

# **TELEDERM CONSULT INFORMATION SHEET**

**Dear Patient,**

**Your physician has determined that you need a dermatology consult. Given the current non-availability of dermatology medicine at Reynolds Army Community Hospital, we are using telemedicine to provide the consultation. This memo provides information on Telederm and the potential risks and benefits of its use for your medical care.**

**DEFINITION:** Telemedicine is defined as the use of telecommunications (such as FAX or video-conferencing (VTC)) to enhance the clinical information exchange between your health care provider and a dermatologist located at a nearby medical center. Telemedicine is a new way to help patients get expert care from medical specialists not available locally through the use of special computers and cameras.

**BENEFITS of TELEDERM:** Patients usually get evaluated by a dermatologist within days using teledermatology. Many patients avoid travel to see a specialist. The main goals with teledermatology are to improve patients' access to dermatology and to eliminate delay of care. The nearest network dermatologists with access are located in Oklahoma City so using Telederm will save you both time and travel.

**EXAMPLE:** An example of a typical "Telederm" consult would be: you have a rash on your arm that is not getting better despite various treatments provided by your local doctor. A photograph is taken of your rash and sent electronically to a dermatologist who reviews your case. The dermatologist at the medical center will make a diagnosis and recommend treatment/management of your rash by your local referring provider. Your local provider will contact you to discuss the diagnosis, start a new medication, make a follow up appt for a procedure, or refer you to a specialist (dermatologist).

**CONSENT FORM:** A patient consent form must be completed for all Telederm consults that require medical image transfer from one MTF to another. One of Reynolds' radiology technicians will assist you with the consent form.

**WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT:** Once your provider electronically submits a dermatology consult, a nurse will screen your consult and determine if your case is appropriate for teledermatology. You will be called by the Radiology clinic and an appointment will be made. At the time of the teledermatology appointment, you will report to the Radiology Dept to get pictures taken of your skin condition. Once you arrive at the Radiology Dept, you will be asked to sign in and wait. A technician will then escort you into the examination room where your history and demographic information will be taken. He or she will then ask for your consent to transmit the images. The images will be taken and you are done. This process should take approximately 10-15 minutes of your time. Within 2 weeks, you will be called by your referring physician on what your condition may be and what type of treatment and follow up is needed. If you do not hear from anyone within 7-10 days, please contact your physician.

**POTENTIAL RISKS of TELEDERM:** The photographic equipment used for Teledermatology are standard products which you may already be familiar with (i.e. Digital Camera or Camcorder for motion picture recording). As such, there is no evidence this equipment can harm you.

There may be a potential security risk associated with the electronic transmission of your medical image. There is a possibility your image may be illegally captured or copied during transmission. We employ industry recognized security safeguards to help protect the personally identifiable information that you have provided to us from loss, misuse and unauthorized alteration. These are more theoretical concerns which have not been actually experienced in the military environment.

**QUESTIONS:** The staff of the Radiology Department is always available to answer any questions which you may have about Telederm consults. Feel free to call (580) 458-2781 for additional information.