



Dementia Training & Tele-Mentoring Program

What is Project ECHO®?

Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is a guided-practice model that aims to increase workforce by sharing knowledge. Specialists at the central site, which is called the hub, meet regularly with medical professionals in local communities via videoconferencing to provide training in the delivery of specialty care services.

The ECHO model, developed at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, does not actually provide care directly to patients. Instead, it provides frontline clinicians with the knowledge and support they need to manage patients with complex conditions in their own community. This dramatically increases access to specialty treatment in rural and underserved areas.

How does it work?

Dementia ECHO is a virtual, collaborative training and mentoring program. Health care professionals from multiple locations connect with a team of specialists through videoconferencing at regularly scheduled times, approximately every other week, over a six-month period. New series at Banner Alzheimer's Institute are scheduled to begin several times throughout the year.

During Dementia ECHO sessions, participating providers present de-identified patient cases to a dementia expert team who mentor the providers to manage patients with complex conditions. These case-based discussions are supplemented with short didactic presentations to improve content knowledge and share evidence-based practices.

Participation in Dementia ECHO can:

- Allow you to present and discuss your challenging cases.
- Enhance your ability to extend specialty care to your patients.
- Reduce your patients' travel time and wait time for specialty care.

Health care providers from all professions are welcome to participate in Dementia ECHO.



Curriculum

Designed to provide the specialty knowledge required to effectively diagnose and manage cognitive disorders.

The curriculum will address topics such as:

- Alzheimer's and related dementias: definitions, epidemiology, risk factors, differentiating from age-related changes
- Mild cognitive impairment and dementia
- Diagnostic evaluation of cognitive disorders and differential diagnosis
- When and how to use office/remote testing
- Alzheimer's disease research highlights
- Primary care dementia care workflow and when to refer to a specialist
- Medications in dementia care
- Use of psychotropic medications
- Non-medication disease management techniques and behavioral management interventions
- Caregiver burden, education, support and resources
- As dementia progresses: the moderate to advanced stages and delirium
- Medical-legal issues in dementia: driving, advanced directives, and end-of-life care

Moving Knowledge, Not Patients

How does it work?

Dementia is a growing public concern. Nearly 7 million Americans have Alzheimer's or a related dementia. As the size and proportion of our aging population continues to rise, the number of people living with Alzheimer's or other dementias is expected to grow.

Delayed recognition and management of the dementia syndrome results in poor outcomes for patients and families, including high levels of caregiver stress and burden, as well as delayed, fragmented, and redundant use of resources at nearly every encounter with the health care system.

A shortage of specialists places a strong burden on other health care providers to effectively manage care. Even if existing dementia specialists worked at full capacity, they would not be able to care for even 10% of all persons with dementia in the U.S.

With limited medical and pharmaceutical treatments available, disease management also requires extensive non-pharmacological approaches to care, care management strategies, advanced care planning and access to support, counseling and community resources.



The goal of the Banner Alzheimer's Institute: Dementia ECHO program is to equip health care professionals with the specialty knowledge and tools needed to manage these patients and improve their care effectively and comfortably.

Health care professionals involved in managing care for aging adults are encouraged to participate. By registering, you:

- Attend regular sessions twice monthly
- Participate in brief lectures and presentations
- Join from a computer or video-enabled device
- Complete periodic surveys evaluating the program
- Present difficult patient cases

**To register for the latest
Dementia ECHO series, visit
BannerHealth.com/DementiaECHO
or Scan the QR code**

