Infection by Primary Care Providers

Sanjeev Arora, M.D., Karla Thornton, M.D., Glen Murata, M.D., Paulina Deming, Pharm.D., Summers Kalishman, Ph.D., Denise Dion, Ph.D., Brooke Parish, M.D., Thomas Burke, B.S., Wesley Pak, M.B.A., Jeffrey Dunkelberg, M.D., Martin Kistin, M.D., John Brown, M.A., Steven Jenkusky, M.D., Miriam Komaromy, M.D., and Clifford Qualls, Ph.D.

- No difference in sustained viral response to treatment in patients treated via ECHO model vs those treated in UNM HCV clinic
- ECHO model is an effective way to treat HCV infection in underserved communities

ECHO Model

1. Use technology to leverage the expertise of a multidisciplinary team.
2. Share best practices to reduce disparities and standardize care.
3. Leverage case-based learning and guided practice to master complex cases.
4. Apply web-based tools to monitor outcomes.

ECHO Model

1. Leverage technology
2. Promote best practices
3. Case-based learning and mentorship
4. Measure outcomes
5. Everyone learns, everyone teaches

ECHO is

1. Flexible
2. Convenient
3. Suited to Hawai`i geography

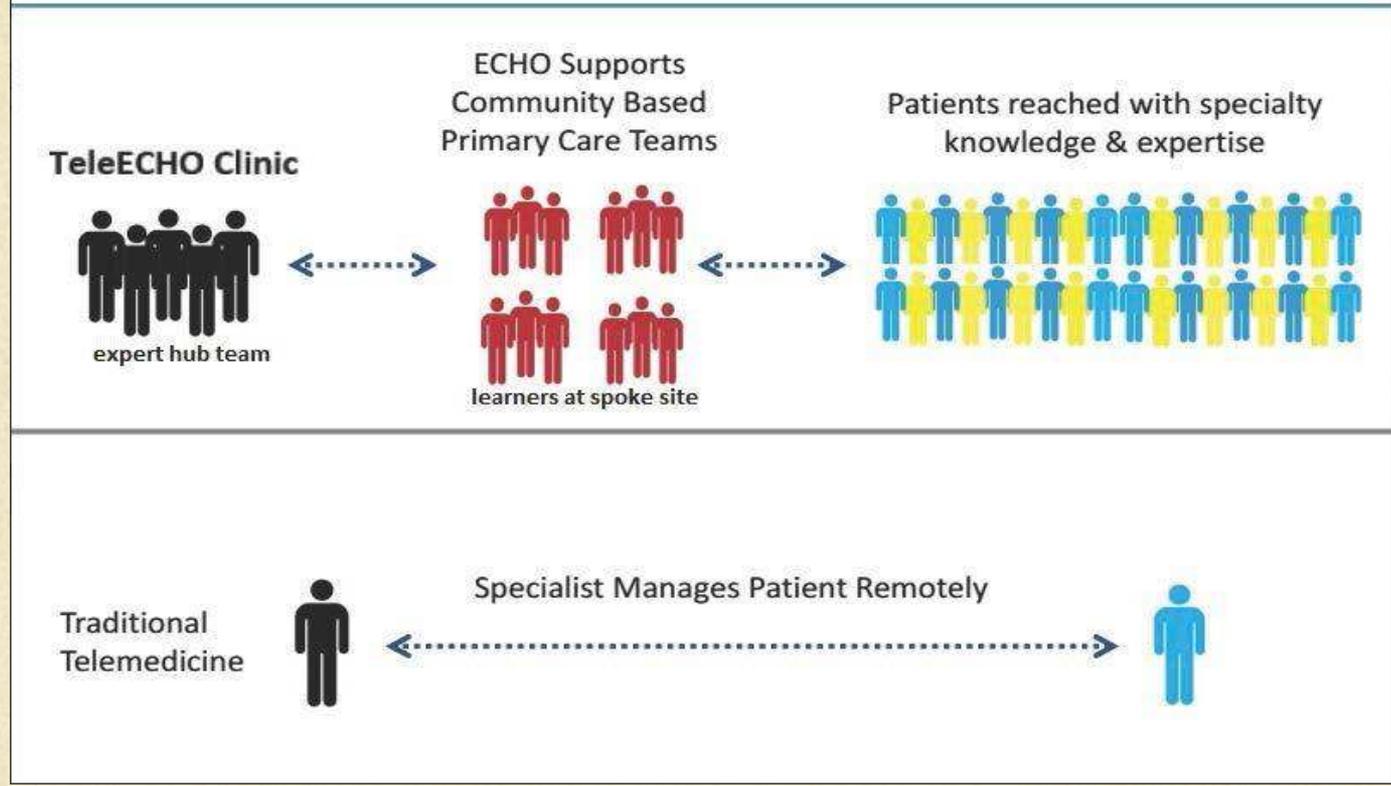
ECHO is

1. Interdisciplinary
2. Interprofessional
3. Interactive
4. Community building

ECHO is a

1. Program
2. Methodology
3. Tool
4. Disruptive innovation
5. Movement
6. Force multiplier

ECHO vs. Telemedicine



ECHO creates value for the Community

- Healthcare dollars spent in the community, not elsewhere
- Reduced impact on workforce, days missed, etc.
- Sense that a community is less isolated and “can take care of its own people and its own problems using its own resources.”
- Ability to provide specialty care in a small town attracts businesses, doctors, etc.
- Reduced turnover at clinic is a powerful stabilizing force for a community

Scope

Project ECHO has now been implemented by over 130 partners – more than 80 in the U.S. and more than 50 internationally.

ECHO is not only used in medicine. The University of Wyoming is using the ECHO model to share expertise in assistive technologies with special education teachers in public schools.

Nearly 300 clinicians in New Mexico are certified to prescribe buprenorphine—the best-practice treatment medication for opiate addiction. Before Project ECHO, fewer than a dozen clinicians in New Mexico were certified.

539,000 travel miles were saved for New Mexico patients in 2009 alone, because they could now receive care in their communities. This reduced travel costs, wait times, and avoidable complications.

The ECHO Act

(Congress.gov accessed 10/15/17)

