

ech Northwest AIDS Education and Training Center

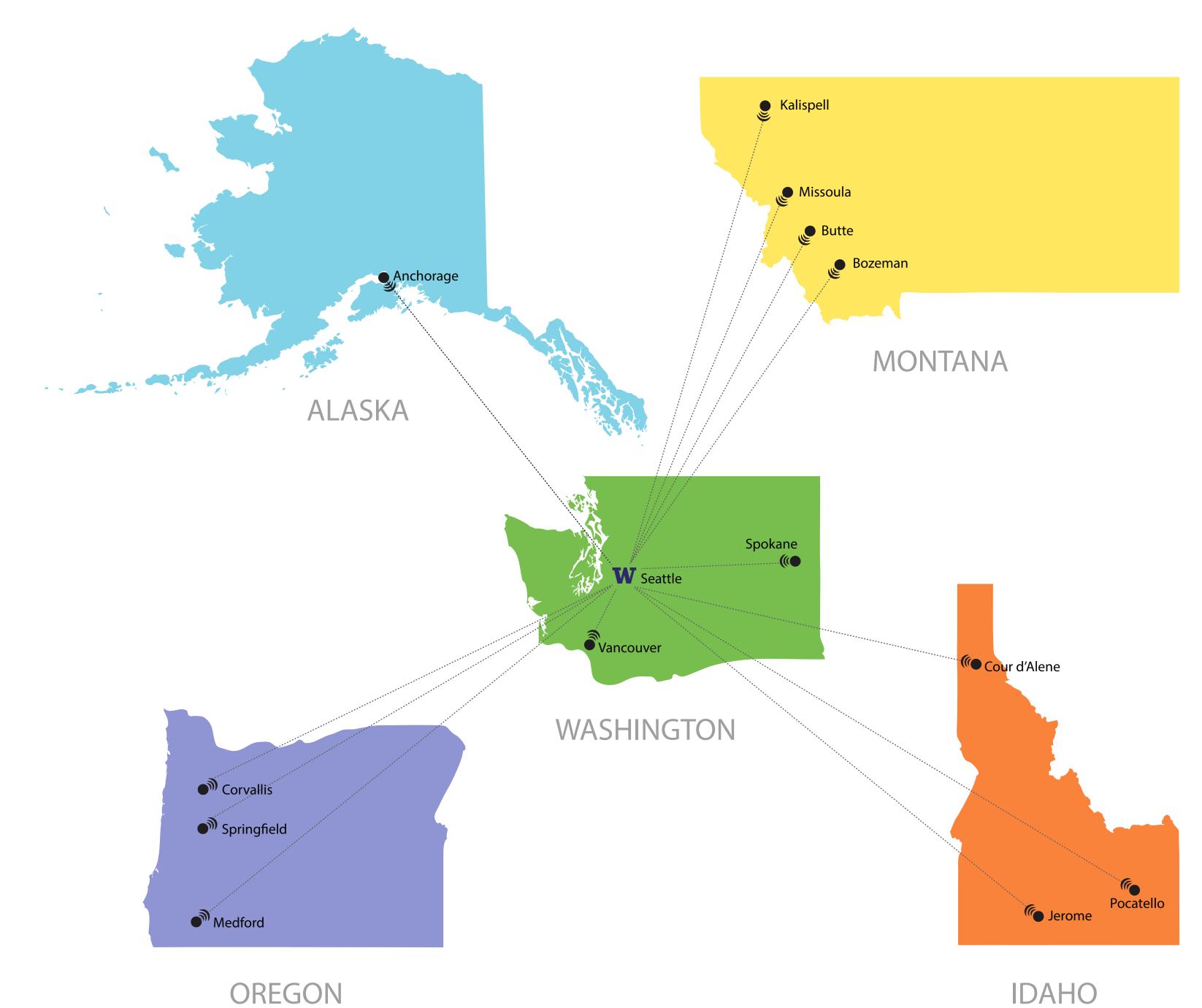
Strengthening HIV care through integrated distance learning and clinical consultation.

