Northern New England Project ECHO Collaborative

HRSA Rural Health Network Development Grant
- Strengthens and expands network across ME, NH, VT
- $900,000 over 3 years

Formal Network Partners:
- Quality improvement organizations in New Hampshire and Vermont: Maine Quality Counts, Citizens Health Initiative at UNH, and the Vermont Program for Quality Health Care (VPQHC);
- The Northeast Telehealth Resource Center (NETRC);
- Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) in ME, NH, and VT; and academic centers for medical and health education in the three states, including the University of New England (UNE); UNH; Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center; and University of Vermont (UVM) Medical Center. The Collaborative will serve a broad network of healthcare stakeholders across the three states.
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Network Mission

• The **mission** of the NNE ECHO Collaborative is to design and implement a regional network of telehealth services using the Project ECHO model to improve access, care delivery, outcomes and health for Northern New Englanders residing in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. The NNE ECHO Collaborative Network will support providers and patients to work effectively together to manage common, emerging and complex conditions safely, effectively and compassionately.

Network Shared Vision

• The overarching **vision** for the NNE ECHO Collaborative is to enhance access and improve health outcomes throughout the Northern New England region.
Project ECHO Methodology

- **Use Technology** to leverage scarce resources
- **Sharing “best practices”** to reduce disparities
- **Case based learning** to master complexity
- **Tracking data to monitor outcomes**

ECHO model is not “telemedicine”

Graphic and visual conceptual framework used with permission from Kent Unruh and Project ECHO.
How is it different from telemedicine?

**Telemedicine**
- Focus is direct service delivery
- Usually billable
- Usually one-to-one
- Unidirectional flow of information
- Usually one-and-done, or time-limited/specific
- Single expert providing opinion

**ECHO**
- Focus is on education and capacity building
- Not usually billable
- One-to-many (hub and spokes)
- Multidirectional flow of knowledge
- Ongoing, based on learner’s needs
- Multidisciplinary expert team providing mentoring, advice and support
Northern New England Project ECHO Collaborative

Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is a movement to demonopolize knowledge and amplify local capacity to provide best practice care for underserved people all over the world. The ECHO model™ is committed to addressing the needs of the most vulnerable populations by equipping communities with the right knowledge, at the right place, at the right time.

https://youtu.be/2lBfyOlL4_s