



Dear Colleague:

Many of us recognize the diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity within our communities, and we are seeking ways to support that diversity among our patients. The need for affirming and knowledgeable care of sexual and gender minority patients is clear: the absence of knowledgeable and skilled providers is one most common barriers to care reported by sexual and gender minority people. In fact, health professions schools have long underemphasized the importance of training related to gender identity and sexuality in our patients' lives and health.

With the goal of improving your knowledge, skills and comfort with sexual and gender minorities, we invite you and your teams to participate in the **LGBTQ+ ECHO Clinic**. We are pleased to announce the launch of this new program through the IU Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health (RMFSPH) ECHO Center at IUPUI aimed to increase health and alleviate health disparities affecting sexual and gender minorities in our state in partnership with clinicians from the Eskenazi Transgender Health and Wellness Program, the Riley Gender Health Program, the IU School of Medicine. The RMFSPH ECHO Center at IUPUI is funded in part through a grant from the IU Responding to the Addictions Crisis Grand Challenge.

The LGBTQ+ ECHO Clinic is based on the [Project ECHO](#) (Enhancing Community Health Outcomes) model, originally developed in New Mexico. Project ECHO uses Zoom videoconferencing technology to leverage medical expertise, reduces disparities in care by sharing knowledge, peer-to-peer mentoring, and case-based learning to enhance mastery of new information. It empowers clinicians and their interprofessional teams to treat sexual and gender minority patients in their own communities. **The key to ECHO's success is moving knowledge, not patients, providing the right care, in the right place, at the right time.**

Joining LGBTQ+ ECHO is free to all medical and mental health care providers including physicians, mental health providers, physician assistants, advanced practice nurses, nurses, case managers, social workers, health educators, behavioral health clinicians, community health workers, etc. The LGBTQ+ ECHO clinics will meet online. To participate, all you need is access to the Internet. Participation with a webcam is highly encouraged but not absolutely required. **No cost CME will be provided to all members.**

Each 90 minute clinic will consists of two main components: a brief lecture covering a topic related to LGBTQ+ care and 2-3 case-based discussions of patients submitted by participating providers. **LGBTQ+ ECHO clinics will begin on Wednesday, September 12, and are scheduled every 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 2:30pm-4:00pm ET. The program will be available for one year.**

If you are interested in registering, please [click here](#) to complete the online enrollment. Space is limited. For questions or more information, please contact Andrea Janota by phone (317-274-3178) or [email](#), or visit our Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health ECHO Center website.

Sincerely,
The LGBTQ+ ECHO Team