



Project ECHO

Project Team: Health Share of Oregon, OHSU

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Participating Primary Care Clinics: Adventist Health, Legacy Health, Multnomah County, Neighborhood Health, OHSU, Virginia Garcia, Mid-Columbia Medical Center, and Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center

Background



University of New Mexico developed a national tele mentoring model called Project ECHO[®] (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes). Using both didactic and case based learning in video conferencing sessions, specialists help primary care providers learn how to better manage some of the more complex conditions and patients they see in their practices.

Health Share of Oregon partnered with OHSU to bring ECHO to Oregon. OHSU provides the technology platform, infrastructure, and program coordination; they also provide the specialist team.

Health Share surveyed primary care providers to identify which specialty areas they found most problematic; psychiatric medication management rose to the top. Providers participate in a weekly one-hour clinic via video conferencing from the comfort of their own clinic.



Project Goals

The goal of Project ECHO is to develop the capacity to safely and effectively treat chronic, common and complex diseases within the primary care medical home. Easily accessible interactive video sessions upskill PCP knowledge and skills to reduce barriers to care and promote evidence based standards of care for better population outcomes.

Project Objectives:

1. Develop a coordinated community planning process and implementation strategy to identify critical areas to be addressed
2. Implement pilots in selected primary care practices who are managing a significant population of complex patients
3. Collaborate with payers to identify a sustainable business model.

Implementation

Activity	Date
Psychiatric medications management chosen as the specialty through surveying providers	June 2014
Identified, hired, and on-boarded clinic staff including psychiatrist, NP, and pharmacist	July – August 2014
Hire an ECHO Program Coordinator to support OHSU ECHO	July – August 2014
Recruit primary care providers to participate in OHSU ECHO	July – August 2014
Assembled a group of providers and researchers to determine how to measure effectiveness of this pilot project; created a pre-post survey and distributed to participants	July – August 2014
Train participating providers and test technology, OHSU ECHO website, and case presentation submittal process	August 2014
Design curriculum and gain CME and IRB approvals	August 2014
Launch the first OHSU ECHO clinic	September 4, 2014
Solicit provider feedback after each OHSU ECHO clinic to ensure process improvement and recommendations for curriculum topics to cover	Ongoing

Project Measures

Milestones

- Psychiatric medications management specialty chosen using a community process to gauge interest and support. Specialist recruited (Dr. Betlinski).
- Participation from 10 sites and over 30 providers.
- Successful launch of OHSU ECHO clinic on September 4, 2014 with 16 providers attending!



Successes

- Continued engagement week after week from providers; weekly surveys of providers indicate high overall satisfaction with the clinic, citing that the case presentations have been beneficial and they look forward to learning more.
- “De-monopolization of knowledge” through excellent peer-to-peer learning during weekly clinics.

Next Steps

- Identify sustainability models to support Project ECHO post-Transformation Grant (June 30, 2015)
- Evaluate provider self-efficacy (July 2015)
- Consider expanding Project ECHO to add more specialty clinics
- Support Oregon's participation in Project ECHO Medicaid Learning Collaborative by sharing lessons learned
- Share key learnings with our community