## Overcoming Wait Times for Specialists Using eConsults

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April 12, 2018





### **Faculty/Presenter Disclosure**

• Faculty: Anil Maheshwari, MD

- Relationships with commercial interests in previous 2 years:
  - Grants/Research Support: NA
  - Speakers Bureau/Honoraria: NA
  - Consulting Fees: NA
  - Other: NA





## **Disclosure of Commercial Support**

- Potential for conflict(s) of interest:
  - No commercial support
  - No conflict of interest



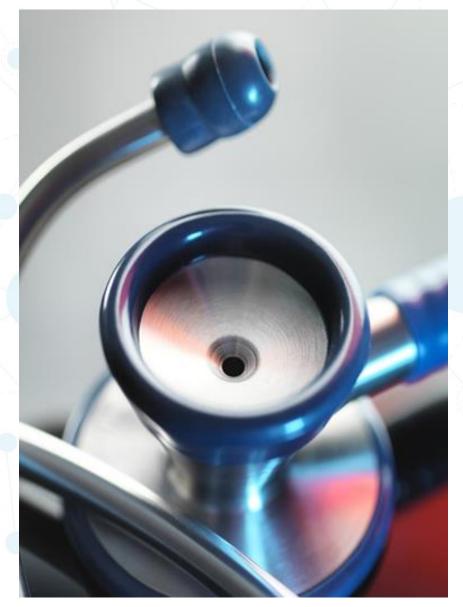
## **Mitigating Potential Bias**

No potential bias









#### **THE Challenge**

Recent studies show that Ontarians often wait too long and have to travel too far to benefit from a specialist's advice.

When a specialist's advice is needed, the level of collaboration amongst providers varies greatly.



#### The Solution

eConsult enables physicians to engage in a secure, electronic dialogue with specialists to manage patient care, without the need for the patient to visit the specialist.



#### Benefits include:

- Faster access to specialist advice
- Avoidance of unnecessary in-person specialist visits
- Improved care coordination and better collaboration between clinicians
- More flexible and auditable than phone calls, pages or hallway conversations

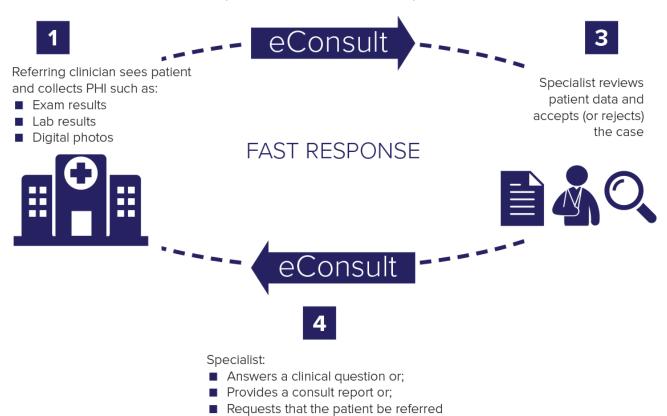




#### **How Does eConsult Work?**

2

Referring clinician creates and sends eConsult to specialist with PHI and a clinical question







#### **Provincial eConsult Initiative**

Launched in late 2014 with the mandate to implement the Provincial eConsult Service to reduce patient wait times for specialist care and to improve the overall patient experience.

> BASE



- > eConsult
- > TeleDerm





Funded by the MOHLTC

Supported by partners













#### **Benefits of eConsult**



of survey respondents agree that eConsult provides a positive experience for patients.



of respondents indicate that eConsult frequently prevented unnecessary patient travel by avoiding the need of in-person specialist visits.



of family physicians and specialists believe eConsult improves patient care.

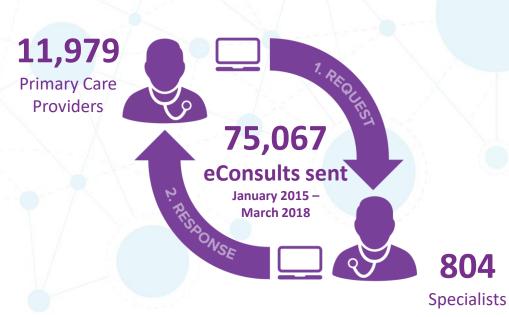
Data Source - OntarioMD Phase 1: Provincial eConsult Initiative Benefits Evaluation Study (Author: Deloitte as objective third-party evaluator)





#### **Key Pilot Metrics**

#### **Provincial Overview**



**Response Time** 

**Average** 

Median

2.6 Days

**1.2** Days

#### **5 Most Consulted Specialties**

- Dermatology
- Hematology
- Endocrinology & Metabolism
- Neurology
- Cardiology

in **100+** specialties





## **Evolving eConsult from a Project to a**Provincial Program

The ministry released a memo on December 22, 2017 to LHIN CEOs to share the vision of the eConsult provincial program.

"As part of the new eConsult program, BASE and OTN eConsult will be deployed together provincially as a blended service to ensure all Ontarians have equitable access irrespective of their region. Furthermore, BASE will be the reference model for regionally-focused managed services as they become ready. This means that providers will be able to access local communities of practice in addition to provincial-level service. To ensure that all specialists can be accessed through eConsults and to facilitate primary care provider choice to an individual specialist or self-organized programs, the direct to specialist model will also coexist with the managed service model. This blended service will be made available through the OTN platform ensuring secure, private, and integrated access to virtual care services in the province of Ontario."

