



PROVINCIAL eCONSULT INITIATIVE

OntarioMD has worked with thousands of physicians across Ontario to help them enhance their use of a provincially-certified electronic medical record (EMR) to improve patient care. It also monitors certified EMRs on behalf of physicians and evolves EMR Specifications to meet the needs of community-based physician practices. OntarioMD offers products that connect to more patient information and services that assist physicians with becoming more skilled EMR users. Our products and services are available to all Ontario physicians using a certified EMR. Past participation in an OntarioMD program is not required.

Contact

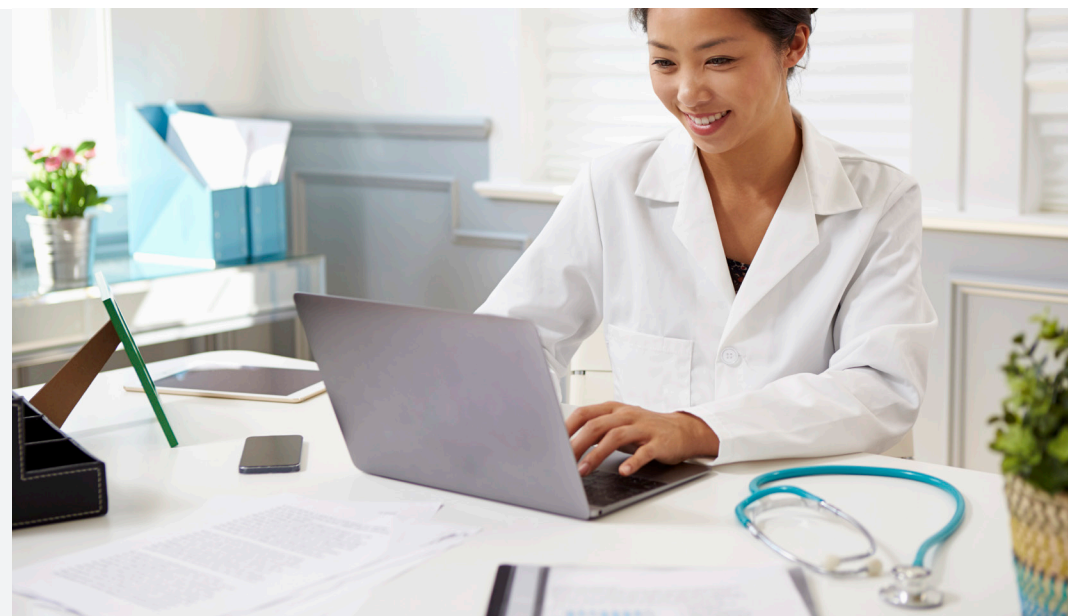
*For more information on OntarioMD's
Provincial eConsult Initiative*

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Faster access to specialist advice

Physicians, nurse practitioners and their patients can have faster access to specialist advice through eConsult – usually within 3 days but often faster.

The eConsult platform enables specialists and family physicians or nurse practitioners to exchange patient information over a safe and secure network. This exchange reduces unnecessary referrals to specialists and focuses treatment for patients on a priority basis.

The requesting physician or nurse practitioner remains the main contact for their patients. That means that patients need to travel less often to seek the advice of a specialist and benefit from shorter wait times for diagnosis and treatment. Care is coordinated and managed by their primary healthcare provider.



OntarioMD receives funding from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

The views expressed in this publication are the views of OntarioMD and do not necessarily reflect those of the Province.

What is an eConsult and how does it work?

An eConsult occurs when a requesting physician or nurse practitioner electronically sends – through a private and secure web page - a question to a specialist. This can be a simple question (e.g., about a drug dosage) or a more complex question following an initial assessment by the requesting physician or nurse practitioner (e.g., asking for a virtual dermatology assessment and providing images of the patient). eConsults may avoid the need to refer a patient to a specialist for diagnosis and treatment.

A requesting physician or nurse practitioner submits patient information and a request for an eConsult after selecting the appropriate specialist. The specialist reviews the information submitted and provides a response back to the requester electronically.

Currently there are 26 clinical specialties offered through eConsult and new providers are added continually. For a full list of specialties, please contact econsult@ontariomd.com



What are the benefits of eConsult?

There are many benefits of eConsult and the initiative is aligned with the objectives of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's *Patients First: Action Plan for Healthcare*:

- **Access:** Patients have faster access to specialist advice
- **Connect:** Unnecessary referrals to specialists are reduced and patients are treated on a priority basis
- **Inform:** Specialists exchange clinical information with family physicians and nurse practitioners supporting timely patient care
- **Protect:** Patients are protected from potential adverse events

eConsult also increases direct communication and education between specialists and primary care providers.

You can read more about the benefits of eConsult at www.ontariomd.ca.

How are clinicians compensated for using eConsult?

Only participating physicians are compensated for using eConsult:

- Family physicians using eConsult may bill the OHIP fee code K738
- Currently, specialists are compensated directly through OntarioMD based on the time they spend on eConsults

How can physicians and nurse practitioners participate in eConsult?

eConsult is currently in its pilot phase and is open to physicians and nurse practitioners practicing in LHINs across Ontario. There are certain eligibility criteria that must be met to participate in the eConsult pilot.

Please contact your OntarioMD Practice Advisor or email econsult@ontariomd.com for more information.