

eConsult in Long-Term Care Utilization and Savings Estimator: A Guide

What is eConsult?

eConsult is a secure web-based tool that allows physicians or nurse practitioners timely access to specialist advice for all patients and long-term care (LTC) residents, often eliminating the need for an in-person specialist visit. This has implications for lowered costs and saved time.

What is the purpose of this tool?

If you are thinking about using eConsult, this tool will help you understand the impact for your residents, their families, and your LTC home using information specific to your LTC home and residents.

Section 1

Estimates the number of eConsult cases that may be sent on behalf of residents in a LTC facility over a one-year period and the number of off-site face-to-face specialist visits avoided as a result.

Section 2

Estimates the associated cost and time savings of avoided off-site specialist visits for residents, their families, your LTC home, and the Ministry of Long-Term Care.

How do I use this tool?

- Each Section includes a table with specific instructions for you to input information and generate estimates, along with explanations to help you interpret the estimates.
- After adding the necessary information, you will see estimated cost and time savings for residents and their families, your LTC home, and the Ministry of Long-Term Care. Let these potential cost and time savings inform your decision as you consider using eConsult in your LTC home.

Is this tool reliable?

- This tool was developed in the fall of 2019 and updated in the fall of 2020, using health administrative data from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2016; Champlain BASE™ eConsult Service utilization data from January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020; and publicly available costing information published at the time of development. When using the tool, please keep in mind that costs may have increased since this tool was last updated (September 2020).
- Development of this tool was informed by the expertise of a LTC Home Medical Director, researchers, and an Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (IC/ES) Scientist.

Can I share this tool with others?

- Yes! If you wish to share this tool with others, please include both the tool and this guide.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

- For more information about the development or use of this tool, please contact Mary Helmer-Smith at MHelmerSmith@bruyere.org.
- To sign up for eConsult or for more information about the service, please contact the Ontario eConsult Centre of Excellence at eConsultCOE@toh.ca or go to www.eConsultOntario.ca.