- Excerpt from memorandum to LHIN CEOs





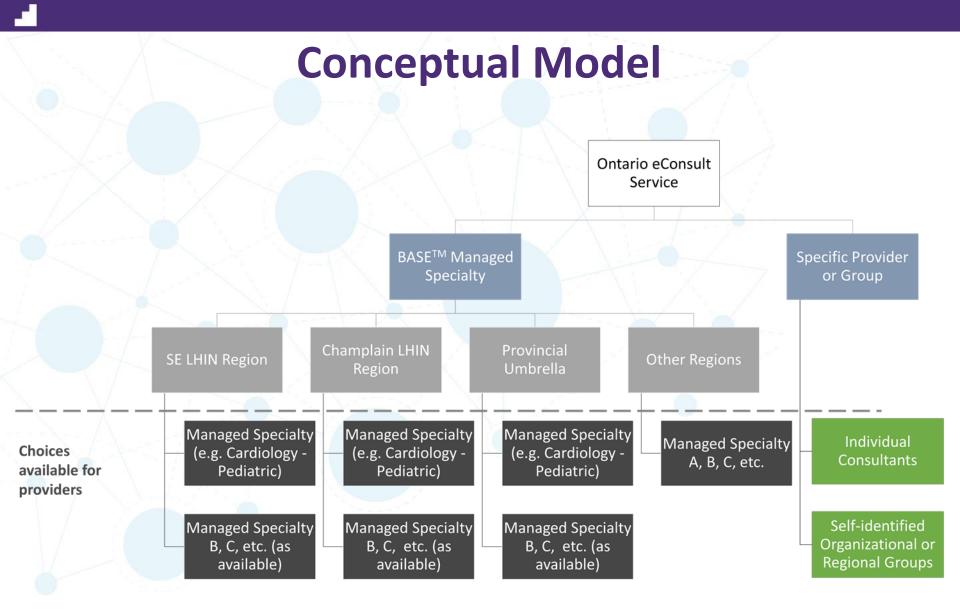
## What is the BASE™ (Building Access to Specialists through eConsultation) managed service model?

- Equitable access for all patients
- Regional focus to maintain communities of practice when possible
- Specialists typically accessed under a specialty group rather than an individual specialist
- Clinical champions provide leadership in engagement and adoption to ensure service is tailored to needs
- Quality assurance metrics are routinely collected and communicated to specialists

www.champlainbaseeConsult.ca





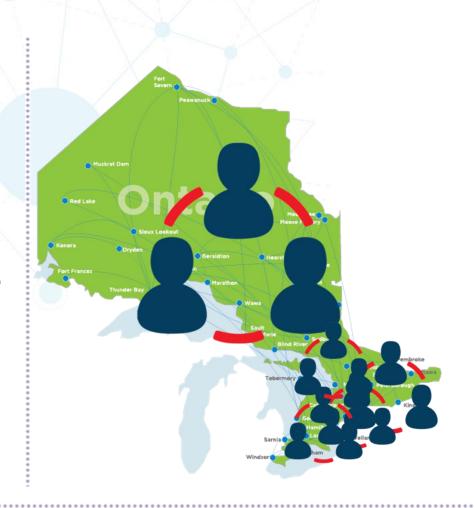






#### What does this mean for me?

- SWO Region blended service launch June 28, 2018
- More specialty services available
- Regional where possible
- Single sign on to access both managed service and direct-to-specialist







#### **SWO - Blended Model**

- 4 LHINS (ESC,SW,WW,HNHB)
- Support both options
- Provide clinician support for onboarding and adoption
- Provide centralized administration for group management and clinician remuneration



Option 1 -

Managed Model

allows selection of specialty and have

2)

#### **eConsult**

Requesting clinician creates and sends eConsult to a specialist along with PHI and clinical question Clinician can select which model to use to make a consult



#### Option 2 -

Can choose to direct eConsult request to identified specialist or self-organized group



#### eConsult.

Requesting clinician sees patient, collects PHI such as:

- Exam results
- Lab results.
- Digital photos



All Within 5 Days

Specialist reviews patient data

#### eConsult

Specialist:

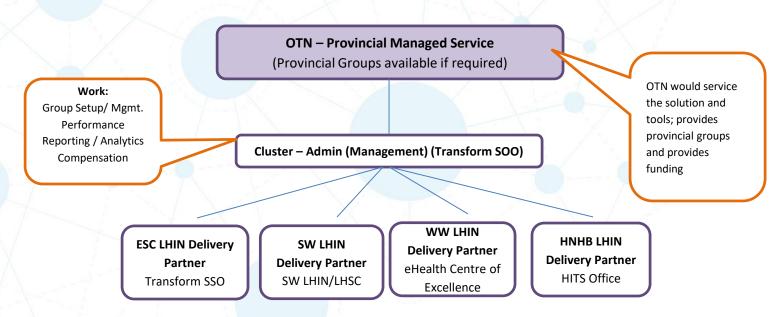
- · Answer clinical question, or
- · Provide a consult or report, or
- Requests the patient be referred



Empowered Practices. Enhanced Care.

#### **SWO - Blended Model**

- Ability to leverage best practice
- Ability to be efficient in central management



Delivery Partners will be responsible for clinician engagement and onboarding.

