University of Vermont Project ECHO: Enhanced Diagnosis and Management of Dementia by the Primary Care Team

This program will discuss evidence-based care, diagnosis, and management of individuals with dementia. The ECHO series will identify strategies, best practices, screening tools, resources, clinical pearls, and emerging topics in this field. The primary target audiences are teams of primary care providers, nurses, and social workers/case managers who work in primary care practices throughout Vermont. The program is inclusive of caregiver roles and aims for person and family-centered dementia care.

Learning objectives for this ECHO series include the ability to:

- Describe current standard of care for diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients with cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's disease (AD), and dementias – evidence-based review and approaches.
- Name non-pharmacological resources for family caregivers including caregiver supports and assistance in management of caregiver stress.
- List pharmacologic approaches to sleep and behavioral issues.
- Discuss side effects of pharmacologic approaches to sleep and behavioral issues.
- Identify Vermont-specific rules regarding driving and guardianship.

This program is offered at no-cost to participants through a collaboration between the VT Department of Health, VT Department of Aging and Independent Living, UVM College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and The UVM Larner College of Medicine Office of Primary Care and AHEC Program. Participants can receive 1.5 Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits for each learning session attended, up to 13.5 CMEs for the series.

2021-2022 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

SESSIONS ARE ON THURSDAYS FROM 7:30AM TO 9:00AM (3rd Thursday of each month)		
DATES	**SESSION**	**DIDACTIC TOPICS** (in addition to case review)
Sep 16	TeleECHO Session 1	**Importance of Early Evaluation of Cognitive Complaints** (John Taylor, MD, UVMMC Memory Program Co-Director)
Oct 21	TeleECHO Session 2	**Living Alone with Dementia – Challenges for PC teams** (Mary Val Palumbo, DNP, APRN, GNP-BC, UVMMC Memory Program)
Nov 18	TeleECHO Session 3	**Care Giver Supports & Services** (John Coffin, MSW; Allegra Miller, Family Caregiver)
Dec 16	TeleECHO Session 4	**Dementia and Driving** (Heather Zuk, OTR, CDRS, CDI, UVMMC Driver Rehab)
Jan 20	TeleECHO Session 5	**Community Programming for People With Dementia and Care Partners** (Tiffany Smith, MA, CRTS, CDP, Program Administrator State Unit on Aging)
Feb 17	TeleECHO Session 6	**Non-pharmacological approaches to behavioral issues for caregivers** (Lori McKenna, MSW, LICSW, UVMMC Memory Program)
Mar 17	TeleECHO Session 7	**Legal Issues of Guardianship, Competency and Power of Attorney** (Jackie Rogers, PhD, DAIL Public Guardian Program)
Apr 21	TeleECHO Session 8	**End Of Life Planning and Palliative Care** (Zail S. Berry, MD, MPH, UVMMC Geriatrics)
May 19	TeleECHO Session 9	**Managing Behavioral Issues and Sleep – Pharmacological Approaches** (Doug Franzoni, PharmD, BCGP, Meds To Beds Supervisor, UVMMC Outpatient Pharmacy, Geriatric Consultant Pharmacist)

TO REGISTER

Complete the online registration form at **https://redcap.med.uvm.edu/surveys/?s=FLWTXE9CHY.** As part of the registration process, participants are asked to complete a Statement of Collaboration (SoC) outlining the program commitments.

NOTE: This program has limited enrollment. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Primary care teams are encouraged to attend together; each participant must register. Cohort-based learning in a peer supportive environment is foundational to this ECHO series. This cohort will be finalized on September 2nd; registrations will not be accepted after that date.
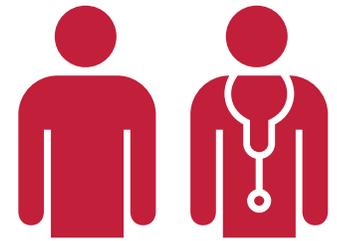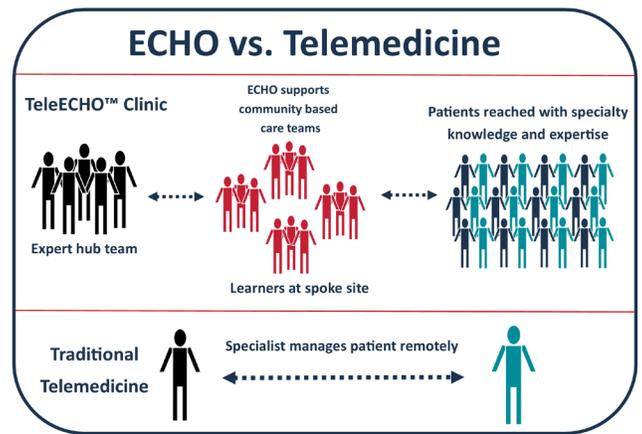
General questions about the University of Vermont's Project ECHO can be directed to Elizabeth.Cote@uvm.edu; clinical/topic-specific questions can be directed to Mary.Palumbo@med.uvm.edu

About Project ECHO

This program uses the Project ECHO model™. **Project ECHO®** (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is an evidence-based interactive distance-learning method developed by researchers at the University of New Mexico. During teleECHO™ sessions, experts and peers share their expertise across a virtual network via case-based learning, enabling practice teams to treat patients with complex conditions in their own communities.

The program will help participants build capacity by:

- Providing consultation from an experienced team of experts, specialists, and peers through regular web-based case conferences and teaching;
- Providing an interactive and engaged virtual learning environment;
- Focusing on critical issues that arise in the care of patients;
- Helping to support and facilitate quality care for patients.

ECHO vs. Telemedicine

Participants commit to:

- Participate in each Project ECHO case-based learning session, using a virtual meeting platform (see program schedule);
  - Each virtual learning session will consist of a brief lecture, a case presentation, and discussion;
- Use a webcam to participate face-to-face in each session (this is a core element of the Project ECHO model and is required for this program);
- Submit case(s) and present them to the group;
- Complete an evaluation survey at end of each session; and
- Provide requested evaluation feedback at the end of the full program.

PROJECT ECHO: Doing More for More Patients

PATIENT
- Right Care
- Right Place
- Right Time

PROVIDER
- Acquire New Knowledge
- Treat More Patients
- Build Community of Practice

COMMUNITY
- Reduce Disparities
- Retain Providers
- Keep Patients Local

SYSTEM
- Increase Access
- Improve Quality
- Reduce Cost

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