



Hello,

Baycrest Health Sciences, in partnership with North East Specialized Geriatric Centre, is excited to announce the launch of “**Project ECHO Care of the Elderly**” (ECHO COE), a telehealth program that aims to help primary care providers build capacity in the care of older adults through weekly videoconference sessions.

What is Project ECHO?

Project ECHO, which stands for Extension of Community Health Outcomes, was created by Dr. Sanjeev Arora at the University of New Mexico. Project ECHO follows a ‘Hub’ and ‘Spoke’ model of knowledge dissemination and capacity building, which aims to exchange knowledge between academic health science centres and the frontline of community care partners. It relies on the flow of knowledge in multiple directions: from experts to primary care providers; between primary care providers; and from primary care providers to experts. This model is appropriate for physicians, nurses and other healthcare providers and has been successfully replicated throughout the United States, Canada and globally.

Each ECHO COE session will include a short presentation by experts on specific topics of interest relevant to care of the older adults, followed by cases **presented by the spoke sites**. Feedback and recommendations are provided by the experts at the Hub as well as the other spokes.

Who can be a Spoke Site?

Any primary care providers who want to expand their skills and build their capacity in the care of older adults can become a spoke either individually or as a team. Physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, and/or any other healthcare professionals are welcome to join.

When will ECHO COE run?

The first series will run for 10 sessions, weekly, from January 8, 2017 – March 19, 2018 on Mondays from 3:00 – 4:30 pm, with the exception of Family Day on February 19, 2018. Spoke sites are expected to participate in all 10 ECHO COE sessions and to present at least one case across the 10 sessions.

Do I Need Special Equipment?

No special equipment is required to participate, just an internet connection and a computer, tablet or smartphone. You will be given access to the free internet-based videoconference system through a link.

Is this Being Evaluated?

Feedback is important to us. In order to improve the program, the ECHO COE team is evaluating the feasibility and efficacy of the ECHO Care of the Elderly program to enable primary care providers' skills and capacity in the care of older adults. In addition to attending ECHO COE session, spoke participants will be asked to provide feedback on their training and experience via questionnaires and qualitative interviews/focus groups at various time points during the program.

Further, the project is fully accredited for Continuing Medical Education (CME), so participants receive CME credits at no cost.

This project is fully funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and does not require any payment from primary care provider spoke sites.

Next Steps?

For more information on how to become a spoke and the commitments of being a spoke, please email Diana at [**echo@baycrest.org**](mailto:echo@baycrest.org) and/or see the attached brochure.

For more information on Project ECHO New Mexico, visit: <https://echo.unm.edu>.

For more information on ECHO programs in Ontario, visit: <https://www.echoontario.ca/>.

For more information on ECHO Care of the Elderly and to apply, visit: www.baycrest.org/echo/.