#### For more information Contact:

HNHB LHIN: andrew.szasz@lhins.on.ca

WW LHIN: Wendy.Lang@ehealthCE.ca

SW LHIN: NoorAmin.Noorani@lhins.on.ca

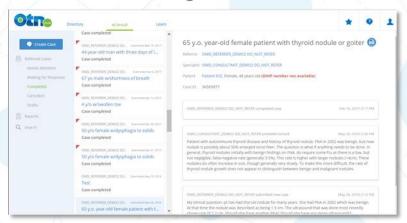
ESC LHIN pete.crvenkovski@lhins.on.ca





#### **OTN eConsult – Web and EMR**

#### Web access through OTN hub



**EMR** access (currently available through QHR Accuro and OSCAR EMR)



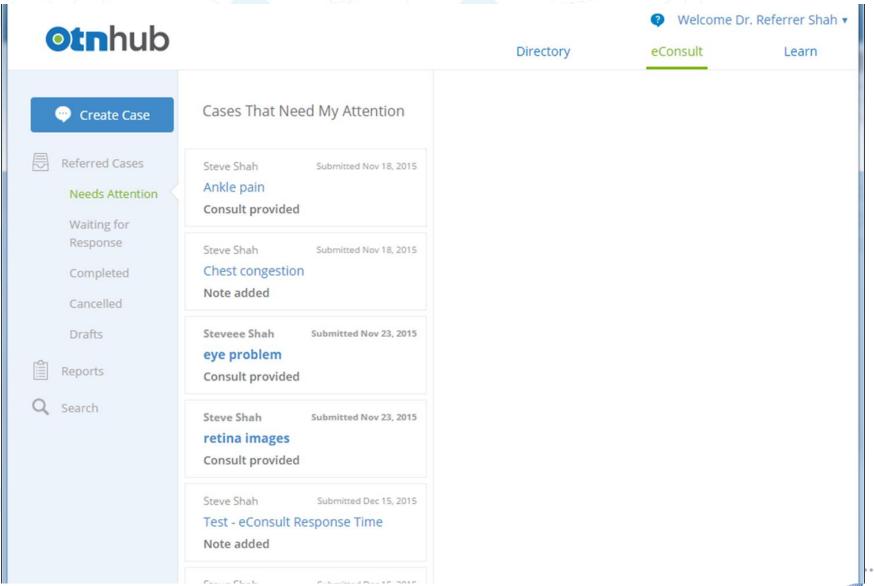


# OTN eCONSULT ON THE WEB PORTAL

Available province-wide for physicians and nurse practitioners (alternate solutions available in MH, SE and Champlain LHINs)



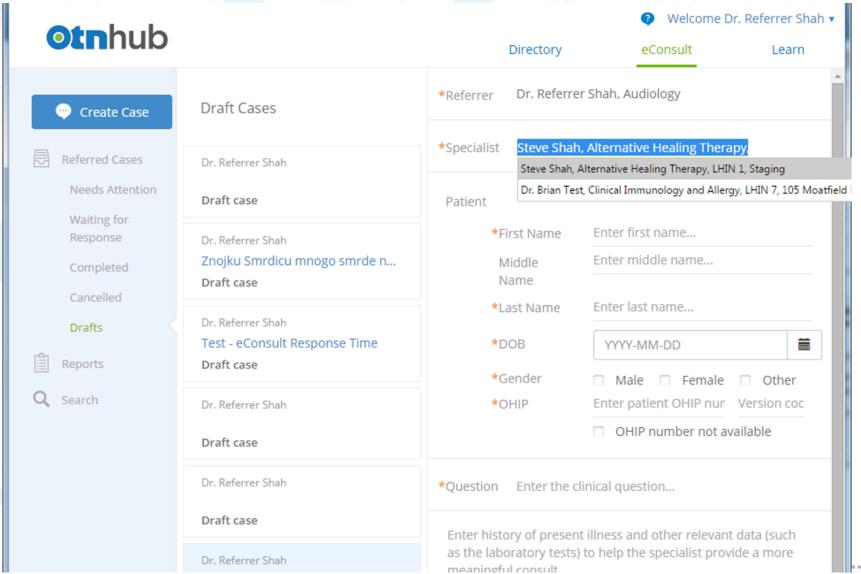
#### Create a New eConsult







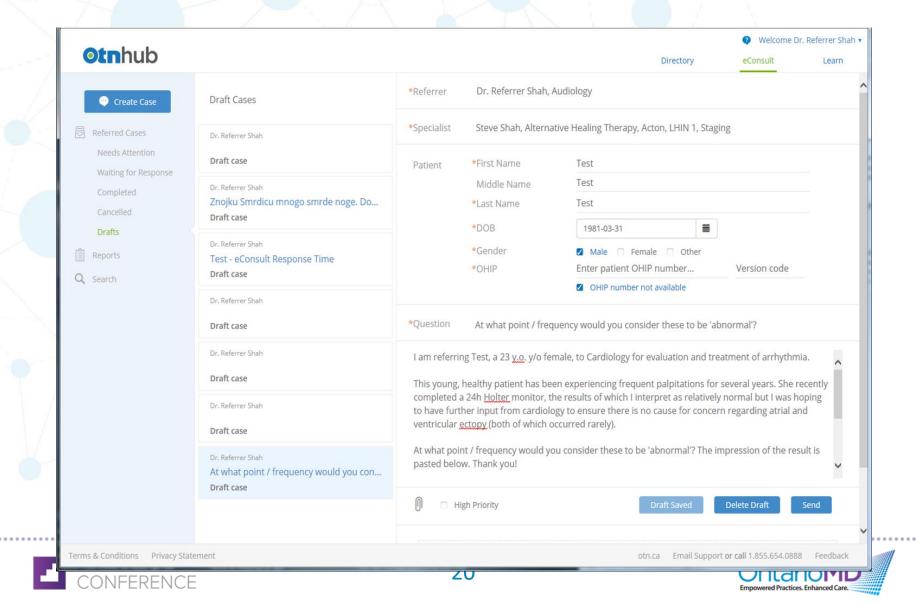
## Select a Specialist or Specialty Group



