Nephrology eConsults

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

97 PCPs (73 family physicians and 14 nurse practitioners) submitted 155 eConsults to nephrology between May 2011 and January 2015.

The most common questions from primary care providers pertained to...

- **48% Management**
- **31% Diagnosis**
- **21% Drug Treatment**

Specialists took less than 15 minutes to complete their eConsult in 87% of cases.

Content of questions asked by Primary Care Providers (% of eConsults)

- **Proteinuria**: 25%
- **CKD**: 18%
- **Renal Imaging**: 17%
- **Drug Use in CKD**: 12%
- **Electrolyte Abnormalities**: 6%
- **Other**: 23%
  - Other includes: Elevated creatine - NOS, elevated creatinine, acute, Hematuria with proteinuria, Other UA abnormalities, stone and flank pain and hypertension

A traditional referral was initially planned for 103 out of the 155 cases (66%). 70 out of those 103 referrals (68%) were avoided following the eConsult.

Referrals were originally considered but ultimately avoided in...

- **41% of proteinuria cases**
- **50% of drug use in CKD cases**
- **46% of kidney imaging cases**

PCP asks specialist about a patient with a microscopic hematuria found during routine testing. PCP provides detailed results of the test and asks specialist what additional tests are needed and whether the patient should see a nephrologist.

Specialist responds with guidance on how to interpret the test and recommends a urine cytology to gather more useful information. Specialist advises against consulting a nephrologist at this stage, suggesting PCP contacts a urologist first and reaches out to nephrology only if the condition worsens.

PCP accepts advice, closes case.

Case Example

**Day 1**
PCP asks specialist about a patient with CKD.

**Day 1**
Specialist recommends a urine cytology.

**Day 7**
PCP contacts a urologist.

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