

# Impact of eConsults for Orthopaedic Patients in Nunavut

The eConsultBASE™ service improves access to specialist care for patients, facilitating efficient and secure electronic communication between Primary Care Providers (PCPs) and specialists.

Access to specialist care in Canada's north is challenging due to significant geographic and economic barriers.

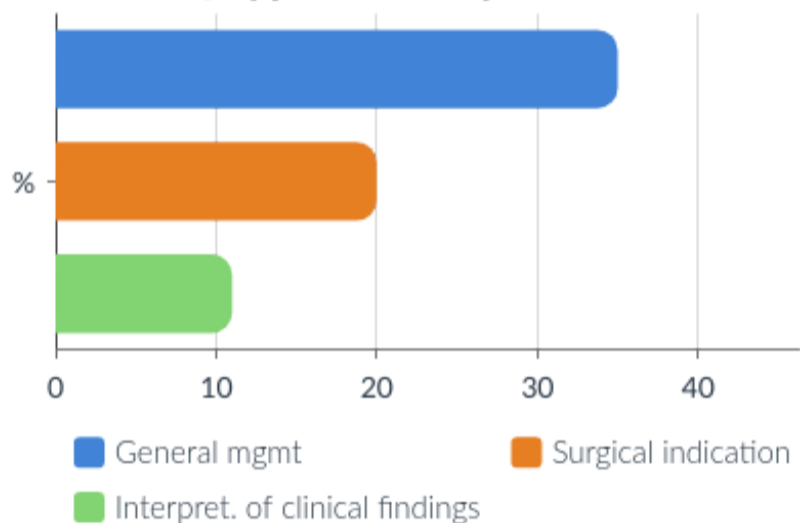


From Jan 2017 to Dec 2018, **161 eConsults were sent to PCPs in Nunavut** via eConsult BASE™, relating to Orthopaedic Surgery.



eConsult avoided unnecessary in-person consultation 62% of the time, PLUS catching important referrals that would have otherwise been missed.

Q. type asked by PCPs



52% of eConsults confirmed the initial course of action the PCP had in mind.



94% of eConsults were rated as valuable to PCP.



eConsultation has **enormous potential** to reduce health care costs, especially in remote and rural contexts like Nunavut.



## Case Example

Day 1

PCP Question: PCP asks for advice about a sports injury. The foot and ankle are very sore and swollen and the patient cannot weight bear. PCP describes x-ray and examination details. Patient was placed in a cast and told to keep weight off the foot, rest, elevate, ice, and take NSAIDS.

Day 4

Specialist Response: Specialist agrees with diagnosis and initial recommendations, and suggests a schedule for switching to an aircast and then hard-soled shoes. Specialist indicates that referral may be needed if the injury doesn't heal.

Day 4

PCP accepts advice, closes case.