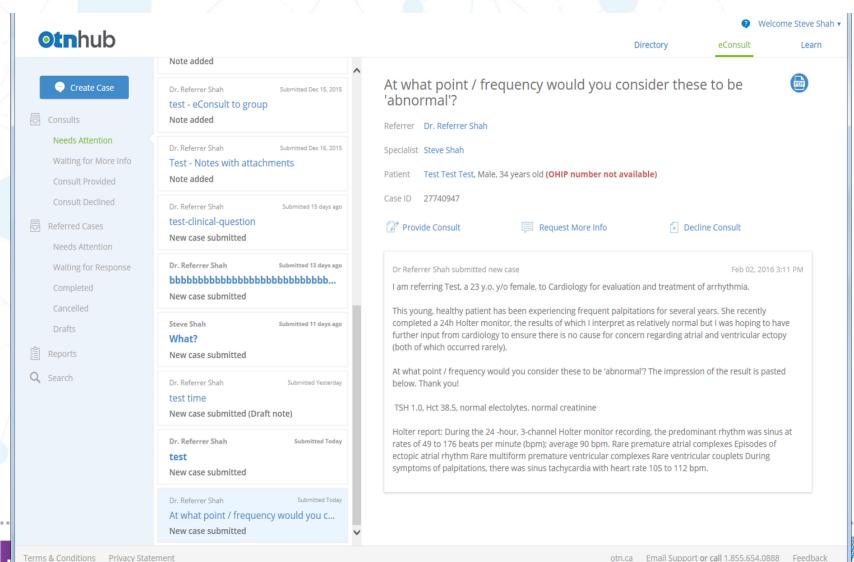




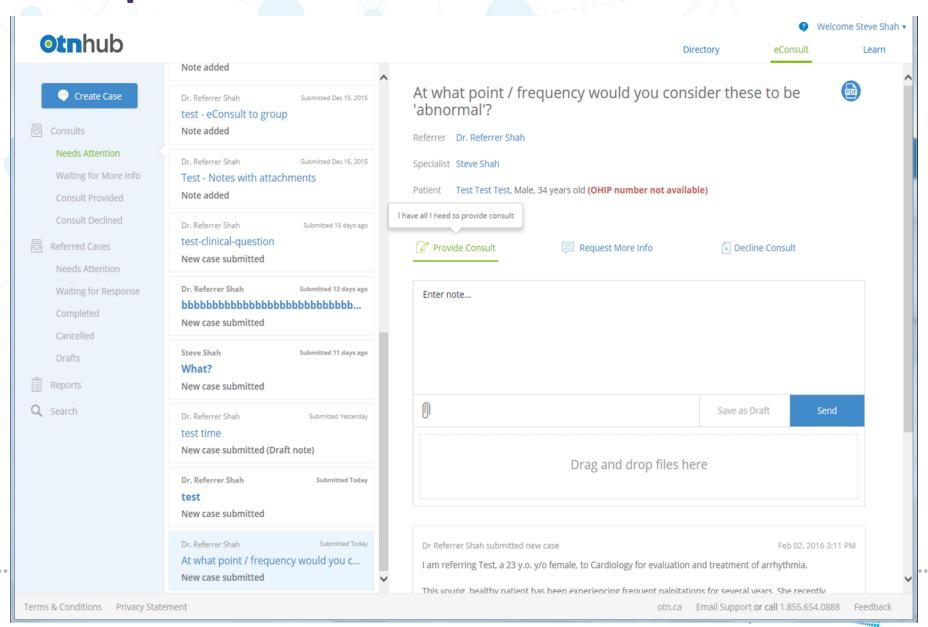
### **Clinical Question & Supporting Information**



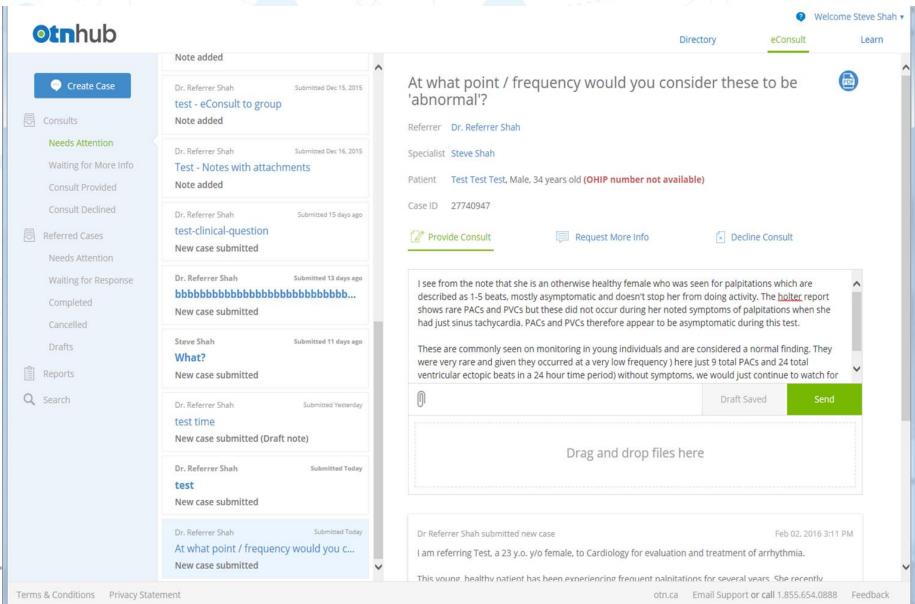
## A Specialist's View of the Request for eConsult



### Specialist Selects 'Provide Consult'



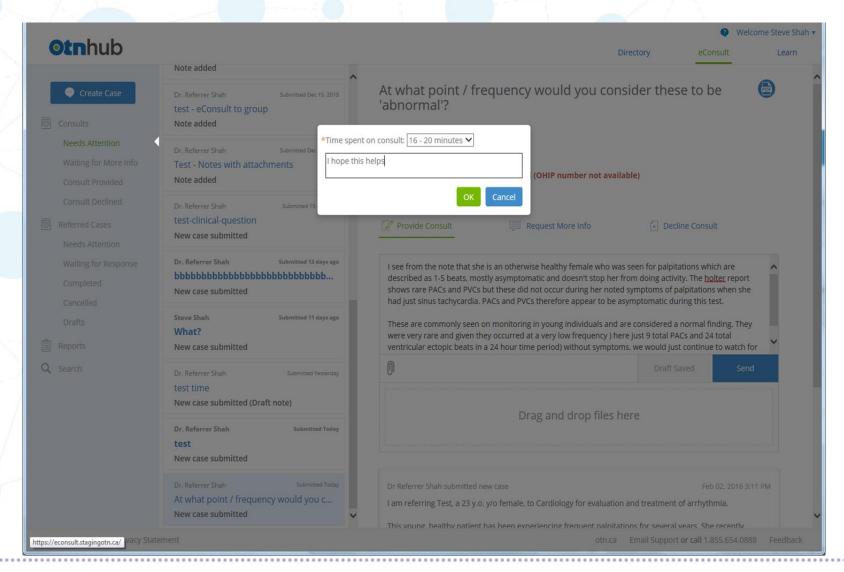
### **Specialist Responds to Clinical Question**



**Empowered Practices. Enhanced Care** 

OTAL FIXE INC.