Filling the Gap: Supporting Care Quality Wherever Patients Present Using Real-Time Case-Based Mentorship

Kenton T. Unruh PhD, Brian R. Wood MD, Natalia Martinez-Paz MA MPA, John D. Scott MSc MD, David H. Spach MD

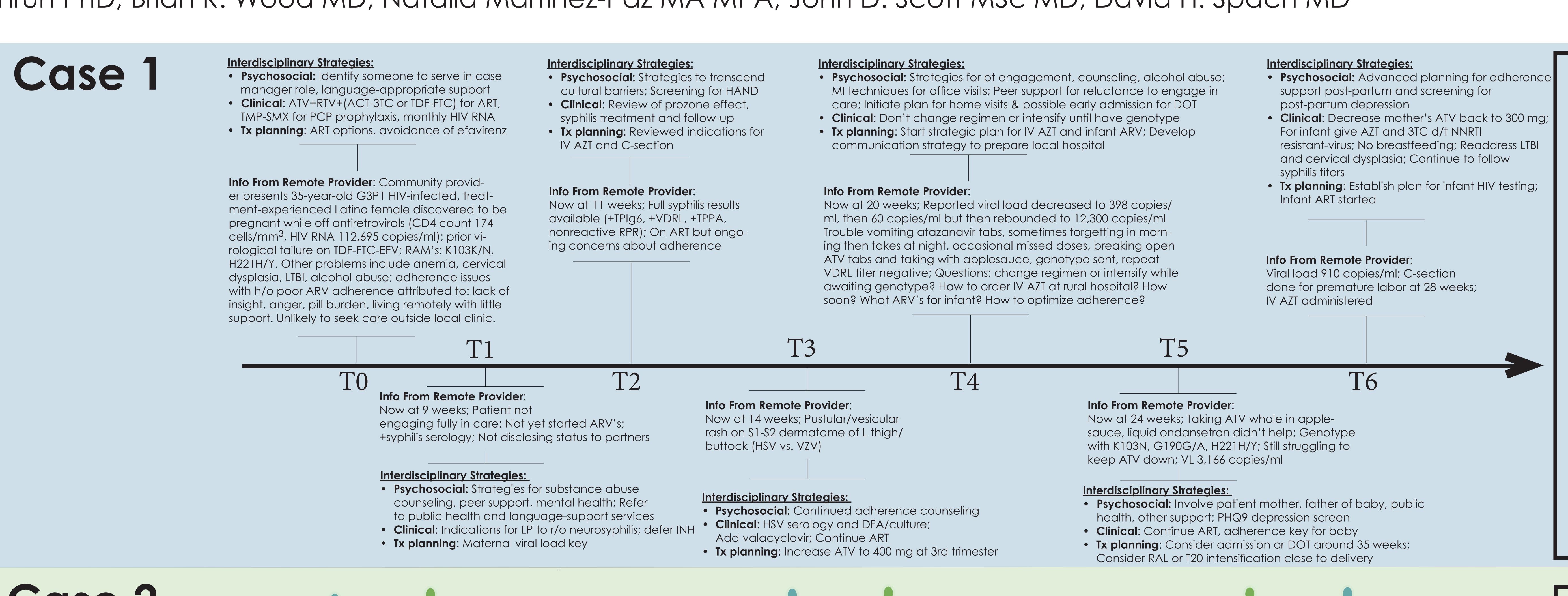
Problem: Access to Care

When individuals with HIV infection seek care in underserved communities, they sometimes present in clinical settings without comprehensive HIV services. In the Pacific Northwest, where 5% of the US population is distributed across 25% of the US landmass, the problem is particularly acute. Providers practicing in these communities can lack experience with HIV clinical care and may not have access to the latest evidence-based HIV medicine or the infrastructure for specialized psycho-social support of HIV-infected patients. Nevertheless, these providers are often well-positioned to provide comprehensive primary care for patients unable or unwilling to travel to specialty HIV-focused clinics.

