



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Continuing Professional Development

Faculty of Medicine

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Apr 22 Rural Rounds Q&A

Q: Can you compare and contrast the UBC Dermatology Rural and Remote Service with ConsultDerm?

A: In my opinion the most important part of any telemedicine service is people who want to make it work. Any reasonable method can be used and ConsultDerm is excellent. Our particular model developed when rural doctors asked for help using mobile phones with associated text and images. What we find in practice is that people have preferences. Some of our referrals come by fax and the photos by email, with or without a phone conversation. Some prefer teleconferences although we find we usually ask for still photos because of image quality. The core of our method is still the phone. A specific feature of our experiment is that we provide service only to rural and remote communities.