
Thank you for taking the time to read this, a short introduction of Project ECHO[®] for viral hepatitis provided by Liverpool Hospital Hepatitis Service, of the Department of Gastroenterology and Liver.

We open this invitation to anyone who is interested to increase their knowledge about Hepatitis B, C and Liver Disease. The primary goal is to support anyone who wants to treat patients, without many needing to come to us at all. We do this not because we don't want to see the patients, we love seeing patients, but, it seems that we often don't need to.

ECHO[®] meeting includes case-based learning, followed by 15 minutes didactics on a range of liver related topics from one of our Specialists presenters and expert guest speakers. You don't have to sign up for life, but just try it.

We run our ECHO sessions on the following schedule:

- First Tuesday of the month, 1pm – 2pm
- Second and fourth Friday of each month, 2pm-3.30pm
- School holidays are excluded

To join you need a smart phone, iPad or computer (with a camera and microphone) and Wi-Fi or data plan. Once you tell us you are interested, we will include you on our email invitation link and just send you an invitation.

1. Send a referral to us about the patient you want to discuss. We discuss the case (maybe 5-10 cases per session) over multi person video conference and decide on treatment plan together. We write the advice to you, so you have it in writing and can proceed, with specialist support. Not all cases will need to be presented, especially as expertise improves they might just be mentioned over the conference as straight forward and we will still write back so you are covered.

The referral of cases could be on the attached form or your own referral, so long as the information provided includes copies of labs or ultrasounds or fibroscan (this may not be necessary).

Referral to SWSLHD-liverpoolGastro@health.nsw.gov.au or FAX **8738 3094** or contact any of the Project ECHO[®] team on the following numbers **0408968191** or **02 87384074**

At some point decided by you, you won't need to attend anymore so long as you are still sending the referrals, or the cases you are managing are the same degree of complexity that you have already got a handle on, we will support you. It is quite enjoyable, so you may choose to keep attending, perhaps once every month or two.

If you present a case you may be able to bill for a number of medicare approved items, please ask us if you need more information on this. You will be able to claim 4 CME points for attending a session. We will forward your details onto the primary health network if you would like, after attending a session and completing a very short evaluation.

We ask by participating that you assist us in the evaluation; the efficacy of treatment with this program (ie the Sustained Virological Response, or SVR) and perhaps at some point, how you felt about it. This way we can demonstrate efficacy of Project ECHO®, and information which would allow its broader applicability.

2. See below for more general rational of Project ECHO® and some links to TED talks and reviews below.

- **Background**

- There is a massive demand for specialist services
- Current obstacles to care:
 - Cultural, social or economic obstacles
 - No Case Based Learning available until now (lectures alone)

- **Summary of Project Echo**

A brief animation describing (1.5 minute) ECHO video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAMaHP-tEwk>

TED X of Sanjeev Arora (12 minutes):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IY5nIjxac0g>

- Democratize medical knowledge
- By moving knowledge instead of patients
- Using video conferencing hard and soft ware to connect a group of interested community care providers (spokes) tele MENTORING (not telemedicine) to the specialists (hub), utilizing didactic sessions followed by de-identified case based learning, aiming to empowering CHCP to care for patients themselves.

Thanks and apologies for such a long letter.

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