

# Project Extension for Community Health Care Outcomes (ECHO<sup>®</sup>) as an Education Force Maximizer

## Sharon A. Morgan, RN, NP-C & Laurie Lutz, PhD 22 August 2019 1315-1415



# Presenter: Sharon A. Morgan, RN, NP-C





- Ms. Sharon Morgan is currently working at the Defense Health Agency as a Nurse Consultant for the Connected Health Branch which is located in Medical Affairs. She is a Registered Nurse (RN) and a certified Adult Nurse Practitioner (NP-C). She has over 25 years of clinical nursing experience working in diverse practice settings such as critical care, hospice and palliative care, integrative health and underserved populations in Guatemala.
- Ms. Morgan obtained her Masters of Science in Nursing from Monmouth University, her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Arizona and her Bachelors of Arts in Political Science from Rutgers University. She maintains her license as an Adult Nurse Practitioner from the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.
- She is published in several journals and has been invited to speak at various professional conferences on topics related to nursing as a subject matter expert.

# Presenter: Laurie Lutz, PhD





- Dr. Laurie Lutz is currently serving as the Chief of Training, Education and Simulation for the Extremity Trauma and Amputation Center of Excellence (EACE).
- She established the Amputation Care ECHO in October of 2017; the first ECHO to address amputation care in the Department of Defense.
   EACE's Amputation Care ECHO has now grown to include Military Treatment Facilities, Veterans Affairs and civilian providers involved in amputation care.
- Dr. Lutz attained both her bachelors and master's degrees at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas and her doctorate degree from Texas A&M University, located in College Station, Texas.

### Contributors : Joanna Katzman, MD, MSPH

Professor, UNM HSC School of Medicine Senior Associate Director of Project ECHO®





- Joanna Katzman, is currently a Professor of Neurology at the University of New Mexico, and the Senior Associate Director of the ECHO Institute. In 2008, Dr. Katzman began the ECHO Pain and Opioid Management teleECHO program. This program has been replicated by the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Indian Health Service, over 30 academic medical centers and the province of Ontario in Canada.
- Dr. Katzman earned her medical degree from Yale University, her Master's in Public Health from the University of California in Los Angeles and her Bachelors of Art in human biology from Stanford University.
- Dr. Katzman is a special governmental employee for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), has served on two Institute of Medicine (IOM) Committees related to the Gulf War and Health.

# Contributors: Robin Swift, MPH

Strategic Support Manager ECHO Institute™





Robin Swift, MPH is presently employed as a Strategic Support Manager at UNM's ECHO Institute in Albuquerque, where she manages a contract with the Defense Health Agency to train military healthcare providers on the safe management of chronic pain.

Robin holds a Master's in Public Health from Emory University. Over her past four years of residence in New Mexico, she has managed the Department of Health's Office of Injury Prevention, and served as a grant/technical writer for Kewa Pueblo Health Corporation. She has held a series of unique jobs over her public health career: promoting adolescent sexual health education, educating providers about HIV/AIDS, grant writer, pediatric echocardiography technician, and program developer of a project to improve the health of United Methodist clergy. Throughout her career, Robin has worked to promote health equity, good scientific practice and adult learning-informed education.

# Disclosures



- Sharon Morgan, Laurie Lutz, Connie Morrow, Robin Swift and Joanna Katzman have no relevant financial or non-financial relationships to disclose relating to the content of this activity.
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At the conclusion of this activity, participants will be able to:

- 1. Define Project ECHO<sup>®</sup>.
- 2. Identify the four key components of the ECHO model.
- 3. Distinguish between telemedicine and telementoring.
- 4. Recognize two examples of Project ECHO's<sup>®</sup> current use in DHA/MHS.





Do you have prior experience using the Project ECHO model?
Yes

**N**o

# **Project ECHO: Goals**





- Develop capacity to safely and effectively treat HCV in all areas of New Mexico and to monitor outcomes.
- Develop a model to treat complex diseases in rural locations and developing countries.

# **Project ECHO**



# **Rural New Mexico**

Underserved Area for Healthcare Services

- 121,356 square miles
- 2.08 million people
- 47% Hispanic

- 10.2% Native American
- 19% poverty rate compared to 14.3% nationally
- 21% lack health insurance compared to 16% nationally

- 32 of 33 New Mexico counties are listed as Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs)
- 14 counties designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA's)

(Statistics from 2013)

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Project ECHO<sup>®</sup> is a lifelong learning and guided practice model that revolutionizes medical education and exponentially increases workforce capacity to provide best practice specialty care and reduce health disparities through its hub-and-spoke knowledge sharing networks.



