

Teledermatology Process

Review of appropriate, high-quality clinical images of cutaneous findings is an extremely important component of the Dermatology consultation process.

If images are blurry, taken in poor lighting, or otherwise poor-quality, the dermatologist may be unable to provide appropriate interpretation and recommendations.

The transmission of digital images of patients carries significant risk for a compromise of patient privacy. In order to minimize risk, Dermatology recommends the following process, which has been reviewed by CCHMC Legal. Failure to adhere to this process places the provider who has taken and forwarded patient images at risk, and compromises the accuracy of the consultation process.

1. Ideally, images should be taken on a digital SLR camera or using a telemedicine cart, NOT on a personal cell phone or tablet.
2. If a digital SLR camera or telemedicine cart is not available and if images are taken with a personal cell phone or tablet, the images should be deleted immediately from the camera roll on the device as soon as confirmation has been received that Dermatology has received the images.
3. Images should be taken by the clinical provider, not by ancillary staff.
4. Images should be obtained PRIOR to calling the dermatologist on-call.
5. Images should be emailed to the Dermatology resident and attending on-call. DO NOT send via text message or IM.
6. **Take at least one image from far enough away to see the body areas that are involved. This may require more than one image. This demonstrates DISTRIBUTION**
7. **Take one or more close-up images. Attempt to capture a representative image of each different type of lesion present. This is very important if the appearance of the rash evolves over time. This demonstrates the PRIMARY and SECONDARY MORPHOLOGY.**
8. A UC or CCHMC email should be used to send the images. DO NOT use a personal email such as gmail, hotmail etc. If you need assistance in setting up your Exchange email account on your phone, you may reference the following information on CenterLink (<http://centerlink.cchmc.org/content2/26138/>)
9. In the subject line of the email, include the patient name and MRN
10. In the body of the email, include pertinent medical history
11. DO NOT send BLURRY photographs. Please review the images for clarity before emailing
12. Images should be deleted immediately from the camera roll on the device as soon as confirmation has been received that Dermatology has received the images.

Tips for Standard Imaging

1. Consult your camera guide to determine appropriate settings if using PRESETS. These may be called AUTO or PORTRAIT. If you choose to use MANUAL settings -use a low ISO 100-200 and a shutter speed of 1/125 or 1/250. Use a MINIMUM APERTURE of f8. (you may go as high as f16 if the image does not become too dark)
2. Set FLASH settings to auto.
3. Set WHITE BALANCE to flash. Read your cameras guide for tips on custom white balance. If not using a flash, and in an exam room with no window- set white balance to auto, incandescent, or florescent. (depending on the type of bulbs) If there is a window then NATURAL LIGHT can be used with no flash and a SUNLIGHT WHITE BALANCE setting. Look at the image you have taken and determine if you need to re-take the image with a different white balance or flash setting. Skin conditions can have important color changes. If you are consistently unable to correctly white balance your camera, purchase a grey card and include this card in the photograph so that the image can be adjusted using photo software.
4. If using a digital SLR camera, choose the MACRO, setting, if possible, for any close-up images. This is often a flower symbol.