

## **HCV elimination in Indian Country: The TeleECHO model**

**AUTHORS:** Jessica Leston\*, David Stephens\*

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** Public health and health care professionals and providers in the behavioral, medical, social services and education fields

**ABSTRACT:** American Indian and Alaska Native people have the highest mortality rate from HCV of any race or ethnicity. Hepatitis C can be cured, and the IHS, Tribal and Urban Indian primary care clinics are developing their capacity to provide this cure. By treating at the primary care level, we can begin to eradicate this disease.

**Methods:** Based on the UNM teleECHO model, the NPAIHB launched a HCV teleECHO Project in February 2017. The ECHO model is a collaborative model of medical education and care management that empowers clinicians to provide better care to more people, right where they live, an especially important attribute in Indian Country. ECHO increases access to specialty treatment underserved areas by providing clinicians with the knowledge and support they need to manage patients with HCV.

**Results:** 26 clinical sites have joined and 55 patients received recommendations for treatment.

**Conclusions:** ECHO has been a way to democratize knowledge to improve care for an underserved population. It is the hope that by using the teleECHO model, the NPAIHB will help to build the capacity, urgency, network and connections needed for patients and providers to receive and give the best care possible for AI/AN patients.

### **OBJECTIVE(S):**

- By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to describe the structure of the ECHO model
- By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to define the impacts of the hub-and-spoke knowledge-sharing networks
- By the end of this workshop, participants will identify the methods and strategies towards achieving elimination of chronic HCV among the AI/AN population

### **PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION:**

David Stephens, BSN  
HCV Clinical Services Manager  
Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board  
5034163307 | dstephens@npaihb.org

### **CO-PRESENTER(S):**

Jessica Leston | jleston@npaihb.org