People need access to specialty care for complex conditions



Not enough specialists to treat everyone, especially in rural areas



ECHO<sup>®</sup> trains primary care clinicians to provide specialty care services

Patients get the right care, in the right place, at the right time



# **The ECHO Model**





# **Telemedicine vs Telementoring**





- ECHO model is not 'traditional telemedicine'
- Hub Specialists mentor Healthcare Learners at spoke sites
- Both Didactic & Case Based Learning

# Sharing Best Practices to Reduce Disparities



- Evidence-based approach
- One-to-many allows leveraging scarce resources
- Reach learners in more rural and under-resourced areas to provide access to knowledge and best practices
- Learning from other community base providers, experiences, and knowledge creates a community of practice



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# **Hub & Spoke in Action**





# **ECHO Impact**





# **Echo Impact**





# **Expanding Capacity for Health Outcomes Act (ECHO Act), 2016**



# Mandated an evaluation of the evidence base for technology-enabled collaborative models of care

The term "technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacitybuilding model" means a distance health education model that connects specialists with multiple other health care professionals through simultaneous interactive videoconferencing for the purpose of facilitating case-based learning, disseminating best practices, and evaluating outcomes. (Public Law 114-270, 2016, Sec. 2)





- Do you envision Project ECHO unifying education efforts across the MHS?
  - ☐ Yes
  - **N**o

# ECHO in the MHS





■ 11 implementations; > 85 spoke locations Worldwide Complex Conditions Covered: **D**Pain Extremity Amputation Diabetes Polypharmacy Sexual Assault Medical Forensics

# **Amputation Care ECHO**





https://webapp2.wright.edu/web1/newsroom/2012/02/24/wright-state-students-work-to-improve-design-of-artificial-limbs-for-military-veterans/

# Extremity Trauma and Amputation Center of Excellence



- Established by Congress: 2009 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)
- EACE Mission:
  - Serve as the joint DoD and VA lead element focused on the mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of traumatic extremity injuries and amputations.
  - Conduct clinically relevant research, foster collaboration, and build partnerships across the multidisciplinary, international, federal, and academic networks to optimize the quality of life of Service members and Veterans



# **Amputation Care ECHO**





"Medically Ready Force...Ready Medical Force"

# **Amputation Care ECHO**





# Diabetes ECHO/Prevention ECHO— DCOE



# Description

□ Virtual Grand Rounds

Launched Jan 2012 (longest running USAF ECHO clinic)

Adapted for diabetes care and diabetes prevention

# Method of delivery

Defense Collaboration Services (DCS)

Real-time solution for PCM

## Response

Recent (2017) self-reported surveys indicate 97% likelihood of change to practice

# Diabetes ECHO/Prevention ECHO— DCOE



I am likely to make changes to my treatment practice for patients with diabetes based on what I learned in the ECHO session today.



Source: Project ECHO-Diabetes Feedback, Survey Monkey<sup>™</sup> (March-October 2017)

# **Diabetes Center of Excellence ECHO** Presentations

able 1. Participant Feedback\*

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#### U.S. Air Force Telehealth Initiative to Assist Primary Care Providers in the Management of Diabetes

ncluding diabetes.

Tamara J. Swigert, MSN, Mark W. True, MD, Tom J. Sauerwein, MD, and Houbei Dai, PhD

U.S. Air Force (USAF) ser-vice members, retirees, and family members with diabetes receive care at more than 50 military treatment facilities (MTFs) throughout the continental United States. Although many of these patients are referred to civilian network diabetes specialists because of a scarcity of military endocrinologists, most are managed by USAF primary care providers (PCPs). In an effort to assist PCPs in managing complex diabetes cases, a team from the USAF Diabeter Center of Excellence (DCOE) in San Antonio, Tex., adopted the Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) model of care. Research Design and Methods

The ECHO model of health care delivery was developed and imple mented originally by Dr. Sanjeev Aurora and his team at the University of New Mexico' to treat underserved patient populations with hepatitis C. The model uses technology, specifically video teleconferencing, to provide support to PCPs in remote areas who may lack the experience. knowledge, or confidence needed to manage this complex condition. Results demonstrated that patients treated remotely through ECHO experienced similar clinical improve ment with fewer adverse events than those treated at the university specialty clinic. The University of

