

E-Consult Coalition News

December 2022

Upcoming E-Consult Coalition Events

Join us for the December 6 Coalition Roundtable on E-Consult and Pulmonology

Please join us for our 12/6 E-Consult Coalition webinar focusing on approaches to addressing patients' pulmonology care needs using e-consult. We will feature clinical experts' perspectives on the challenges facing California patients: RSV, wildfire related illnesses and Long COVID, and how e-consult can be incorporated into primary care to help manage pulmonology needs.

Hear perspectives from clinical expert Dr. Eric Shore, Board-Certified Pulmonologist, on the utility of e-consult for primary care providers. Dr. Shore will speak to how e-consult is incorporated into the referral and evaluation process within visits.

December Coalition Roundtable: E-Consult and Pulmonology
December 6, 2022- 12-1 PT

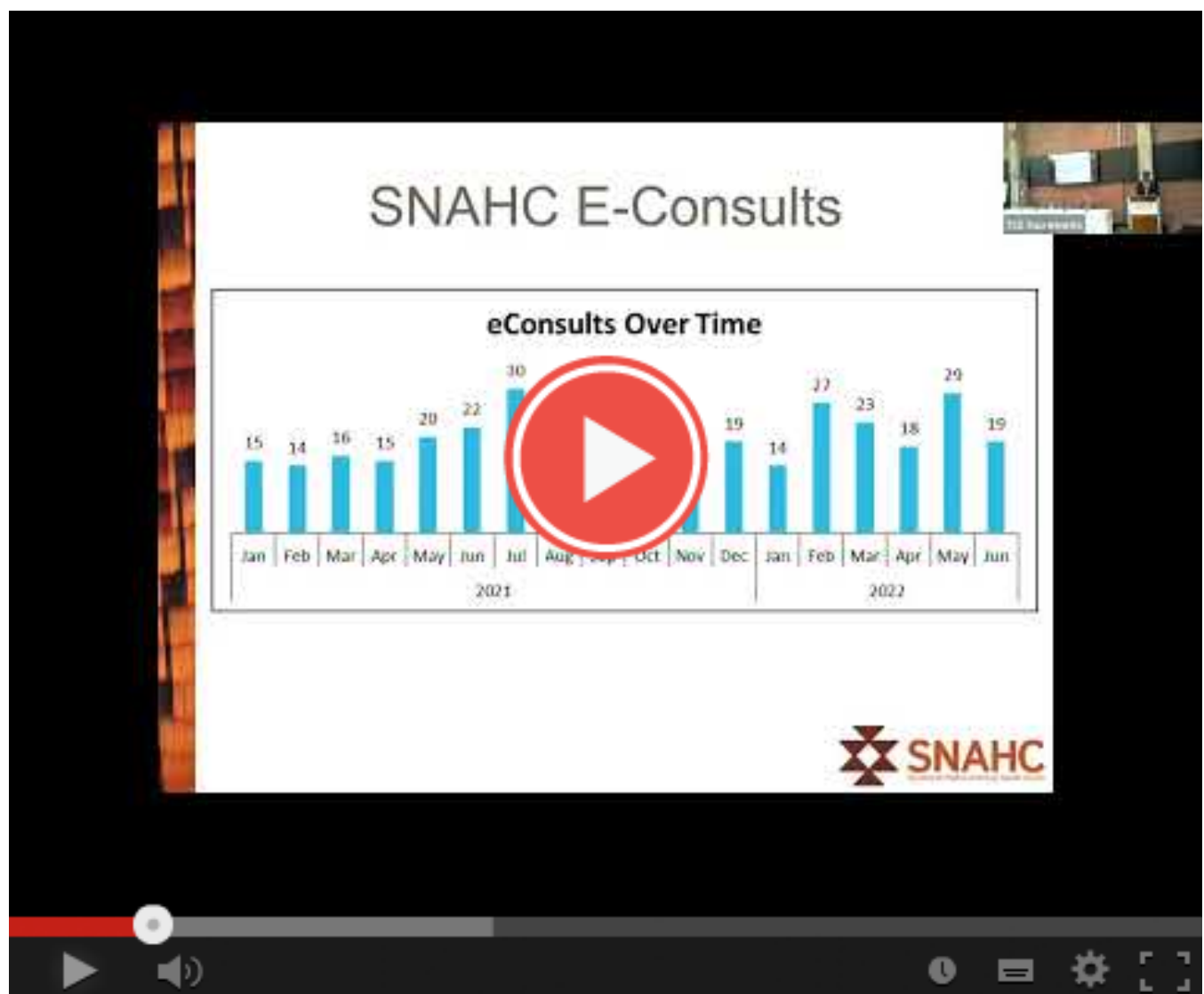
Register Today

Dr. Hakeem Adeniyi, Sacramento Native American Health Center, Inc.

