

## **TOP TIPS: Teledermatology and Dermatology Advice and Guidance**

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

It involves sending a digital photo together with a clinical history to the Dermatology Specialists.

There are several models of teledermatology including:

- Advice and Guidance whereby a response is sent back digitally to the referring practitioner with advice on diagnosis and management. It is a useful alternative to a face-to-face clinic referral for selected patients.
- Used as a tool to triage Dermatology referrals (Referral Assessment Service)

The national e-Referral service (e-RS) or several commercially available platforms can be used to deliver teledermatology.

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](#)