New Mexico has adapted the ECHO

model for ~ 20 other chronic illnesses, education credit was offered as an incentive to all participants who After training with the New attended sessions The initial aim of the proje Mexico team, DCOE endocu was to better equip PCPs with the gists and support personnel adapted tools (knowledge, support, and confidence) to better manage their the ECHO model to address the unique needs of military PCPs and their patients with diabetes. The complex diabetes patients. The USAF ECHO initiative was designed DCOE team elected to track prosuch that sessions, open to all mili-tary medical staff (including, but not sider outcomes rather than clinica outcomes (such as measures of glyce limited to, specialty care providers, midlevel providers, nursing staff, mic control) because multiple factors influence clinical outcomes, many of pharmacists, and nutritional mediwhich cannot be isolated from the cine professionals), were transmitted via video and telephone conferencing mpact of the ECHO intervention In addition, the concurrent launch. systems twice monthly. The consult of several other USAF diabetes initiatives further compounded ti ing team from the DCOE consisted. of endocrinologists, endocrinology problem of being able to establish fallows certified dishetes educator he specific effect of ECHO on clini (registered dietitians and registered cal outcomes nurses), and behavioral specialists After each session participants were asked to complete a feedback questionnaire, through which An electronic case referral for including information about medical and psychosocial history, laboratory respondents rated their agreemen data, and current treatment plan, was designed and distributed to all statements regarding their pre and post-session knowledge and participants to standardize case subconfidence levels, as well as their missions. At each session, cases were presented by the submitting provider intention to change their practice The questionnaire used a Likert and discussed among participants including the submitting provider, scale in which 0 indicated strong disagreement with a statement and DCOE team members, and other 5 indicated strong agreement with medical professionals in conference who wished to contribute. a statement. To isolate the effects of the intervention on the target population of PCPs from total par-Each session also included a didactic presentation on a relevan ticipants, DCOE planners included diabetes-related topic provided by a a section in which respondents subject matter expert. Topic sugges selected their appropriate medical background. A paired *t*-test. was tions were solicited from prospectiv participants. Continuing medical used to determine the significance of

Volume \$2. Number 2. 2014 • GLINIGAL DIARETES

#### Questionnaire Item: PCPs All Participants (Participants were asked to rate their degree of agreement with each statement.) Only Perceived knowledge "I had sufficient knowledge of the discussion topic before the ECHO presentation/session. 3.62 3.6 "I have sufficient knowledge of the discussion topic after the ECHO presentation/session. 4.5 4.42 Significance value from paired t-test (P) < 0.001 < 0.001 Confidence "Ifelt confident with regard to the treatment of complex diabetes patients before this 3.52 3.61 ECHO session "Ifeel confident with regards to the treatment of complex diabetes patients after this 4.39 ECHO session. Significance value from paired t-test (P) < 0.001< 0.001 Intention to change current practice 4.08 4.29 I am likely to make changes to my treatment practice for patients with diabetes based on who I learned in the ECHO session today Respondents who rated intent to change practice at 3 (slightly agree) or higher (%) 94.9 96.8 41.8 45.2 Respondents who rated intent to change practice at 5 (strongly agree) (%) Total responses from 20 sessions (n) 98 31 23.4 27.9 Average response rate (%) \*Average feedback for all sessions in 2012. Likertscale key: 0, strongly disagree; 1, moderately disagree; 2, slightly disagree; 3, slightly agree; 4, moderately agree; and 5, strongly agree a total of 37 cases addressed over the differences between pre- and postto treating complex diabetes patients session scores. course of the year after sessions was 4.24 for all respon-Outcome data (Table 1) showed dents and 4.39 for PCPs. For both Reculto the overall response rate was 23.4% groups, this increase in personal The first session was held on 13 for all participants and 27.9% for confidence level was statistically January 2012; 20 ECHO sessions were PCPs. The average self-score for significant (P < 0.001 and P < 0.001conducted throughout that year. Over perceived level of knowledge before respectively). the course of the year, 145 participants sessions was 3.62 for all respondents Nearly all (94.9%) respondents registered for ECHO from 20 separate and 3.60 for PCPs. The average indicated that they were at least MTFs; however, 28 participants (19%) self-score for perceived level of somewhat likely to alter their curdid not attend any sessions, primarknowledge after sessions was 4.50 for rent diabetes management practices ily because of schedule constraints all respondents and 4.42 for PCPs. based on what they had learned Participants included 50 PCPs (12 of For both groups, this increase in at the session. A similar proporthese identified themselves as midperceived diabetes knowledge was tion of PCPs (96.8%) agreed with level providers), as well as primary statistically significant (P < 0.001 and the statement, "I am likely to make care residents, endocrinologists, regis-P < 0.001, respectively). The average tered nurses, dietitians, pharmacists, changes to my treatment practice. self-score for personal confidence and others. The average attendance level with regard to treating complex for patients with diabetes based on what I learned in the ECHO session was 25 participants persession. diabetes patients before sessions Participants submitted 17 cases for was 3.52 for all respondents and 3.61 today" at a level of 3 ("somewhat discussion in 2012; these were supplefor PCPs. The average self-score for agree") or higher. Nearly half of mented with 20 DCOE clinic cases for the PCPs (45.2%) agreed with this personal confidence level with regard

