

Novel use of a “bootcamp” series within the Project ECHO model for training providers in underserved and rural areas in the care of gender diverse patients. A. Hoffner-Heinike (MD, Medical School), S. Iwamoto, D. Saxon, G. Petersen, N.A. Cogdall, R. Davies, R.S. Lee, M.S. Rothman, Department of Medicine, University of Colorado

**Purpose:** Many transgender and gender diverse (TGD) adults report lack of access to clinically competent medical providers. To bridge the gap in knowledge in providing TGD healthcare, we instituted a longitudinal monthly series via Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes), which is an educational telementoring model. After a year of the program, the team created a four-session weekly “bootcamp” series to enhance knowledge of new participants that joined the longitudinal series. The goal of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of the “bootcamp” model in increasing participant comfort with topics related to TGD healthcare and to evaluate the impact of “bootcamp” participation on enrollment in the longitudinal ECHO series.

**Methods:** The “bootcamp” took place over four consecutive weeks in February 2021. Participants were recruited from the ongoing series as well as through targeted mailings and word of mouth. Results were collected from self-reported pre- and post-“bootcamp” surveys as well as from attendance data.

**Results:** The “bootcamp” had 90 participants. Per **Figure 1**, Participants reported a 13.8% increase (2.9 to 3.3 on a 4-point scale,  $p=0.007$ ) in overall comfort in providing care to transgender patients and an 8.6% increase (3.5 to 3.8 on a 4-point scale,  $p=0.026$ ) in comfort providing care for cisgender patients. The “bootcamp” also helped to bring new registrants to the longitudinal series with 17 of the 90 bootcamp participants registering for at least one session of the longitudinal program which already had 122 registrants.

**Conclusion:** The ECHO model is an effective tool to educate providers on care management for TGD patients. The novel use of a “bootcamp” also highlights a way to introduce and recruit new participants to an ongoing longitudinal ECHO curriculum.

### What is your comfort level in providing primary care to TGD patients?



**Figure 1.** Comfort Level in providing care to cisgender and transgender patients.