PROJECT ECHO: CREATING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE IN CHILDREN’S PALLIATIVE CARE

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Dying children face ‘postcode lottery’ with inconsistent quality of end-of-life care, MPs warn

Report criticises ‘patchy’ palliative care and calls for government action to meet commitments to provide personalised treatment

Sam Lister, Conrad Duncan | 18 hours ago | 0 comments
The ECHO® model (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) established in New Mexico (2002)

- A low cost, high impact model for sharing knowledge and expanding capacity to enable more people to get high quality care in or near the communities where they live.

- MOVING KNOWLEDGE, NOT PEOPLE
- Model
  - Use technology to leverage scarce resources
  - Share best practices to reduce disparities
  - Apply case based learning to master complexity
  - Evaluate and monitor outcomes

(Project ECHO, 2018)
Components

- Videoconferencing technology
- Hub and spokes model
- Short, monthly sessions
- Case based learning
  - Education element
  - Case presentation
  - Group discussion
- Process
  - Collaborative planning
  - Agreed etiquette to protect confidentiality
  - Standardised structure
Children’s palliative care ECHO network

- Established February 2018
- Target practitioners: Anyone contributing to children’s palliative care

1. Practitioners working in a general setting with occasional input into children’s palliative care
2. Practitioners who are frequently involved in children’s palliative care, but where this is not the core focus of their role.
3. Practitioners where children’s palliative care is the core focus of their role.
4. Adult practitioners who have occasional involvement in children’s palliative care.

- Key activities:
  - Curriculum planning meeting
  - Monthly sessions
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Curriculum topic</th>
<th>Case Presenters</th>
<th>Educators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08/11/18</td>
<td>1400</td>
<td>Maintaining communication with parents in times of conflict</td>
<td>Rachel Cooke, GOSH</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/12/18</td>
<td>1400</td>
<td>Promoting parent &amp; family resilience when a child has palliative care needs</td>
<td>Dr Nicola Doherty, Western HSC Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/01/19</td>
<td>1400</td>
<td>Blended diets</td>
<td>Dr Suzie Lapwood, Helen House, Belfast HSC Trust</td>
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<td>05/02/19</td>
<td>1400</td>
<td>Airway clearance</td>
<td>Janine McVeigh, Belfast HSC Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>25/01/16</td>
<td>1400</td>
<td>The Essentials of Children’s Palliative Care</td>
<td>Kane Stewart</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/12/18</td>
<td>0900</td>
<td>Making a good death: Advance care planning in children’s palliative care</td>
<td>Angela Muholland, NICN</td>
<td>Laura Lynch, Rainbows Hospice</td>
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<tr>
<td>24/06/18</td>
<td>1400</td>
<td>Symptom Management at End of Life: Session 1: Pain Management</td>
<td>Katherine McMullan, FDR-SC, Belfast HSC Trust</td>
<td>Dr Nicola Doherty, Western HSC</td>
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<tr>
<td>26/06/16</td>
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<td>23/06/18</td>
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<td>Neonatal palliative care</td>
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<td>30/10/16</td>
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<td>25/11/10</td>
<td>0900</td>
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<td>25/1/19</td>
<td>0900</td>
<td>Airway clearance</td>
<td>Janine McVeigh, Belfast HSC Trust</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Network

Hub
- Project ECHO offices, Belfast

Spokes
- NI Children’s Hospice
- Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children
- Royal Jubilee Maternity Hospital
- Northern HSC Trust x 3
- Ulster Hospital
- Craigavon area Hospital
- Daisy Hill Hospital
- Altnagelvin Hospital
- South West Area Hospital
- Community teams

Spokes
- Isle of Man Hospice
- LauraLynn Children’s Hospice, Dublin

www.nihospice.org
ECHO in action
How are we doing so far?

- 82 professionals formally registered for the network
- Uptake: consistently 40-60+ participants per session
- Network is reaching target audience, with 71% surveyed participants not working in specialist children’s palliative care services.
- Ongoing multi-professional involvement

**Participants like:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Count</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I can participate from my office or home.</td>
<td>77.78%</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>The sessions are short.</td>
<td>55.56%</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>I like to learn from the education presentations and the specialists delivering them.</td>
<td>70.37%</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>I like the case presentation.</td>
<td>62.96%</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I like the time for discussion.</td>
<td>55.56%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I like the opportunity to network with other practitioners contributing to children’s palliative care.</td>
<td>88.89%</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I like that I can access the material from sessions and additional resources through the Moodle site.</td>
<td>48.15%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How are we doing so far?

Learning

- Access to up to date information
- Access to national and international experts
- Multi-professional perspectives
- Reflecting learning on practice

www.nihospice.org
How are we doing so far?

Connecting

Names to faces

Know what other services provide

Enhanced communication & understanding across hospital teams

Bringing together people from NI, UK and Ireland to share common issues and identify solutions

www.nihospice.org
Final thoughts

“The key to getting things done is connecting people. Often I find that the right people are already in place, they just need to focus on the greater good to be energized, utilized and encouraged to work together.”

– Miles Atkins

• For more information search Hospice UK Project ECHO
• https://www.hospiceuk.org/what-we-offer/clinical-and-care-support/project-echo