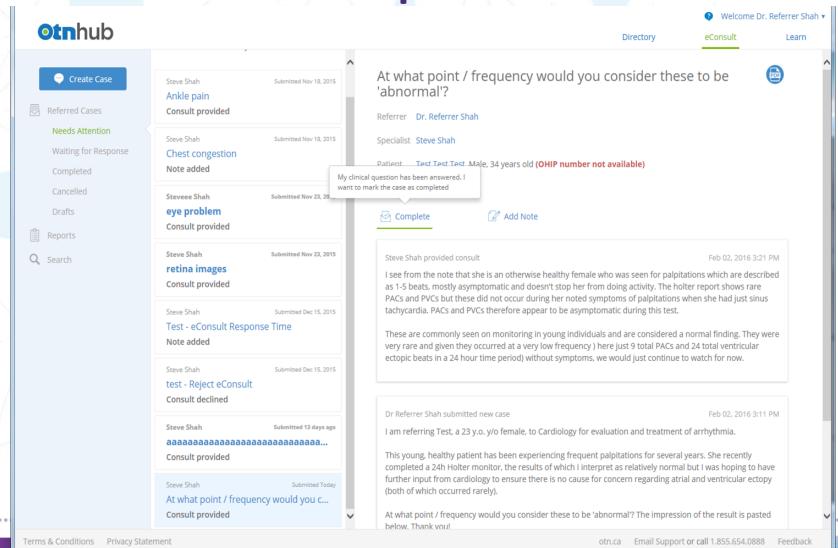
## **Specialist Indicates Time Spent on Consult**



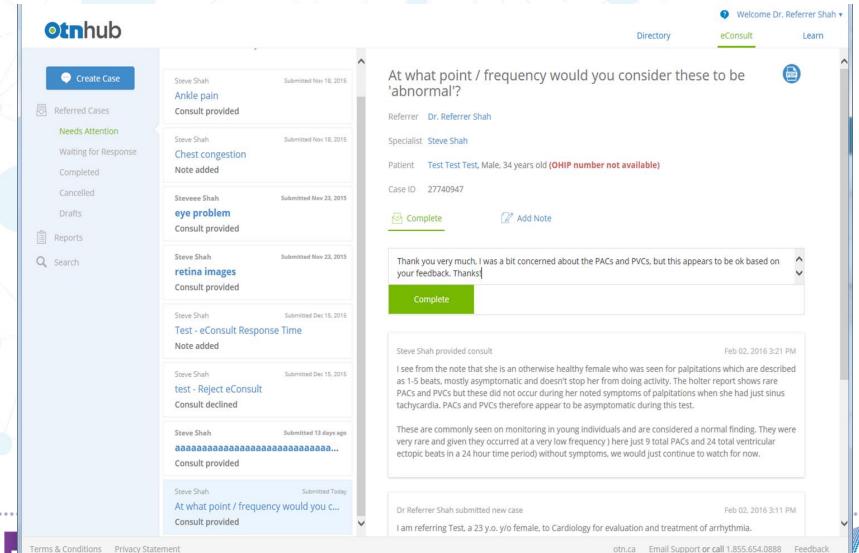




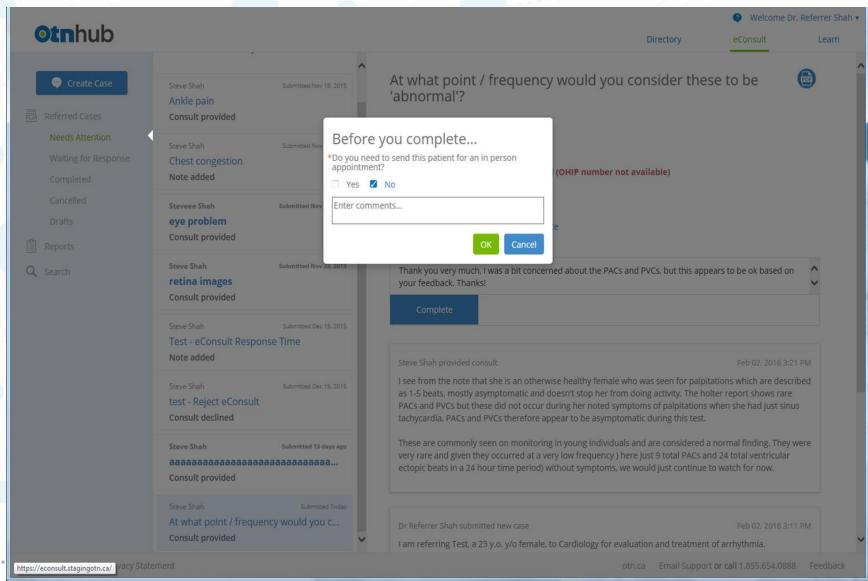
## Requesting Clinician Reviews Specialist Response



## Requesting Clinician Adds Comment & Completes Consult



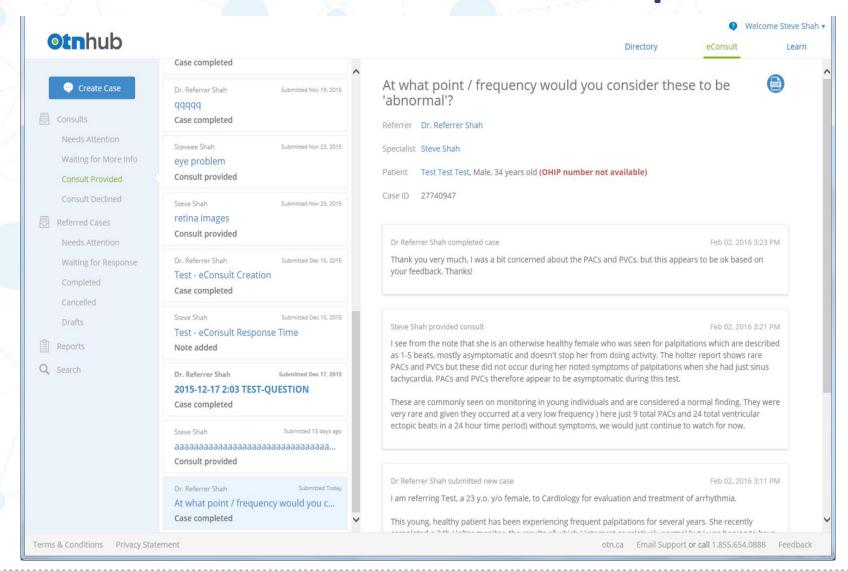
### **Standard Prompt (Need for Referral)**