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statement at the maximum level of 5 ("strongly agree").

Discussion and Conclusions The ECHO Initiative, like other current USAF Medical Services initiatives, fits the patient-centered medical home model of care by supporting the PCP team's ability to provide comprehensive, high-quality care. Data collected from participant feedback indicated that the ECHO intervention resulted in a significant

#### positive change in perceived diabetes

knowledge and personal confidence levels, as well as intention to modify practice, among PCPs and other medical personnel in the Military Health Services, Surprisingly, a substantial number of participants were from outside the original target nonulation (PCPs), and, like the PCPs, these participants found ECHO sessions to be educational, confidence building, and likely to result in a change in U.S. Department of Defense, or the U.S. government.

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#### examine the effects of ECHO on

clinical outcome trends and referral rates. The USAF is also expanding the ECHO initiative to include other specialty care areas

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The implications of these results

include the potential to successfully

manage complex diabetes patients

at the primary care level and reduce

Treating more patients at the pri-

many care level will lead to improved

continuity of care, improved patient

access, and significant cost savings.

In the future, the DCOE plans to

referrals to the private sector.

personal practice.

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All of the authors are based at the USAF Diabetes Center of Excellence (DCOE) at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Tex Tamara J. Swigert MSN, is a certified diabetes educator with the outreach team, Mark W. True, MD, is the endocrinology fellowship program director, Tom J. Sauerwein, MD, is director of the DCOE, and Houbei Dai, PhD, is a data analyst.

Swigert, T. J., True, M. W., Sauerwein, T. J., & Dai, H. (2014). US Air Force telehealth initiative to assist primary care providers in the management of diabetes. Clinical Diabetes, 32(2), 78-80.



### US Air Force Project ECHO Diabetes: Our Seven-Year Experience Darrick J Beckman, MD<sup>1</sup>, Mark W True, MD<sup>2</sup>, Jana L Wardian, PhD, MSW<sup>1</sup>, Connie C Morrow, MAEd-AET, CRT<sup>1</sup>, Nina A Watson, MSN, RN, CDE<sup>1</sup>, Tom J

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Texas



#### Background

- The US Air Force Medical Service (AFMS) provides care for over 50,000 patients with diabetes.
- There are only 12 endocrinologists currently in the AFMS.
- The majority of diabetes care must be done by primary care managers (PCMs) and their teams.
- Diabetes Clinical Practice Guidelines are routinely updated and it's important to keep up to date, which is difficult for PCMs to do.
- Since 2012, the AFMS Diabetes Center of Excellence (DCOE) has established a continuing telemedicine education program patterned after the Project Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) model.
- Project ECHO Diabetes is a twice-monthly video teleconference delivered from the DCOE that:

• Reviews standard topics in diabetes prevention and care

 Has real case discussions between PCMs and Endocrinologists to provide optimal care

#### Purpose

We sought to review our impact over the past 7 years in regards to breadth (number of participants and locations); perceived knowledge and confidence gains; and likelihood to change clinical practice.

#### Method

We keep a record of all participants in each session and where they participate from. After each Project ECHO Diabetes session, a survey is distributed to all participants via SurveyMonkey through email. The survey has 8 questions total. In order to assess change, using a 6 point scale (strong/moderate/slight agreement or disagreement), we assess how the participant felt about their knowledge and confidence before the session and then after the session. We also assess how likely the participant is to change their clinical practice based on the session. Survey

results from 2018 were coalesced for analysis in perceived knowledge and confidence gains and likelihood to change clinical practice.

