Store Forward Dermatology

*Clinical Training Best Practice Recommendations*

Using Store Forward for dermatology requires the referrer to act on behalf of the dermatologists senses!

The dermatologist will:

* only see what you see and choose to photograph. (Ensure borders have sharp focus and hair growth is well captured. i.e. does a hair grow beside a mole or does it come out from the mole)
* rely on you to describe the feel (consistency – i.e. soft, firm; mobility - mobile, fixed; temperature – hot, warm, cool)
* rely on you to describe odor

Photography and Clinical Thinking

* Dermatology diagnosis includes recognition of patterns – ensure distribution of lesions are well described and if possible, a good representation photograph is included
* One very well lighted and sharply focused image of a lesion is more important than multiple images!
* When photographing limbs, include the unaffected limb for comparison to normal state
* Remove jewelry, makeup bandages and glasses to minimize distraction
* Inspect the skin (particularly where the patient cannot see) to determine if there are additional lesions
* Include a label with the patients chart number in the image to ensure photo match to the right patient
* Use a white paper measuring tape to demonstrate lesion size and facilitate colour balance
* Lighting from the side at 45 degrees will prevent shadow
* Use natural daylight if possible, do not use flash for extreme close ups