



## **What is Project ECHO?**

Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is a guided-practice model that aims to increase workforce capacity by sharing knowledge. Specialists at the “hub” site meet regularly with primary care providers and allied health professionals in local communities via videoconferencing to train in the delivery of specialty care services. The ECHO model™, developed at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, does not actually provide care directly to patients. Instead, it provides front-line clinicians with the knowledge and support they need to manage patients with complex conditions in the patients’ own communities. This dramatically increases access to specialty treatment, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Since the start of Project ECHO in 2003, the model has greatly expanded and has been implemented by over 110 partners internationally – covering more than 55 complex conditions and problems

## **Core Principles of Project ECHO**

The ECHO model develops knowledge and capacity among community clinicians through ongoing telementoring and education. Its core principles are:

- Use technology to leverage scarce resources
- Share “best practices” to reduce disparities
- Use case-based learning to master complexity
- Monitor outcomes using a web-based database

## **How Does It Work?**

A teleECHO clinic is essentially virtual chart rounds. Participants (spokes) from multiple locations connect at regularly scheduled times with a specialist or team of specialists through videoconferencing. During teleECHO clinics, participants present de-identified patient cases to a specialist or expert teams who mentor the providers to manage patients with complex conditions. These case-based discussions are supplemented with short didactic presentations to improve content knowledge and share evidence-based practices. As a participating healthcare provider in the TeleECHO clinic, you can:

- Present and discuss your challenging cases
- Enhance your ability to extend specialty care to your patients
- Reduce your patients’ travel time and wait time for specialty care
- All levels of providers are welcome to participate in teleECHO clinics at no cost. Participants may include but are not limited to physicians, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, community health workers, pharmacists, physiotherapist and occupational therapists.

For more information please visit [www.sjcg.echoontario.ca](http://www.sjcg.echoontario.ca) or email [sjgecho@tbh.net](mailto:sjgecho@tbh.net) 807-624-3339