

Top tips: Teledermatology and the use of advice and guidance/consultant connect

Teledermatology is a pathway for obtaining a rapid dermatology opinion on diagnosis and management for patients presenting with skin problems.

It involves sending a clinical history and digital photo to the dermatology team.

There are several models of teledermatology, including the following:

- Advice and guidance, whereby the request and the response will be automatically filed in the patients notes. Advice and guidance requests can be easily changed to a clinic referral with no need for a new referral letter. It is useful when the GP isn't sure if a clinic appointment is needed, or in which clinic the patient should be seen.
- Use in a triage service, where the teledermatology service does not give a diagnosis, but triages the patient to the appropriate clinic, which may be remote or face to face.
- Use with an app such as Consultant Connect – these do not always automatically file the result in the notes, so the GP needs to ensure that the advice is recorded. A new referral letter would be needed if the patient then needs to be seen in clinic.

A national '[Advice and Guidance toolkit](#)' has advice for clinicians, commissioners and managers who may need to know more about the service.

A national [Advice and Guidance toolkit](#) has been launched in July 2019 to support clinicians, commissioners and service managers in developing and optimising advice and guidance services across a wide range of specialities, including dermatology.

The British Association of Dermatologists have a [teledermatology subcommittee](#) which provides information and support for the development of safe and effective teledermatology models of care.

[Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group](#) have produced helpful videos on:

1. [How to take dermatoscopic images using a camera or smartphone](#)
2. [Uploading images to the clinical system](#)
3. [How to request Advice and Guidance](#)