## Consult Now Marked as 'Completed'





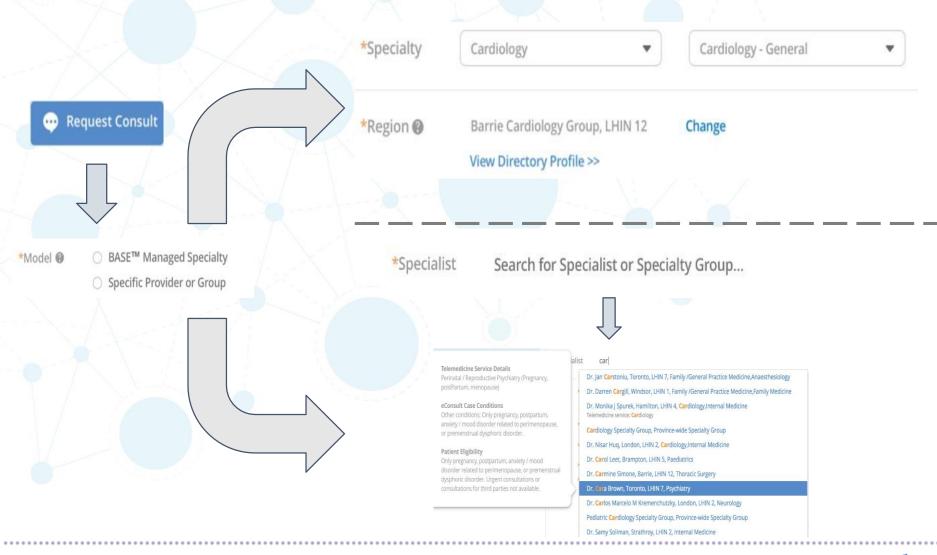


# Blended Service - Upcoming Release



#### **Blended Service - User Experience Workflows**

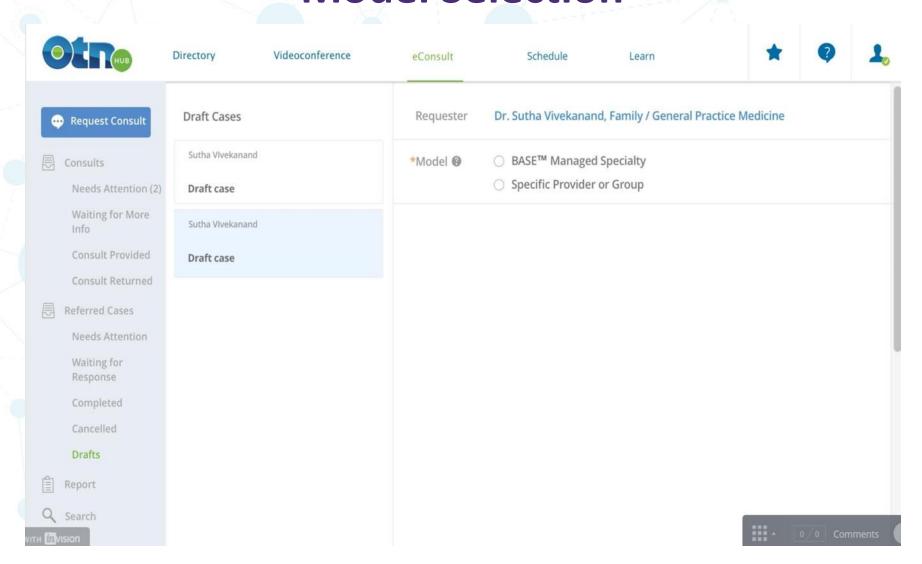
(mockup screens)







