Heartland Project ECHO: Overview and Evaluation Results

2024 HRGN Annual Meeting
April 24, 2024
Gale Hann, MPH, CPH
HRGN Project ECHO Coordinator
What is Project ECHO?

• ECHO stands for Extension for Community Health Outcomes.
• Founded in 2023 by Dr. Sanjeev Arora from the University of New Mexico.
• Tele-education and mentoring model that aims to demonopolize specialty knowledge and support non-specialists in providing high quality care.
• Uses an “all teach, all learn” philosophy where a virtual community of peers share support, guidance, and feedback.

Project ECHO for Genetics

• While historically implemented to share specialty knowledge related to the prevention and treatment of communicable disease, project ECHO shows promise to share information about genomic medicine and genetic testing.

• Our team implemented the first genetics project ECHO series in 2019.

• A second series on genetic testing was offered in the summer of 2022.

• In winter of this year (2024) we implemented an ECHO series on newborn screening conditions.
  • This presentation will share information from the 2022 and 2024 series.
• 2022 series focused on genetic testing topics including:
  • Basics of genetic testing
  • Payment and authorization
  • Sponsored testing

• Lead by Erin Beaver, MS, CGC; Julie Wiedower, MS, CGC; and hub team members.
  • Later work with NCC navigating medical necessity
• 2024 series addressed newborn screening (NBS) conditions:
  • Congenital Hypothyroidism (CH)
  • Cystic Fibrosis (CF)
  • Mucopolysaccharidosis type II (MPS II)

• Lead by Jo Ann Bolick, BSN, MA, APN, CPNP and hub team representative of the NBS community
Genetic Topics ECHO Planning Steps

1. Conduct needs assessment of community members
2. Form and train ECHO hub team
3. Identify training topics and develop content, informed by needs assessment
4. Advertise and recruit participants
5. Solicit cases and ensure deidentification
6. Implement sessions with ECHO team and community members
7. Evaluate participant satisfaction and change in knowledge
8. Debrief with the team for continuous quality improvement
Evaluation Methods

• Demographic data collected via participate online registration

• Sessions evaluated through retrospective pre/post surveys, where participants reported change in knowledge and confidence regarding session objectives
  • All knowledge and confidence questions based on a 5-point Likert scale with mean scores reported
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Objective</th>
<th>Pre</th>
<th>Post</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of how to assess the impact of sponsored genetic testing...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of how to evaluate sponsored genetic testing...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of how to identify and participate in genetic testing...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of sponsored genetic testing programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence applying prior authorization efficiencies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of language used by insurers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of appeal processes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of prior authorization best practices</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence applying genetic testing best practices</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of referral and evaluation processes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge stakeholders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of who benefits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Knowledge of CH etiology and long-term follow-up (n=9)
Knowledge of CH diagnostic testing (n=9)
Knowledge of CH treatment options (n=9)
Confidence implementing recommended CH treatment...
Knowledge of CH etiology and long-term follow-up (n=9)
Overall Evaluation Summary

• Number of session participants grew over time with almost twice as many participants attending the 2024 series compared to 2022.

• In 2022 series family advocates were the most represented participant discipline whereas in 2024 most represented disciplines included nursing and public health.

• Qualitative comments showed satisfaction with case-base learning and there is demand for future ECHO sessions on new topics.
Thank you! Any Questions?

Email contact: abigail-hann@ouhsc.edu