Infectious Disease eConsults

The eConsultBASE™ 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>% of eConsults</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lyme disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parasite infections, unspecified</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vaccination, general</td>
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<td>Skin and soft tissue infection</td>
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*Topics included: Herpes viruses, osteomyelitis, and diarrhea

PCPs asked questions about a patient who screened positive for syphilis. The patient has a history of chest infections but is otherwise asymptomatic. PCPs asked what testing was needed and how the case should be managed.

The 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.

40.6% of cases were related to other conditions.

14.3% of cases were related to tuberculosis.

14.3% of cases were related to Lyme disease.

12.9% of cases were related to parasite infections, unspecified.

10.3% of cases were related to vaccination, general.

7.6% of cases were related to skin and soft tissue infection.

PCPs accepted the advice and closed the case.

41% of original course of action was confirmed.

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

32% of referrals were considered but avoided as a result of eConsult.