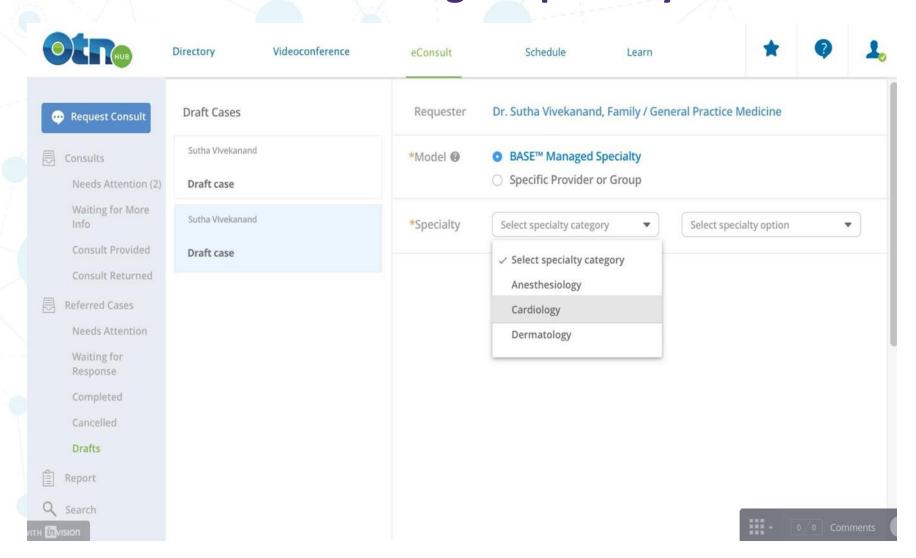
#### **Model Selection**







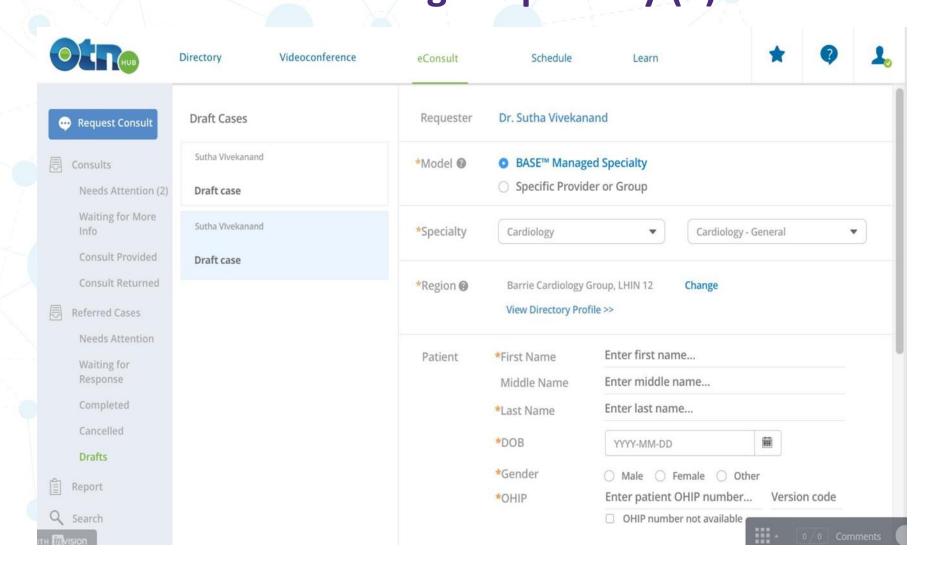
#### **BASE Managed Specialty**







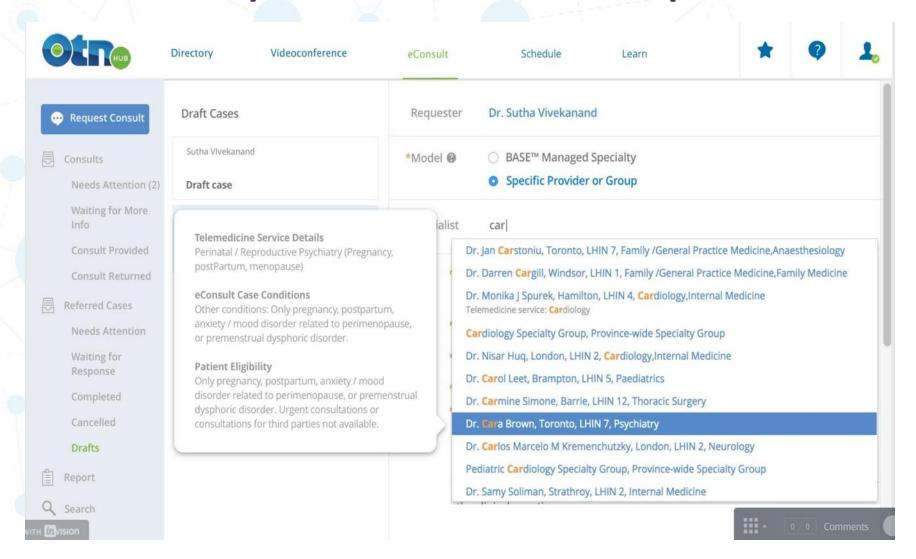
## **BASE Managed Specialty (2)**







#### **Specific Provider or Group**







# OTN eCONSULT ON OSCAR EMR

- Limited users on proof of concept (40 family physicians and specialists)
- Plans to expand to all EMRs





#### **How Does the Process Work in OSCAR?**



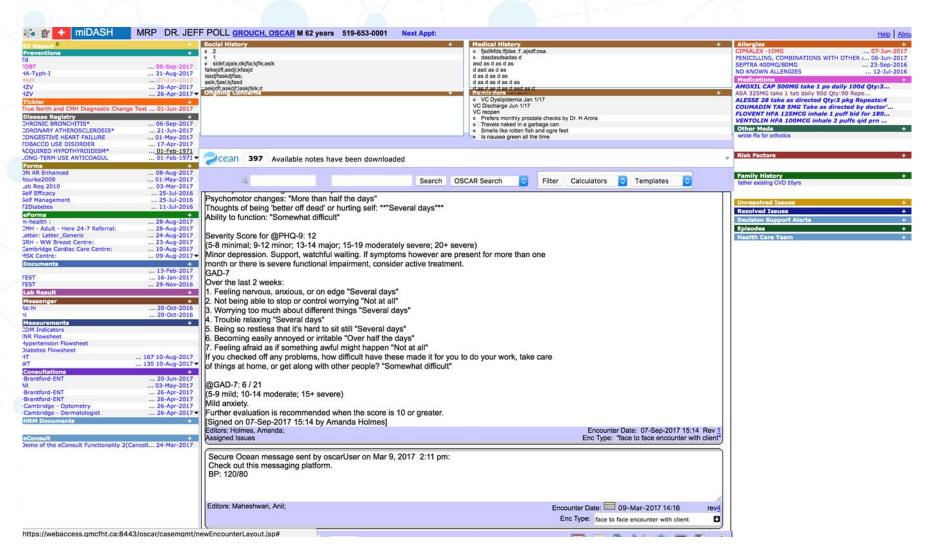
OSCAR EMR Logi	n
Enter your username	
Enter your password	
Enter your PIN	
or external Wide Area Network access  Sign in	
Sign in  ONE ID ONE ID Login	







#### **How Does the Process Work in OSCAR?**







#### **How Does the Process Work in OSCAR?**

Kai eConsult Drafts Consults ■ Report Draft eConsult View eConsult Print Priority Status Created 6 months ago ROUTINE Cancelled 2017.03.24 12:45 -0400 68044352 Case From Dr. Anil Maheshwari Phone: 519 623 4200 ► OMD\_CONSULTANT\_DEMO1 DO\_NOT\_REFER Phone : 000 000 0000 **Patient** ▶ OSCAR GROUCH - male - 1955-06-15 - Born 62 years ago Demo of the eConsult Functionality 2 Subject Comment Comments Comment notes added @ 5 months ago Cancelled by REFERRER Dr. Anil Maheshwari Comment notes added @ 6 months ago More Info Requested by CONSULTANT OMD\_CONSULTANT\_DEMO1 DO\_NOT\_REFER Dr. Maheshwari, Please provide additional data. i.e. severity and frequency. Thank you, Oscar Comment notes added @ 6 months ago Submitted by REFERRER Dr. Anil Maheshwari





Comment notes added @ 5 months ago Consult Provided by CONSULTANT Dr. Jamie GREGOR

The enzymes are minimally elevated and may be related to some fatty liver despite body habitus. They are not a contraindication to lipid lowering therapy. Review all medications and herbal supplements. Would suggest anti-HCV, alpha-1-antitrypsin, ceruloplasmin, ferritin, transferrin saturation, ANA, total IgG, ASMA, AMA as well as an anti-tTG (despite GFD) as sometimes mildly elevated enzymes are related to celiac disease (has he actually been diagnosed?)

