

E-Consult News

September 2020

Issue Contents

- [UC Irvine's E-Consult Strategy and Success for Orange County Patients](#)
 - [GI Clinic Wait List Dramatically Reduced through University of Texas E-Consult Program](#)
 - [Radiology E-Consults Improve Patient Care and Lower Costs](#)
 - [Telehealth Bills Passed by California Legislature, Now Awaiting Decision by Governor Newsom](#)
 - [CMS Proposed Physician Fee Schedule Comments Due October 5th](#)
 - [September 16th E-Consult Workgroup Webinar](#)
 - [Save The Date: Annual E-Consult Workshop, November 16th](#)
-

Adoption

UC Irvine's E-Consult Strategy and Success for Orange County Patients

With Orange County's growing population, patients often find it difficult to access specialty care. In a [field report](#), providers at UC Irvine's Department of Medicine review the implementation of its custom built e-consult system and its impact on specialty care access for the 3.5 million people served by its academic healthcare system. A unique element of the program, launched in April 2015, was the EHR transition from Allscripts to Epic which included a shift from a document-based e-consult workflow to a process integrated with the EHR. The program resulted not only in workflow efficiencies but in the establishment of a steering committee of health system leadership and providers, with training and orientation sessions for the e-consult team. Join us for the [September 16th E-Consult Workgroup webinar](#) to learn more.

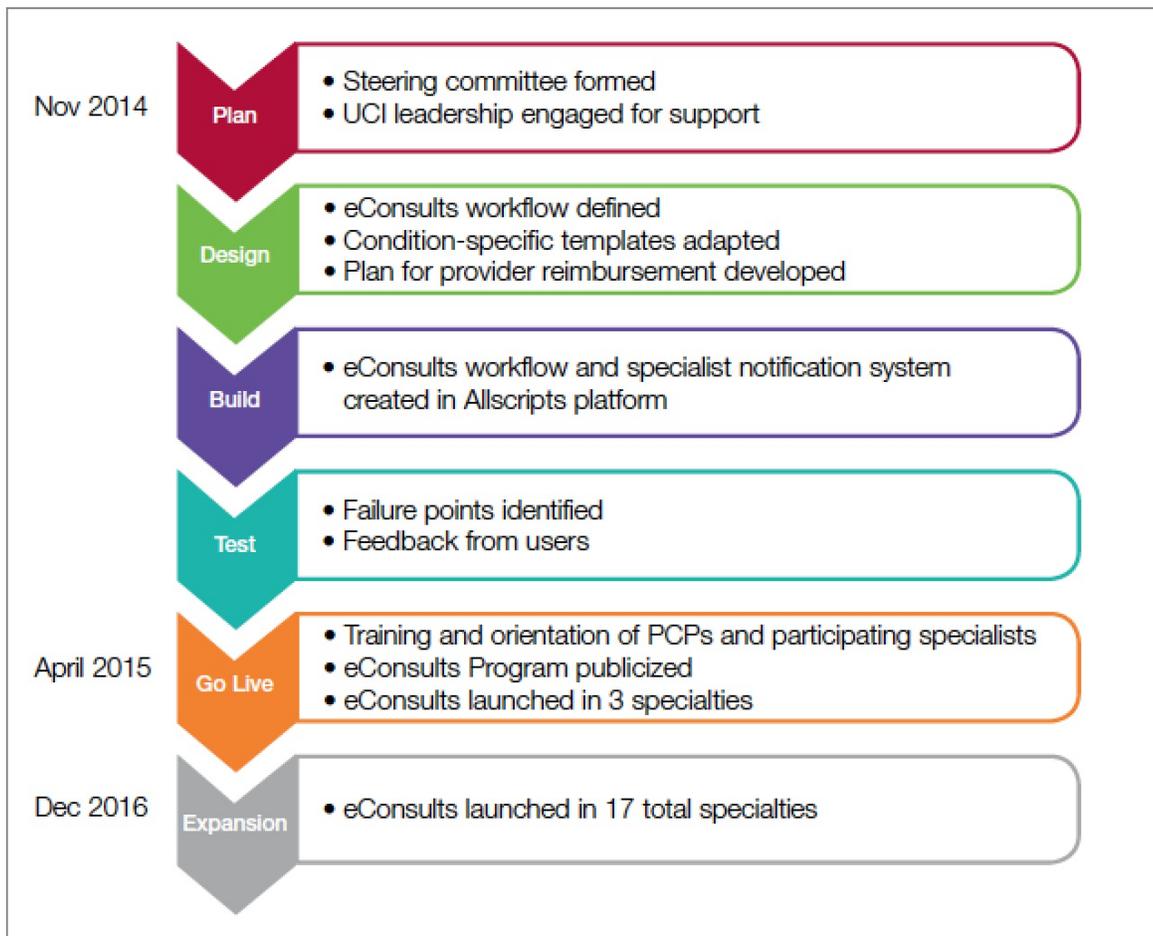


Figure 1. Timeline of eConsults program implementation at University of California, Irvine (UCI). PCPs, primary care providers.

