

Stakeholders' experience of teledermatology in a nurse-led community clinic: a case study

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Dermatology is regarded as especially suitable for the application of telemedicine because it relies to a large extent on visual information for diagnosis and holds promise as an alternative means of delivering care. Interest in teledermatology has come at a time when there is an increased demand for dermatological services and teledermatology has been advocated as a mode of delivery that may diminish inequalities in the provision of an overstretched service and help improve access to dermatological care.

A qualitative case study based on interviews and observations was undertaken to explore the perceptions of stakeholders (nurses, patients, GPs, consultants) when interacting with a nurse-led teledermatology service in primary care. The study found that the delineation of roles and changing professional boundaries were important issues for stakeholders. It has provided further evidence that teledermatology is more than images and diagnostics.

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