



UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH DAKOTA

# Palliative Care ECHO®

*Moving knowledge, not patients*

## About Us

A coalition of like-minded healthcare professionals called Advance Care Planning: Quality Conversations, led by the University of South Dakota Department of Nursing, was formed in 2015 to increase and improve the quality of end-of-life conversations using the Respecting Choices® model. Today, the coalition has grown into a state-wide, interprofessional, multi-institutional team and its focus on expanded beyond quality of end-of-life conversations to include palliative care.



Focusing now on palliative care, the coalition is leveraging resources and increasing knowledge of healthcare workers using the tele-mentoring, case-based ECHO® (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) model. The ECHO® model provides a centralized structure for easier access to culturally appropriate, individualized palliative care information.

## Fostering Palliative Care

Palliative care is medical care for people living with a serious illness. This type of care is focused on providing relief from the symptoms and stress of illness with the goal to improve quality of life for both the patient and family. Effective palliative care is delivered by a trained team of doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains, and other health professionals who collaborate to provide an extra layer of support. Based on the needs of the patient, not on prognosis, palliative care is appropriate at any age and any stage of serious illness and may be provided alongside curative treatments in primary and specialty settings.

## Activities

- Disseminate and utilize statewide data and resources to enhance palliative care skills of the South Dakota workforce.
- Utilize Project ECHO® tools and resources as a framework for tele-mentoring.
- Facilitate a learning community through tele-mentoring and shared learning.
- Provide community education and information about certification in Advance Care Planning.

## Benefits of Participating in ECHO®

Project ECHO® is a unique tool that enables healthcare professionals to practice at the top of their license, working with patients with common complex conditions rather than referring them on to someone else. Increased patient retention and satisfaction keeps patients at their local health center, and treated within their local community as much as possible.

**Development and Retention:** Through Project ECHO®, healthcare professionals acquire new skills and competencies, expanding access to care. They become part of a community of learners, increasing professional satisfaction and decreasing feelings of professional isolation. For a health center, this means that healthcare professionals are more productive and experience an increase in retention rates.

**Continued Learning:** Health centers and their healthcare professionals also enjoy no-cost access to continued learning and specialist consultations during the teleECHO® clinics. This enables health centers to be part of a knowledge network.

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### For more information

[www.advancedcareplanningsd.com](http://www.advancedcareplanningsd.com)

[ProjectECHO@usd.edu](mailto:ProjectECHO@usd.edu)

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ECHO® is a videoconferencing case-based learning platform that feeds a knowledge-sharing network.

Through telementoring, ECHO® builds capacity and creates access to high quality specialty care serving local communities.

Community healthcare professional and specialists learn from each other by sharing knowledge.

All teach, all learn.

No identifiable patient information is shared.

Technology is used to leverage resources.

Join each session via Zoom from an internet-enabled device.

Sessions are typically an hour long, held at noon, once a month, beginning April 2022.

 **South Dakota**  
Association of Healthcare Organizations



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