Infectious Disease eConsults

Champlain BASE™ eConsult service improves access to specialist care for patients by facilitating electronic communication between Primary Care Providers (PCPs) and specialists.

From April 2013 to January 2015, 224 eConsults were directed to infectious disease specialists.

95% of cases took 20 minutes or less to complete.

63% of cases received a response within 24 hours.

The most common questions from PCPs pertained to...

- **39% Drug Treatment**
  - Indications/goals of treatment
  - Choice of drug

- **37% Diagnosis**
  - Interpretation of a laboratory test
  - Choice of test

- **22% Management**
  - General management question
  - Necessity of a referral

Content of questions asked by PCPs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>% of eConsults</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td>40.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lyme disease</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parasite infections, unspecified</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccination, general</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skin and soft tissue infection</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
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</tbody>
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*Topics included: Herpes viruses, osteomyelitis, and diarrhea

eConsults provided PCPs with advice for a new or additional course of action 55%

Original course of action was confirmed 41%

Referral was originally considered but avoided as a result of eConsult 32%

**Case Example**

Day 1
PCP asks question about a patient who screened positive for syphilis. The patient has a history of chest infections but is otherwise asymptomatic. PCP asks what testing is needed and how the case should be managed.

Day 1
Specialist proposes testing for other sexually transmitted infections. For management, the specialist provides an outline of treatment, noting that if the PCP is uncomfortable providing it, they should refer the patient to infectious disease or a sexual health centre. The specialist also advises the PCP to contact public health and notify the patient they have done this.

Day 2
PCP accepts the advice and closes the case.