Public Law No: 114-270 (12/14/2016)(This measure has not been amended since it was passed by the Senate on November 29, 2016. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

Expanding Capacity for Health Outcomes Act or the ECHO Act (Sec. 3)

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to report on technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models, which connect specialists to primary care providers through videoconferencing to facilitate case-based learning, dissemination of best practices, and evaluation of outcomes.

The report must include: (1) an analysis of the use, integration, and impact of such models; (2) a list of such models recently funded by HHS; (3) recommendations to reduce barriers to adoption of such models; (4) opportunities for adoption of such models into HHS programs; and (5) recommendations regarding the role of such models in continuing medical education.

Goals

When patients are treated in their local communities by clinicians they know and trust, it enhances their adherence to treatment and follow-up care.

- Intentional education
- Save time
- Add convenience
- Increase access to specialty care and special knowledge
- Increase knowledge, mastery and joy of work
- Improve patient adherence
- Improve patient care
- Build capacity and centers of excellence

Thank You!

Contact

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Dec 14, 2016 became law:

The Enhancing Capacity for Health Outcomes (ECHO) Act:

The ECHO Act aims to better integrate the Project ECHO model—referred to as a “technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity-building model”—into health systems across the country.

The bill does the following: Requires the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in collaboration with the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA), to prioritize analysis of the model, its impacts on provider capacity and workforce issues, and evidence of its effects on quality of patient care.

Requests a GAO report regarding opportunities for increased adoption of such models, efficiencies and potential cost savings from such models, ways to improve health care through such models, and field recommendations to advance the use of such models.

Requires the HHS Secretary to submit a report to Congress on the findings of the GAO report and the HHS report, including ways such models have been funded by HHS and how to integrate these models into current funding streams and innovative grant proposals.

Endo ECHO Strategy

- Force Multiplication
- Develop Centers of Excellence (COEs)
 - TeleECHO Clinic Training
 - Short Didactics
 - Case presentations
 - Expert panel for consultation

