

Project ECHO Ontario Skin and Wound is designed to train wound care teams (doctors, nurses, allied health) across the province of Ontario. We have a special target population of Indigenous, North, isolated and remote communities. Each ECHO cycle is 8 weeks with Cycle 1 (Leg and Foot Ulcers) and Cycle 2 (Pressure Injuries and Miscellaneous wounds).

Our official partners in Project ECHO are Nurses Specialized in Wound, Ostomy and Continence Canada (NSWOCC) and Queen's University (Health Sciences Professional Development and Educational Scholarship). We are also collaborating with Sault College (microcredentials in skin and wound care, nursing curriculum and e-textbook). To improve patient outcomes, Diabetes Action Canada will become a proposed partner to measure educational outcomes and create databases.

Project ECHO Ontario Skin and Wound has had two funding cycles (2018-2021 and 2021-2024) and its renewal is scheduled for April 1, 2024. Our application is due at the Ministry of Health on November 30.

We are requesting two support letters for the following:

1. To continue ECHO Ontario Skin and Wound with evergreen funding (continuous funding guaranteed with annual budget negotiation), alongside additional support for educational outcomes and a collaboration with Diabetes Action Canada
2. To create a virtual identified patient consultation service utilizing Wound Bed Prep 2021 for patient navigation and clinician support for previous ECHO participants and to bring advanced wound care expertise to clinicians in Northern Ontario

We will be circulating 100 toolkits across Ontario with special target populations in the North (North-West and North-East) and Hamilton-Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB). These tool kits include 8MHz Dopplers and infrared thermometers, along with simple plantar pressure redistribution devices for application in the home care and community settings.

Our current ECHO Ontario Skin and Wound Care Cycle theme is leg and foot ulcers with a focus on limb preservation. The first 6 out of 8 sessions have had attendance rates of 173-200 participants from all 14 health districts in Ontario. Our target audiences have enhanced attendance (31 North-West, 21 in North-East, 71 in HNHB). **A new ECHO Cycle 1 (leg & foot limb preservation) will begin on January 10, 2024 (contact Linda Dorrington at linda@woundpedia.com).**

The Skills sessions are virtual and designed for use of the toolkit in the home care community setting. These are 1-hour long and added as a separate 3rd hour after our traditional 2-hour program. We have had an attendance of 133-150 healthcare professionals in these sessions with outstanding evaluations. There are educational follow-up assignments to facilitate practice of skills and improve community capacity.

Our funding will also include a request for collaboration with Diabetes Action Canada to collect data on educational and health care patient outcomes. This initiative will facilitate equal access to wound care specialist teams across Ontario for patients to receive quality care.

In addition to the de-identified patients in ECHO that moves knowledge and not patients, we need support for the newly trained professional teams. A virtual consult service that includes either patient navigation principles or direct clinician evidence-informed care planning will reinforce the education and set the stage to improve system and patient outcomes.

Please see supporting material in the attachments below.

One paragraph for email message

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