

Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board  
and the IHS Clinical Support Center (Accredited Provider)  
Present:  
Indian Country ECHO

**Ending the Syndemic - Syphilis and HIV**  
**Tuesday, December 2, 2025 | 9am – 11am PT**

**To Attend:** <https://echo.zoom.us/j/97240849538?pwd=TzJUMWo5M082K1kxMitOV2diY3BaQT09> | Password: ECHO

**Target Audience:**

Primary care physicians, advanced practice providers, pharmacists, nurses, behavioral health specialists, healthcare administrators, tribal leaders, and other key stakeholders committed to improving the health and well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities.

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Jorge Mera, MD | Infectious Disease Specialist, Cherokee Nation, University of New Mexico, Indian Country ECHO  
Dr. Bethany Johnson, PharmD, BCIDP | National HIV/HCV/STI Pharmacy Consultant | Indian Health Service

**Planners:**

- Dr. Jorge Mera, MD, ECHO Medical Director, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
- David Stephens, BSN, ECHO Planner & Facilitator, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
- Dr. Nicholas Cushman, PharmD, ECHO Planner & Facilitator, Indian Health Service
- Dolores Jimerson, LCSW, ECHO Planner, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
- Jessica Reinstra, PMHNP, ECHO Planner & Facilitator, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

**Description:**

Indian Country ECHO offers interactive online learning sessions designed to strengthen healthcare providers' skills in delivering culturally informed, comprehensive care to Indigenous and rural communities. Participants connect with interdisciplinary peers and experts to engage in discussions, case-based learning, and collaborative strategies that promote equitable health outcomes.

In this presentation, Dr. Jorge Mera, introduces the rationale, program design, leadership policies, and tools that may successfully be used by healthcare providers and tribal decision makers to develop and enhance programs to address the syndemic of interrelated disease states of Syphilis, Substance Use Disorder, HIV, and Hepatitis C Virus. Then, Dr. Bethany Johnson, highlights best practices for responding to the rise of syphilis in Indigenous communities. Finally, Dr. Mera reviews screening patients for HIV, having critical conversations, and establishing swift care in primary care for those that test positive.

**Outcomes/Objectives:**

- Analyze cultural, social, and clinical factors influencing Indigenous and rural health through didactic content, active discussion, and case examples to inform local practice.
- Integrate whole-person care approaches into professional practice to address diverse health needs across physical, mental, emotional, and relational domains.
- Effectively collaborate with peers, specialists and community partners to advance culturally grounded practice strategies and improve health outcomes.

**Disclaimer:** Attendance for the full two hours is required to receive CE credit. No partial credit will be awarded.

**Instructions for Obtaining CE Credit:**

To obtain a certificate of continuing education (CE), you must attend the activity in its entirety, submit a completed evaluation, and electronically document your attendance. You will be able to print your certificate after completing the online evaluation. For questions, please contact the CE coordinator for further information.

**ACCREDITATION**



JOINTLY ACCREDITED PROVIDER™  
INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

In support of improving patient care, IHS Clinical Support Center is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.



This activity was planned by and for the health care team, and learners will receive 1.0 Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) credit for learning and change.

#### Physicians

The IHS Clinical Support Center designates this live activity for 1 hour of *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* for each hour of participation. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

#### Nurses

This activity is designated 1.0 contact hour for each hour of participation.

#### Pharmacists

This activity provides 1.0 hour of knowledge-based continuing pharmacy education credit (CPE) with the UAN JA4008177-0000-25-042-L99-P.

Credit will be uploaded to the NABP CPE Monitor within 30 days after the activity completion. It is the responsibility of the pharmacist to provide the correct information (NABP ID and DOB (MMDD)) in order to receive credit.

#### Social Workers



As a Jointly Accredited Organization, the IHS Clinical Support Center is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved under this program. Regulatory boards are the final authority on courses accepted for continuing education credit. Social workers completing this course receive 1.0 clinical continuing education credit.

**Disclosure Statement:** As a jointly accredited provider of continuing education, the IHS Clinical Support Center is committed to ensuring balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor in its educational activities. Course directors/coordinators, planning committee members, faculty, reviewers, and all others in a position to control the content of this educational activity are required to disclose all financial relationships with ineligible companies within the prior 24 months. Safeguards against commercial bias have been put in place. Faculty will also disclose any off-label and/or investigational use of pharmaceuticals or instruments discussed in their presentation. All those who are in a position to control the content of this educational activity have completed the disclosure process and have indicated that they do not have any relevant financial relationships or affiliations with any manufacturers or commercial products to disclose with the exception of:

Dr. Jorge Mera, planner/faculty for this educational activity, disclosed that he is on the speakers' bureau for AbbVie Pharmaceuticals and receives research grant support from the following pharmaceutical companies; Gilead Sciences Inc., AbbVie and Abbott. All the relevant financial relationships listed have been mitigated.

There is no commercial interest support for this educational activity.

#### Zoom First Time Users:

If you have never attended a Zoom meeting before, you can download the Zoom desktop client here:

<https://zoom.us/support/download>

#### Requirements for Zoom:

If you plan to join virtually, you must have a computer with broadband Internet access. For the best experience viewing the videos, use Microsoft Edge or Google Chrome. If you have trouble viewing this training on-line, check your system to make sure you have the appropriate hardware and software.

#### Privacy Policies:

Before you begin the training, you can review the IHS Privacy Policy (<https://www.ihs.gov/privacypolicy/>).

You can also review the Survey Monkey Privacy Policy for details on how user information submitted in the evaluation is protected. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/mp/policy/privacy-policy/>

**Additional Information/Technical Support:** Email [echo@npaihb.org](mailto:echo@npaihb.org)