Comment notes added @ 5 months ago Assigned by TRIAGE Linda Konkiewicz

Comment notes added 9 5 months ago Submitted by REFERRER Dr. Harpreet Arora

Dear Doctor, An otherwise healthy male had insurance physical. Liver function and cholesterol was elevated. Repeat was ordered with further work up. US of liver was negative. This is a young thin male that is on a gluten free diet and eats healthy. His dad has cholesterol issues. He doesn't do routine exercise. According to Framingham he will need to be on a statin in 5 years. No street drugs, no IV drugs. No tattoos. He doesn't drinking regularly, but some binge drinking 2-3 times a month. I was hoping to get advice on what to order next or does he need to see a specialist. Your advice is greatly appreciated.



Comment notes added @ 4 months ago Consult Provided by CONSULTANT Dr. Janine McCready

As long as she has had 2 MMR vaccinations separated by 28 days there is no need to do additional MMR vaccine or check titres. Titres are not a reliable indicator of immunity for mumps. This means she may actually have some immunity and also means would not rely on titres for immunity and only acceptable form of immunity is either 2 documented valid doses of MMR or born prior to 1970. In her case she does not require any further vaccinations and nothing more to do. If she were to see a patient with mumps or suspected mumps she sound wear appropriate personal protective equipment as a precaution. Thank you for consult. Janine

Comment notes added @ 4 months ago Assigned by TRIAGE Brenda Clark

Comment notes added @ 4 months ago Submitted by REFERRER Dr. Harpreet Arora

Dear Doctor Despite complete courses of immunization for MMR vaccine and boosters because she doesn't build immunity to mumps per labwork, how often do I booster as she states this has been an ongoing issue for her growing up. She is a internal medicine resident. Any suggestions. Thanks Dr H Arora

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Comment notes added @ 5 months ago Consult Provided by CONSULTANT Dr. Jeff Powis

Dear Dr. Arora, There is no oral antimicrobial regime that would be effective agains the pseudomonas isolated. It is Ciprofloxacin resistant. Recurrent Otitis Externa rarely requires systemic antimicrobial therapy. Topical agents are usually effective in combination with microdebridement and removal of ppt factors. I would recommend referral to ENT for microdebridement. WRT topical agents if his TM is intact I would recommend Neomycin 0.35%, polymyxin B 10,000 units/mL, and hydrocortisone 0.5% otic solution AVOIDING PROMOTING FACTORS - Patient education regarding proper ear hygiene cannot be overemphasized. The adage "don't put anything smaller than your elbow in your ear' to clean the ear canal is valuable advice. Patients should be told that the ear canal is self-cleaning and should not be cleaned with fingers, towels, cotton swabs, or other foreign objects. The ear should be protected from water during recovery from external otitis. This can be accomplished by placing a cotton ball coated with petroleum jelly in the ear canal while bathing. Patients with active external otitis should not swim. Ideally, patients should refrain from water sports for 7 to 10 days. Competitive swimmers may consider return at two to three days if pain has resolved and they wear well-fitted ear plugs. Hearing aids and ear phones should not be worn until pain and discharge have subsided. Prevention should be considered in patients with recurrent external otitis, particularly swimmers, immunocompromised hosts, and patients with a systemic dermatologic condition affecting the ear. Specific preventive measures for those who engage in water sports include use of ear plugs, shaking the ear dry after swimming, and blow drying the ear after water exposure (placing the blow dryer on a low setting 12 inches away from the ears). Drops containing alcohol and/or acetic acid help to dry the ear, prevent skin maceration, and re-acidify the ear canal, but it is unclear if any type of treatment prevents recurrence of external otitis. Hearing aids should be removed nightly and regularly cleaned. Regards,

Comment notes added @ 5 months ago Assigned by TRIAGE Linda Konkiewicz

Comment notes added @ 5 months ago Submitted by REFERRER Dr. Harpreet Arora

Dear Doctor, Patient was found to have recurrent Otitis Externa, ciprodex/locacorten were used prior to culture being done. Swab shows Pseudomonas. Please see attached cultures/sensitivities. Could you please make a recommendation of oral antibiotics. Your recommendation is greatly appreciated. Sincerely, Harpreet Arora MD

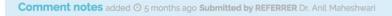




Comment notes added ① 5 months ago Consult Provided by CONSULTANT Dr. Anatoli Freiman

Nevus & macular amyloidosis Observation Moisturise skin Reassess prn if changes

Comment notes added @ 5 months ago Assigned by TRIAGE Sinead Sally



Please comment on whether these back skin lesions needs a derm consult. These are birthmarks and the patient's wife states that both are darkening. They do not look suspicious to me and patient and wife want to make sure they are not precancerous/cancerous.

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image/jpeg







#### **Appropriate eConsult Issues**

- Dermatological issues send a picture
- Quick medication questions (psychiatry)
- Questions on testing (GI)
- Reassuring patients



#### What Does the Future Hold?

- Establishing a local network (sub-LHIN/LHIN level)
- Good uptake by our local specialists
- Faster care for our patients
- Improved triaging



#### **How Do You Sign Up for eConsult?**

- Visit the Kent Room here today and sign up with an OntarioMD Practice Advisor
- E-mail <u>econsult@ontariomd.com</u> indicating you want to join eConsult



## **THANK YOU!**

Questions?



