

# ECHO: Using Video Consultation to Educate Community Providers

## The Problem

*ECHO was developed to respond to the shortage of specialty care for certain high risk populations within the community.*

*The current ECHO programs focus on:*

- Dementia in elderly long term care patients (ECHO-AGE)
- Hepatitis C (ECHO-HCV)
- Transition of care from hospital to skilled nursing facility (ECHO-CT)

*ECHO programs were selected based on the following criteria*

- Amenable to the use of technology to disseminate best practices
- Ability to educate community providers so they could become local experts in these areas
- Opportunity to significantly improve quality of patient care

## Aim/Goal

*The goal of ECHO programs is to spread specialty knowledge into the community by educating and supporting primary clinicians*

## The Team

- Angela Botts, MD; Gerontology
- Melissa Mattison, MD; Hospital Medicine
- Rachel Baden, MD; Infectious Disease
- Marisa Morgan, MA, MBA; Project ECHO
- Sara Monti, EdM; Project ECHO
- Nid Afdhal, MD; Liver Center, Chief
- Lewis Lipsitz, MD; Gerontology, Chief

## The Interventions

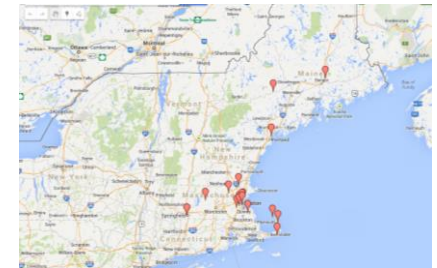
- Uses video consultation technology to link an expert, multidisciplinary team at BIDMC with care teams at community sites
- Biweekly clinics with ~20 community sites
- Sites present de-identified patient cases for discussion
- Short didactics
- When not presenting, sites listen and participate in management discussions thus creating a learning community

## The Results/Progress to Date

- **ECHO-AGE – 40 new and 42 follow up cases presented in first year.**
  - Surveys suggest management suggestions are helpful and applied in majority of cases. Sites have noted a “ripple effect” within facilities.
  - In 50% of cases, medications have been reduced. Positive feedback behavioral interventions are often introduced
- **ECHO-HCV – 130 patients presented since inception**
  - Community providers are becoming comfortable with independently treating hepatitis C, liver disease and its complications
- **ECHO-CT – Average of 20 newly discharged patients each week.**
  - Connections made to treating physicians at BIDMC
  - Medicine residents are now participating in sessions as part of a transitions of care curriculum.



ECHO-AGE Clinic in Session



Locations of our ECHO Partnering Sites

## Next Steps/What Should Happen Next

- Video consultation through project ECHO is effective in educating community providers in complex disease management and increases patient access to local specialty care
- Given success thus far, the addition of other clinical programs is ongoing
- ECHO is seeking sustainable funding models to continue the program beyond current grant periods.