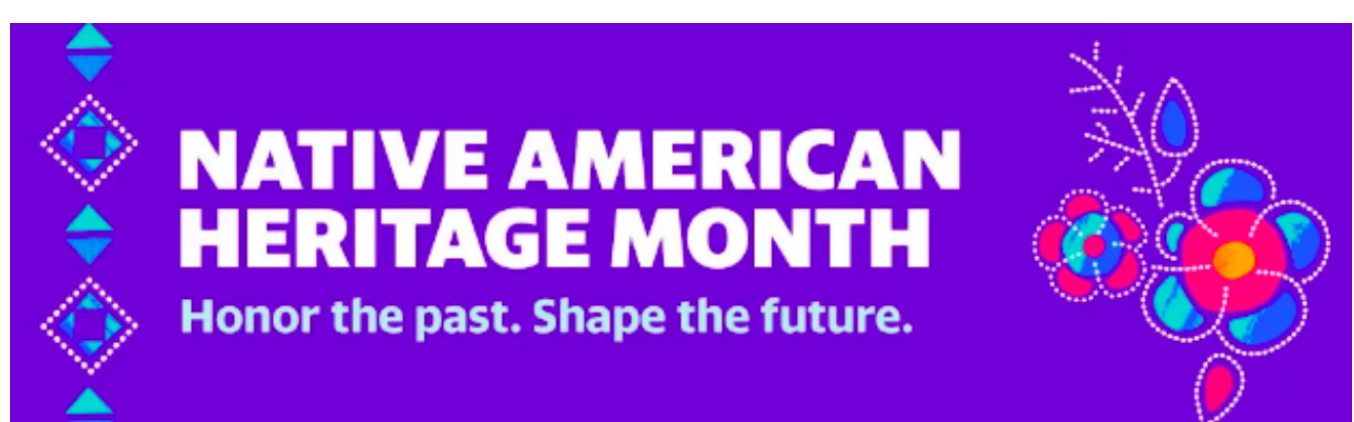
Dr. Hakeem Adeniyi presented at the annual E-Consult Workgroup Meeting on November 9, highlighting the work done within e-consult at SNAHC.



"A huge part of what we do is providing services to our American Indian/Alaska Native population, really taking into consideration the cultural practices of that community and making sure that we provide innovative, accessible, and patient-centered health to our population" - Dr. Hakeem Adeniyi



November is Native American Heritage Month



We honor Native American Heritage Month in November, with thanks to our coalition partners who are leaders in Tribal Health. Chapa-De Indian Health, Central Valley Indian Health and Northern Valley Indian Health are using e-consult to increase patients' access to care. View the [recent presentation](#) on e-consult by Wendy Barnhart, Telehealth Coordinator, Chapa-De Indian Health, at the TribalNet Annual Conference in Reno, NV. This presentation featured e-consult perspectives from Scott Dzurella, NP. Watch Scott's brief video [here](#).



Publications

Improving Primary Care Access to Respiriologists Using E-Consult

The Champlain Building Access to Specialists through E-Consultation (BASSTM), a secure online platform that allows primary care providers to ask a clinical questions to different specialty groups with the expectation the specialists will respond within 7 days, conducted respirology e-consultations from January 2017 through December 2018. Each e-consultation was categorized by types of questions asked by the provider and by the clinical content of the referral. Specialists' response times and time spent answering the clinical question were analyzed. Referring providers' close-out surveys were reviewed to assess the impact of the respirology e-consult service on traditional referral rates and clinical course of action. Of the 268 respirology cases in this study, the median response time by specialists was 0.8 days, and the median time billed by specialists was 20 minutes (Leduc, Keely, et.al, 2021). In 23% of cases, the PCP indicated they no longer needed to refer the patient elsewhere after receiving the e-consult advice. On the other hand, in 13% of cases, the PCP was not going to refer, but did after the e-consult, overall prompting referrals (Leduc, Keely, et.al, 2021).

Participation in e-consult services is shown to directly improve prompt access to respirologists while potentially avoiding clinic visits and additional referrals impacting the clinical course of action.

[Climate change magnifies health impacts of wildfire smoke in care deserts](#)

Douglas County, Nevada, home to nearly 50,000 people, reached dangerous air quality levels due to the burning forests in California in October. Douglas County is home to the Washoe Tribe of Nevada, and in this county, residents must drive an average of 30 minutes for medical care from pulmonologists. However, in many other northern areas, patients drive an average of an hour. 5.5 million Americans live in the 488 counties where drive times to pulmonologists are at minimum an hour. Many of these counties are in wildfire susceptible lands as well.

In addition to specialists being located far away, the number of practicing specialists has declined. Data from the Association of American Medical Colleges shows the number of pulmonary disease specialists in the U.S. dropped nearly 11% from 2014 to 2019. States like New Mexico have one pulmonologist for the entire southeastern part of the state. Patients from Texas sometimes drive up to four hours for an appointment.

In Sacramento, California, Dr. Nicholas Kenyon, a professor of pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine at the University of California-Davis School of Medicine, explains how he sees patients from northern parts of California, like Eureka, a five-hour drive from Sacramento. Additionally, for other Native American Tribes, such as Washoe Tribe members, connecting with pulmonologists can be difficult especially for those who live on the California side of the reservation. These patients end up traveling hundreds of miles out of the way to receive the specialty care they need. Tribal leaders are continuing to push the Indian Health Service to establish a specialty care hospital in northern Nevada because the current closest specialty care hospital for Washoe tribal members is more than 700 miles away, in Phoenix.

Wildfire Impact on Respiratory Health

Wildfire seasons in California continue to impact patients, doctors, health clinics, and more. There are everlasting long term impacts of wildfires that providers and patients still deal with today. The University of Texas Health Science Center highlights how the ramifications of the effects of climate change promote outdoor air pollution and pollen exposure. In addition to worsening respiratory health, air pollution promotes susceptibility to infections. The effects of greenhouse gasses on pollen directly affect the frequency and severity of asthma and allergies.

E-Consult Resources

Visit econsultworkgroup.com for recent publications, policy updates, and educational materials. Contact us at econsultworkgroup@bluepathhealth.com.

The E-Consult Coalition Website and News are authored and maintained by [BluePath Health](#).