Frequently Asked Questions

NJ SBIRT Project ECHO® Quality Improvement Program

The New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics has a new program NJ SBIRT (New Jersey Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment), which provides both in-person and virtual opportunities to learn more about the SBIRT model and adolescent substance use, misuse, and dependence. The NJ SBIRT program is made possible through a grant from the NJ Department of Children and Families. More information on the NJAAP NJ SBIRT Program can be found on our website: click here

What is an ECHO program?
Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) was developed by Dr. Sanjeev Aurora from the University of New Mexico to improve access to care. The ECHO model utilizes a specialist team to share their expertise and collaborate with care teams, creating an all teach-all learn environment using best practices, technology to leverage resources (Zoom platform), data to evaluate outcomes and case presentations. Please visit https://projectecho.unm.edu/model/ for more information about Project ECHO.

What is involved in a Quality Improvement (QI) Program?
For this QI program we will be looking for your team to take a systematic approach to integrate the SBIRT model into your workflow starting with a small age group to start the test of change. Over the 8-month program we will share your practice level data, so your team is able to analyze performance recognizing areas of success and areas for improvement. We will ask that you utilize, at minimum, one coaching call with our QI expert and the technical assistance provided by our team.

What are the practice requirements for the NJ SBIRT Project ECHO QI Program?
- Develop an Implementation Team (including a Pediatric Champion and a Data Lead) to serve in a leadership role for your QI team
- Commit to at least one team member attending the live virtual Orientation and 7 ECHO sessions (sessions will be recorded for team members that cannot join live sessions)
- Have team members complete Pre and Post Program surveys
- Practice commitment to use a validated tool to screen adolescents for substance use, provide education, brief intervention, anticipatory guidance to patients/families as well assess risk and establish follow up plans and referrals when appropriate
- Create a reporting system to collect de-identified screening data and submit monthly
- Agreement to submit at least one case presentation throughout the program
- Agreement to utilize one coaching call and technical assistance provided

What type of data requirements will there be and how will the data be submitted?
We will ask your practice to review a minimum of 20 patient charts a month and submit de-identified data on 10-12 items pertaining to adolescent substance use screening, education,
brief intervention, frequency and risk of substance use, anticipatory guidance, follow up plan and referrals tracking. For this program we will be using the Quality Improvement Data Aggregator (QIDA) which is a web-based data aggregation system developed and owned by the American Academy of Pediatrics. The QIDA system creates a unified structure for collecting, analyzing, and reporting improvement data. There is no cost to register for QIDA access as part of this program and the SBIRT team will support practices with registration and data submission. Practices will have access to their team’s individual run charts.

What credits are available for practice team members?
The program is approved for 25 Part 4 Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Points.

Where can I find information about the ECHO Program session topics, dates and times?
This program will run from September 2024-April 2025. Upon acceptance to the program, our NJ SBIRT team will share an onboarding packet with further information about the session date/times, topics and speakers.

How can our practice apply for the NJ SBIRT Project ECHO QI Program?
An online Survey Monkey application form would need to be completed for your practice. This application has 26 questions about your practice, team and patient population. The form will take about 15 minutes to complete, we suggest you enter and submit in one sitting. Click here for the application.

When will I receive notification if my application is received or approved?
A confirmation email will be sent within one week of receiving your submitted application. Acceptance notifications will be sent by August 21st.

Can I attend the program sessions without applying for the ECHO Program?
Unfortunately, this is a closed ECHO Program series, only selected practices’ team members can join these ECHO sessions. If you are interested in learning more about adolescent substance use and/or the SBIRT model, please view our educational webinar on our website and/or join our email list to be informed about future learning opportunities through this program.

If I have questions about NJ SBIRT or the ECHO program application, who can I contact?
We are more than happy to connect and answer any questions you may have:

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