



Consent Form

Clinical Texting and Teledermatology in British Columbia

I. STUDY TEAM

Who is conducting the study?

Principal Investigator:

Dr. Neil Kitson
Associate Professor in the Department of Dermatology and Science
The Skin Care Center
Office 604-875-5398
Fax 604-873-9919

Co-investigators:

Dr. Nam Phan
Resident, Coastal Site
UBC Faculty of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine
Nam.phan@alumni.ubc.ca
604-366-4660

Dr. Danny Guo
Resident, Dermatology
UBC Faculty of Medicine, Department of Dermatology
danny.guo@alumni.ubc.ca

Dr. Michael Copley
Resident, Dermatology
UBC Faculty of Medicine, Department of Dermatology
mcopley@alumni.ubc.ca

Dr. John Pawlovich
Clinical Associate Professor Professor, Department of Family Practice
UBC Faculty of Medicine, Department of Family Practice
Director, Rural Education Action Plan, Doctors of BC
jpaw@mail.ubc.ca

Dr. Kendall Ho
Associate Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine
UBC Faculty of Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine
Kendall.Ho@ubc.ca

II. SPONSOR

Who is funding this study?

We will not be receiving funding for this study.

III. INVITATION AND STUDY PURPOSE

What is the purpose of this study?

Clinicians are aware that privacy and confidentiality are very important aspects of practice, as required by BC law. Regulatory bodies such as the CMPA and BC College are concerned about the confidentiality of electronic communication. Nevertheless, texting for clinical purposes (including images) is ubiquitous and by most accounts, unsecured. Despite this, there is literally no evidence as to the extent of the practice. We believe discussion of this important form of communication needs to be informed by the reality of its current use. Surveying that reality is the purpose of the main purpose of this study.

Related is the field of telemedicine, as defined by the practice of medicine at a distance using telecommunication technologies. At present, most rural areas of BC have limited or no access to specialists including dermatologists. Thus, there is an increased reliance on telemedicine to provide service to such underserved areas. The second purpose of our study is to better understand the barriers to access, acceptability and preferred technologies for rural telemedicine care, from the point of view of teledermatology. It is our hope that such information will help inform telemedicine policies and methods of delivery to ultimately improve the quality and efficiency of specialist care in rural BC.

IV. STUDY PROCEDURES

How is this study done?

Participation in the study is voluntary and is open to physicians practicing in areas designated under the Rural Practice Subsidiary Agreement (RSA). You can refuse to participate. If you agree to participate you will be asked some general demographic questions but you will NOT be asked to identify yourself. Following this you will be asked a series of questions regarding your experiences, preferences and interest in teledermatology care as well as your practices regarding text messaging.

The survey is done either online, by live computer response, or in-person and will take ~3-4 minutes to complete. The online version of the survey is done through Fluid Surveys. Survey responses are hosted by a web survey company located in Canada and comply with the BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. This survey does not ask for personal identifiers or any information that may be used to identify you. The web survey company servers record incoming IP addresses of the computer that you use to access the survey but no connection is made between your data and your computer's IP address. If you choose to participate in the survey, you understand that your responses to the survey questions will be stored and accessed in Canada only. The security and privacy policy for the web survey company can be found at the following link: <https://fluidsurveys.com/about/privacy>. Hard copies of the survey will be kept in a secure area until the study end date and then destroyed.

V. STUDY RESULTS

How will study results be distributed?

Results will be presented at the Annual UBC & CIHR Skin Research Day in March 2017 and/or 2018 and possibly at national or international family medicine and/or dermatology conferences. If appropriate, results will also be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. A summary of data will also be publicly available. Any alternative use of the data will be subject to review by the UBC Research Ethics Board.

VI. POTENTIAL RISKS OF THE STUDY

Is there any way taking part in this study could be harmful to you?

We do not think there is anything in this study that could harm you or be bad for you. Please let one of the study staff know if you have concerns. You do not have to complete the survey if you do not feel comfortable answering any of the questions.

If you have any concerns or complaints about your rights as a research participant and/or your experience during the study, you can contact the Research Participant Complaint Line in the UBC Office of Research Ethics at 604-822-8598 or at RSIL@ors.ubc.ca.

VII. POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE STUDY

Will this study be of benefit to myself or others?

You may help promote change in policies that would help make it easier for clinicians to use electronic devices for clinical practice. You may also benefit by learning about teledermatology services offered in the province of BC. Furthermore, we hope that this study will ultimately benefit you and your patients by generating data to help inform improvements in the delivery of dermatology care in the province of BC.

VIII. CONFIDENTIALITY

How will your identity and your responses be protected?

All responses will be anonymous thus protecting your identity and views. Furthermore, all data records will be kept either online through Fluid Survey or on a dedicated password-protected removable storage disk. The online data is only accessible to the study team through a password-protected login. Data that is downloaded onto a computer hard drive for analysis will be stored in password protected files. The computer will also be password protected. The results of our research will not include any identifiers aside from basic demographics including years in practice and rural versus urban practice setting.

IX. CONTACT FOR INFORMATION or CONCERNS ABOUT THE STUDY

Who can you contact if you have questions or concerns?

If you have questions or concerns about what we are asking of you, please contact one of the study staff. The names and telephone numbers are listed at the top of this form.

If you have any concerns or complaints about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, contact the Research Participant Complaint Line in the UBC Office of Research Ethics at 604-822-8598 or if long distance e-mail RSIL@ors.ubc.ca or call toll free 1-877-822-8598.

X. PARTICIPANT CONSENT

Taking part in this study is voluntary. Respondents have the right to refuse to participate. Since responses will be anonymous, we will be unable to withdraw responses once submitted. We ask that only one submission is completed per person.

Participation in the survey implies consent to the study as described above.