

Dermatology eConsult Image Requirements

Diagnosis in Dermatology is a very visual skill and requires high quality images. Providing an opinion on therapeutic options also often requires pictures to be sure the diagnosis is accurate. If the image quality is poor, for example, not in focus, poorly lit or too close to assess the extent of a problem, the ability of the dermatologist to give a high quality, definitive response is severely limited. It may mean bringing the patient back for more photos, so best to do it right the first time!

We encourage every PCP to consider the following guidelines for all Dermatology eConsults:

- 1) Include at least one image and usually more than one. If it is purely a therapeutic question an image is still helpful to allow the dermatologist to confirm the diagnosis before recommending treatment.
- 2) Check all images in the review mode of the camera before uploading onto the eConsult platform. It is best to review these images at a magnified or telephoto setting on your camera to be sure they are sharply focused. Also ensure you transfer the original image, not a compressed image, from your camera device to the device you use to access eConsult (“compressing” the photo in the transfer process reduces resolution/sharpness of the image).
- 3) Include close up photos of individual lesions and images of the affected areas. A photo that illustrates the overall distribution of the lesion(s) is also recommended to facilitate diagnosis. All images must be sharply focused and well lit.
- 4) Place a white paper ruler in the same plane as the lesion. This gives the size plus the cameras easily focus on the white paper and it actually gives a white balance reading as well.
- 5) Patient provided photos must meet the same standards or we will not be able to provide quality service or possibly no service at all. The PCP should review patient photos before uploading, and if they are not up to standard, photos should be re-taken.

Thank you for taking the time to take photos that are sharply-focused, well-lit and which show the location and distribution of the patient’s lesions. Together we can convert a very good service into an excellent service.