Quality

GI Clinic Wait List Dramatically Reduced through University of Texas E-Consult Program

Through its adoption of e-consult, the University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School's gastrointestinal clinic decreased a wait list of hundreds of patients that existed before the program's implementation. In addition, the FQHC increased its ability to resolve issues without face-to-face visits. An [evaluation](#) of the program demonstrated that the use of 759 e-consults over a 58-day period resulted in a 70% reduction of unnecessary visits. As a result, 38% of patients were scheduled for procedures outside of the clinic which streamlined endoscopy visits.

Radiology E-Consults Improve Patient Care and Lower Costs

A [study](#) of e-consults between primary care providers and radiologists notes a beneficial impact on patient care as well as lower costs. The researchers, from Ottawa health systems and the University of Ottawa in Canada, found that among the 307 e-consults 55% resulted in patient management changes and 28% included avoidance of unnecessary imaging tests. Seventy-five percent of primary care providers reported that the e-consults were excellent, highlighting the important role of radiologists in patient care. "Our results highlight the

integral role that radiologists play in advising PCPs on the most appropriate imaging test to perform,” note the authors.

Policy

Telehealth Bills Passed by California Legislature, Now Awaiting Decision by Governor Newsom

Amidst the response to COVID-19, the California legislature has passed bills that would expand coverage of telehealth for California patients. These bills would expand access to telehealth in the safety net and expand the use of phone consults, both features of telehealth triage that can complement and facilitate the use of e-consults. Governor Newsom will either sign or veto bills by September 30, 2020.

- [AB 2164](#) (Assemblymembers Rivas and Salas): allows FQHCs and RHCs to establish patients via telehealth up to 180 days after the end of the state's emergency declaration for COVID-19
- [AB 2360](#) (Maienschein): requires health plans and insurers to maintain telephone or telehealth consultation programs for providers treating pediatric and maternal mental health

CMS Proposed Physician Fee Schedule Comments Due October 5th

As a reminder, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published the proposed [Physician Fee Schedule for 2021](#). CMS plans to keep existing e-consult reimbursement codes for PCPs and specialists, and proposes expanding the list of telehealth codes covered. [Comments](#) are due to CMS by October 5, 2020.

Events

September 16th E-Consult Workgroup Webinar

Please join us for the next E-Consult Workgroup webinar featuring Dr. Shalina Nair and Candy Magaña of the Ohio State University (OSU) Wexner Medical Center presenting their recent publication, [Telehealth as a Bright Spot of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Recommendations from the Virtual Frontlines](#). In addition, Dr. Alpesh Amin, Chair, Department of Medicine, UC Irvine School of Medicine will share his recent report, [An eConsults Program to Improve Patient Access to Specialty Care in an Academic Health System](#).

September E-Consult Workgroup Webinar, 12 to 1 PT

- Online access: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9689264532>
- Dial-in access: +16699006833,,9689264532# US

Save The Date: Annual E-Consult Workshop, November 16th

The 6th annual E-Consult Workshop will take place virtually on November 16th. We are pleased to announce our keynote speaker: J. Nwando Olayiwola, MD, MPH, FAAP Chair and Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine at The Ohio State University. Visit econsulttoolkit.com to register starting September 16th.

To sponsor, contact us at electronic_consult@bluepathhealth.com.

J. Nwando Olayiwola, MD,

MPH, FAAP



E-Consult Workgroup Sponsors

Gold



Silver



Bronze



Stay up to date on e-consult news, research and policy with our monthly E-Consult News.

Subscribe.

The [E-Consult Toolkit](#) and monthly E-Consult News are authored and maintained by [BluePath Health](#).

Funding and support are provided by the California Health Care Foundation, with thanks to Blue Shield of California Foundation for past support.

To submit questions, content or share news updates [contact us](#).

[Opt out](#) of future issues of E-Consult News.

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
BluePath Health · 80 E Sir Francis Drake Blvd · Suite 4H · Larkspur, CA 94939 · USA