

“Up-to-date knowledge dissemination, it’s free, excellent case studies, excellent presentations.”

– Participant



WoundPedia - Ontario Skin and Wound

“The interaction between the presenters and spokes. I gained a lot of new, valuable information that I will integrate into my practice.”

– Participant



Dr. R. Gary Sibbald is a dermatologist/ internist, wound care specialist. Recognized internationally for his research and clinical work, Dr. Sibbald helped launch ECHO (Extension for Community Health Care Outcomes) Ontario Skin and Wound Care.

We sat down with him to discuss ECHO

Q: Please describe ECHO. What attracted you to the model for skin and wound care?

A: Skin and wound care has traditionally been practiced in silos. Providers often work independently of each other, whether acute care, long-term care, nursing homes, complex continuing care, home care or other sectors. Doctors, nurses and allied health professionals are working in different locations under various models. This creates obstacles in providing integrated interprofessional care.

ECHO helps address this. ECHO moves knowledge, not patients. We connect with 20+ clinics at once via Zoom in weekly 2-hour sessions. We use a ‘Hub and Spoke’ model. The ‘Hub’ teaches a short didactic lecture based on International Interprofessional Wound Care Course (IIWCC) curriculum, RNAO Best Practice Guidelines and other expert resources. We then collectively discuss real, de-identified, patient cases submitted by ‘Spoke’ participants.

Q: How is ECHO different than telemedicine?

A: ECHO is designed to build capacity in the community and to link together the three key wound care professional groups: doctors, nurses and allied health. We do not take over responsibility of care of patients. Instead, we help participants care for their own patients, in their own communities.

Q: Who are the partners in this ECHO program and who is on your “hub” team?

A: Our program is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, through the Mississauga Halton LHIN. The three partners are WoundPedia, Queen’s University and the RNAO. The Hub team includes family doctors, advance



practice nurses, and allied health providers. We also have a roster of guest experts. Our program is part of a collective of over 20 ECHO programs in Ontario. We are accredited by Queens University and award CME credits to attendees.

Q: What can a participant expect to gain? What are the obligations?

A: Participants gain experience through situational learning with an interprofessional collaborative approach. We discuss their patient cases. Many participants have found this extremely helpful for their wound care patients with complex needs who were not meeting expected care pathway milestones. We ask in return for regular attendance and we do expect participants to present at least one of their own cases for discussion. For more information visit our website.

Q: Is there a tuition fee and are there openings?

A: There is no charge for Ontario based providers. We have openings for October 2020, when we will discuss lower leg and foot ulcers and we have openings in January 2021 for pressure injuries.



Topics discussed

Diabetic foot ulcers, leg ulcers, pressure injuries, wound bed preparation, infection, malignant, post-surgical wounds, traumatic injuries, peristomal, lymphedema, acute infection and other wound and skin care topics.