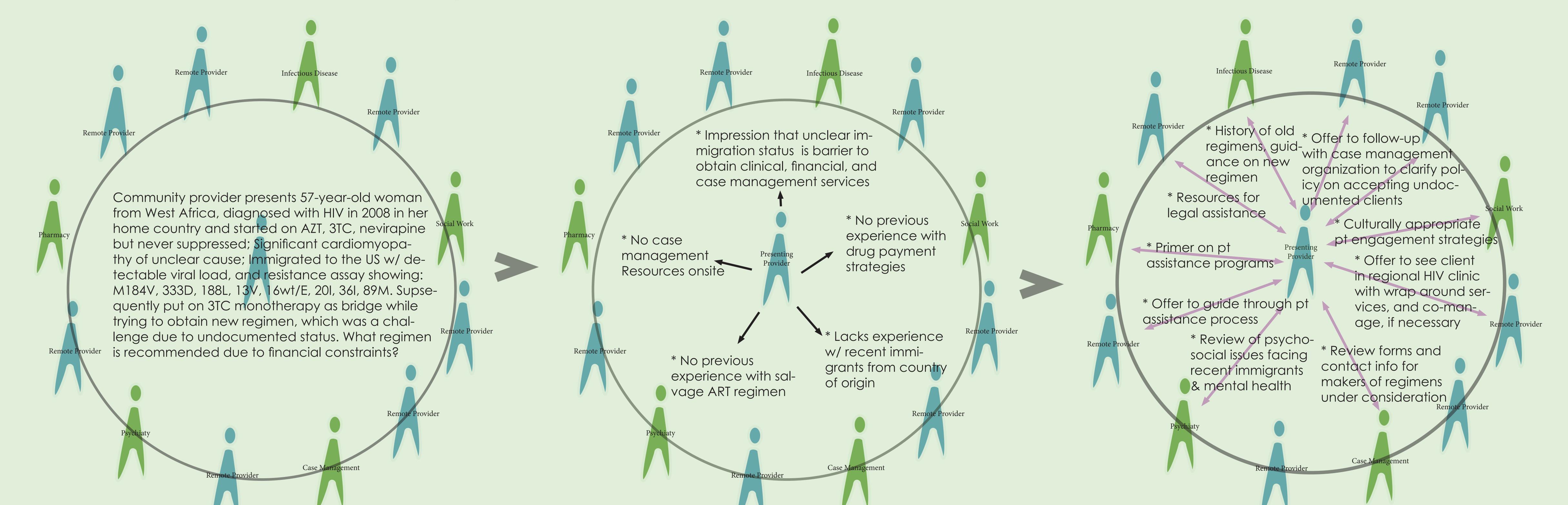


Solution: Video-Based Mentorship

To support these providers, the NW AETC developed a collaborative, real-time video-based clinical consultation and mentorship program called "NW AETC ECHO." Providers attend weekly sessions, present clinical cases and receive real-time consultations from an interdisciplinary panel including infectious disease, psychiatry, pharmacy, case management, nursing and social work. In addition to providing written recommendations within 24 hours, the interdisciplinary panel is accesible to providers via email and cell phone between sessions. The interactive video network connects providers in real-time, allowing all providers on the network to discuss cases, increasing exposure to regional HIV cases and a broad range of clinical strategies. NW AETC ECHO is funded by the US Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)







Knowledge Shared

Across Network

Outcomes

Patient-Level Outcomes (Mother):

* Lower viral load (910 copies/ml)

* Engagement in care

via 3 DNA PCR tests

Provider-Level Outcomes:

* Experience managing

similar patient cases

HIV during pregnancy

* Improved adherence

* Syphilis & herpes treated

* Established plan for LTBI tx

Patient-Level Outcomes (Infant):

* No evidence of HIV infection

* Library of plans for managing

Outcomes Patient-Level Outcomes: * Patient transitioned to more efficacious ART regimen * Patient linked to legal and case management services Provider-Level Outcomes: * Increased knowledge of salvage HIV regimens * Experience transitioning to optimized ART regimens * Real-time, collaborative problem solving * Referrals and recommendations in 24hrs * Willingness to see uninsured patients in the future * Expanded professional network for advice, resources, and support Clinic-Level Outcomes: * Increased capacity to treat immigrant populations * Newly established workflow for handling uninsured patients * Strengthened ties with local HIV case management Program-Level Outcomes: * Increased capacity in region to care for persons who are recent immigrants, uninsured, and HIV positive

* Strengthened inter-agency ties in region