וטנמוז אוונכ ווונכףנוטוו ווו בטוב. Individual Participants (1 or more sessions): 560

- Locations: 93
- 2018 Review:
- Presentations: 18
- Continuing Education Credits: 512
- Participant Job Titles: PCMs, specialists, PharmDs, NPs, PAs, RNs, RDs, and educators
- 2018 Survey Results:
- Response Rate: 224/512 (44% response rate)
- Responses to analyzed questions can be found in Table 1.

#### Table 1 Pre and Post Course Responses

Question	Category	Pre-Course	Post-Course
Knowledge: ( <i>Figure 1</i> ) I have sufficient knowledge of the discussion topic.	Moderate/Strong Agreement	28%	84%
Confidence: ( <i>Figure 2</i> ) I feel confident with regards to the treatment of complex diabetes patients.	Moderate/Strong Agreement	33%	72%
Practice: I am likely to make changes to my treatment practice based on what I learned in this	Slight/Moderate/ Strong Agreement	N/A	96%
Figure 1	Figure 2		

Results





#### Discussion

In contrast to a traditional tertiary care referral model, models like Project ECHO Diabetes provide far greater reach, leveraging expert knowledge to increase quality of diabetes care at the primary care level through increasing knowledge and confidence. While this is self-reporting without clinical outcomes measure, it shows a high likelihood to change practice. In the context of the national diabetes epidemic and endocrinologist shortage, this model

Disclaimer: The views expressed are those of the presenter(s) and do not reflect the official views or policy of the Department of Defense or its Components.

represents a realistic and responsible use of diabetes experts.

# Geographic Distribution of Army and Navy ECHO Pain Hubs and Spokes





# **Army & Navy Pain ECHO Publication**





#### Army and Navy ECHO Pain Telementoring Improves Clinician Opioid Prescribing for Military Patients: an Observational Cohort Study

Joanna G. Katzman, MD, MSPH<sup>1</sup>, Clifford R. Qualls, PhD<sup>2</sup>, William A. Satterfield, PhD<sup>3,4</sup>, Martin Kistin, MD<sup>1</sup>, Keith Hofmann, BS<sup>5</sup>, Nina Greenberg, MS, MPH<sup>6</sup>, Robin Swift, MPH<sup>1</sup>, George D. Comerci Jr, MD, FACP<sup>7</sup>, Rebecca Fowler, MPH<sup>8</sup>, and Sanjeev Arora, MD, MACP, FACG<sup>1</sup>

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**BACKGROUND:** Opioid overdose deaths occur in civilian and military populations and are the leading cause of accidental death in the USA.

**OBJECTIVE:** To determine whether ECHO Pain telementoring regarding best practices in pain management and safe opioid prescribing yielded significant declines in opioid prescribing.

**DESIGN:** A 4-year observational cohort study at military medical treatment facilities worldwide.

opioid and benzodiazepine per opioid user per year (-53% vs. -1%, p < .001), and (d) the number of opioid users (-20.2% vs. -8%, p < .001). Propensity scoring transformation–adjusted results were consistent with the opioid prescribing and MME results.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Patients treated by PCCs who opted to participate in ECHO Pain had greater declines in opioid-related prescriptions than patients whose PCCs opted not to participate.

# Army & Navy ECHO Pain Telementoring



- Objective: To determine whether ECHO Pain telementoring regarding best practices in pain management and safe opioid prescribing yielded significant declines in opioid prescribing
- Design: A 4-year observational cohort study at military medical treatment facilities worldwide
- Intervention: PCCs attended 2-h weekly Chronic Pain and Opioid Management TeleECHO Clinic, which included pain and addiction didactics, case-based learning, and evidence-based recommendations

# Army & Navy ECHO Pain Cohort Study Results



"Medically Ready Force...Ready Medical Force"

Defense Health Agency

# **Key Takeaways**





At ECHO, our mission is to democratize medical knowledge and get best practice care to underserved people all over the world.

Our goal is to touch the lives of 1 billion people by 2025.

Supported by New Mexico Department of Health, Agency for Health Research and Quality, New Mexico Legislature, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. the GE Foundation. Helmslev Charitable Trust. Merck Foundation. BMS foundation. NM Medicaid

- Access to specialty care has long been unevenly distributed
- ECHO provides a model by which to address these disparities
- Worldwide implementation has occurred in unique ways with various adaptations to the original Project ECHO, and evaluations should account for this diversity

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# Please submit your questions in the Q&A pod in Adobe Connect

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  - a. Read the Accreditation Statement
  - b. Complete the Evaluation
  - c. Take the Posttest

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