



Department of  
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(202) 461-7600  
www.va.gov

# Fact Sheet

## **Specialty Care Access Network-Extension for Community (SCAN-ECHO)**

### **VA's SCAN-ECHO**

VA was introduced to Project ECHO in March 2010 by Dr. Sanjeev Arora, Director of Project ECHO, which he developed at the University of New Mexico's School of Medicine. Specialty Care Services adopted and expanded this program to transform the delivery of specialty care throughout VA. SCAN-ECHO extends the reach of specialty services and coordinates with the Veteran's Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT). Through a competitive application process, 11 sites have been funded since 2011 to develop specialty care teams that interface with primary care.

SCAN-ECHO uses case-based training for Primary Care Providers (PCPs) and their teams and are often located at smaller VA facilities or in rural areas. Modeled after Project ECHO, it is designed to increase provider knowledge, competencies, and professional training hours in a specific specialty area. After participating in SCAN-ECHO, PCPs will be able to manage aspects of Veterans care closer to their homes.

A goal of this program is to develop a mentor-mentee relationship between the specialist team and primary care provider. The specialist team coaches the primary care provider to become a local expert on a specific health condition. The specialist and other members of the SCAN-ECHO team (which may include pharmacists, nurses, and other professions), make recommendations for a treatment plan with the PCP while other PCPs participate in the learning session virtually. SCAN-ECHO sessions also include a short, topical didactic presentation consistent with VA/Department of Defense Clinical Practice guidelines. Providers earn CME/CEU credit for their participation in both the didactic session and the case presentations.

### **Is SCAN-ECHO a form of Telehealth?**

No. SCAN-ECHO is not considered a form of Telehealth, as patients are not involved in the videoteleconferencing component.

### **What are the Potential Benefits of Participating in SCAN-ECHO?**

Primary care providers have benefited from improved professional satisfaction, this may be of particular importance for providers in rural areas. Through the use of virtual mentoring and didactic presentations, primary care providers augment skills and

overtime, manage more complex patients within their own practices. Patients benefit by having providers in their Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) trained through SCAN-ECHO leading to basic specialty care in their local communities instead of needing to travel (at times hundreds of miles) to large tertiary medical centers.

**What specialties are included in the SCAN-ECHO?**

Sites offer different specialty consultations based on population demands and the needs of primary care teams. Currently, sites are providing consultations for: Heart failure, Diabetes, Endocrinology, Hepatitis C, Neurology, Nephrology, Pain Management, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Vascular Medicine, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) care, and Pre-operative care. This list of specialty services is not inclusive and continues to evolve and expand as local needs of Veterans are addressed.

**Who can I contact if I want more information on VA's SCAN-ECHO program?**

Please send all questions and/or comments to the Specialty Care Transformation staff group at [vhaosct@va.gov](mailto:vhaosct@va.gov)