PROJECT ECHO®: A TELEHEALTH MODEL FOR RURAL HEALTH CARE

Project ECHO® (Extension for Community Health Care Outcomes) expands access to preventive and specialty care for rural and underserved urban populations by building the capacity of primary care physicians and community health workers to provide safe and effective care for complex and chronic conditions. Through telementoring and guided practice, the ECHO model™ is a cost efficient solution to reduce disparities in health outcomes.

The core components of the ECHO model™ are based on the philosophy of "all teach and all learn" and include:
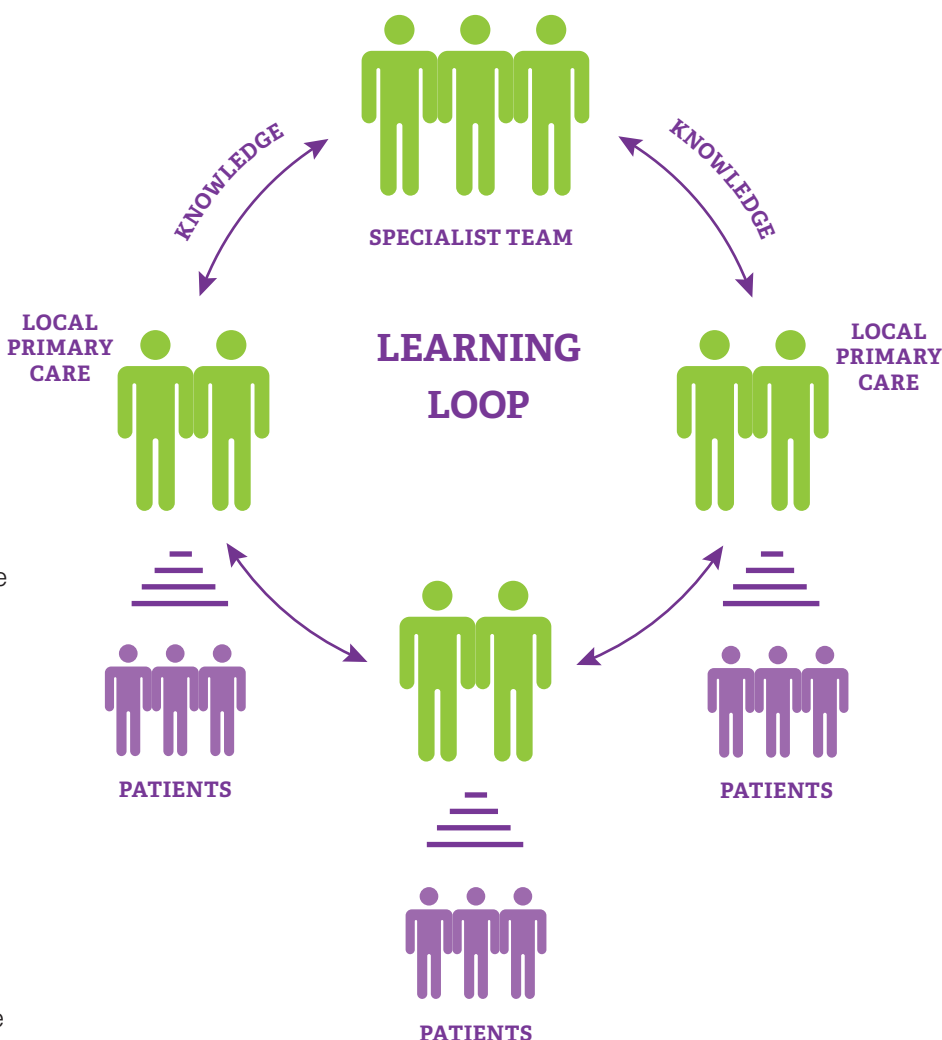
1 A virtual "hub and spokes" knowledge-sharing network to reach health care providers in remote and resource-limited communities

2 Disseminating best practices to frontline health workers in delivering high-quality care and reducing disparities in access to care

3 Supporting primary care physicians treating complex and chronic conditions through collaborative case-based learning and guided practice

4 Evaluating and monitoring outcomes to assess impact and make improvements

The ECHO Model™ in action

Project ECHO® links multidisciplinary medical specialist teams at an academic hub with multiple primary care providers on the frontlines through teleECHO™ programs around the world. The experts mentor and share their expertise via case-based learning and train local providers to treat patients with complex conditions.

Project ECHO® also partners with governments at the state and national levels to launch networks in regional academic hospitals. Once the telementoring network is in place, the Project ECHO® team provides initial technical support and guidance to ensure successful implementation. As the project matures and demonstrates effectiveness, Project ECHO® shifts responsibility for staffing and implementation to local organizations supported by state and national governments or donor agencies.

The ECHO model™ is currently implemented in 33 countries, leveraging the expertise of more than 200 academic and tertiary care centers to mentor local health providers and expand the range of services they can provide to patients.

KNOWLEDGE

KNOWLEDGE

SPECIALIST TEAM

LOCAL PRIMARY CARE

LEARNING LOOP

LOCAL PRIMARY CARE

PATIENTS

PATIENTS

PATIENTS

PROJECT ECHO® IN OKLAHOMA

Through the use of technology, Project ECHO® connects an interdisciplinary team across Oklahoma with community providers to discuss treatment for chronic and complex medical conditions, including substance use, addiction, and mental health.

Project ECHO® Benefits

- Obtain knowledge from specialists
- CME credit for participation
- Advance knowledge to improve patient care
- Engage with an expert team and collaborate with the ECHO community
- Patients stay within community practice

How It Works

Patients need access to specialty care for their complex health conditions

Specialists are fewer in number and more difficult to access, especially in rural and underserved communities

Through Project ECHO®, health care clinicians get training in specialty care services so more patients can get the care they need

Patients get the right care, in the right place, at the right time, improving patient outcomes and reducing health care costs

To find an ECHO in Oklahoma, visit **https://echo.unm.edu/locations/us.**

Learn more: opqic.org/omno

OKLAHOMA State Department of Health

OKLAHOMA PERINATAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE