

Specialist: Overview of the Ontario eConsult Service

Hosted on the secure-web based OTNhub platform, **Ontario eConsult** is a digital health tool that allows clinicians, nurse practitioners and midwives timely access to specialist advice for patient-specific inquiries and often eliminates the need for an in-person specialist visit.

How Does it Work?	<p>Clinician senders initiate a non-urgent, patient specific eConsult inquiry to the www.OTNhub.ca web platform, selecting either the BASE™ Managed Group or directly to Specific Provider or Group, by name.</p> <p>Cases often include reports or images (patient health information - PHI) that will assist the specialist in providing guidance and support to the requesting sender.</p> <p>Cases are assigned to a specialist based on their participation in the service and will receive an email notification with a link to the case details, on the OTNhub.</p> <p>Specialists are expected to login to the OTNhub and respond to eConsult cases assigned to them within 7 days</p>		
Why Should I Participate in eConsult?	<p>Specialists participating in the eConsult service should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a desire to improve equitable access to specialized patient care.• Be experienced clinicians with good standing with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO).• Be willing to provide collegial, educational replies.• Be committed to providing timely advice		
What Should I Include in my eConsult Response?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current, up to date, evidence-based advice (where applicable)• Patient-specific recommendations that are actionable• Responses that are professional, supportive, helpful & educational• Check out our Best Practice Guidelines for more information!		
How Much Does it Cost?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is no cost to register for and use the Ontario eConsult service.• Eligible receivers are remunerated quarterly for their eConsult responses, directly by the eConsult Centre of Excellence.		
What Do I Need to Use it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ONEID or OTN Credentials• An OTNhub account (Solo/Private Practice or Organization) and access to a compatible web-browser• For more information on receiving eConsult cases check out our video: How to Provide an eConsult• Review your eligibility and view our Sign-Up page or fill out our intake form to get started.		
How Are Cases Assigned to me?	DIRECT TO SPECIALIST	BASE™ MANAGED GROUPS	SELF MANAGED GROUPS
	<p>All eligible specialists are invited to join the eConsult service to receive cases sent to them directly by name, using the Direct to Specialist or Group option on the OTNhub.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specialists may be invited to join a Provincial or Regional BASE™ Managed group.• Senders use drop-down options to choose a specialty (and sub-specialty) using the BASE™ Managed Group option• Cases are assigned automatically to one of the available specialists participating in the group• Cases are sent to regional groups first when a regional group of specialists has been formed and the sender has identified a priority region on their account.	<p>Cases are sent to the group using the Direct to Specialist or Group option on the OTNhub and are assigned to a participating specialist, by a group triager based on <i>rotational availability</i> or, in the case of multidisciplinary groups, the <i>appropriateness of the specialist</i>.</p>

