

# TO GO OR NOT TO GO: Building a Tele-Consultation Program for the Triage of Burns in a Burn Center

Rural Setting

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### Introduction

be challenging. regarding region is rural. increase in noted transfers of burn patients.

patient, family, and the medical system.



107 miles

## Methodology

Management of burn injuries, regardless Thirty-three patients were transferred from This novel pilot project is in its preliminary of depth and total body surface area one rural trauma center to the Burn Center stages. Presently, the emergency The from January 2016 through March 2021. department physicians and staff report American Burn Association Referral Of these patients, 36% per discharged confidence in caring for minor burn injuries Criteria Guide is an excellent resource within 24 hours of admission with a following training and referring to handouts assisting institutions when to transfer a referral for Burn clinic follow up. Meetings provided. Both facilities have conveyed patient with a burn injury to a Burn Center. were initiated between the trauma center no issues connecting to the Zoom app. However, situations may arise when an and Burn Center with subsequent The primary concern is a possible delay in institution needs face to face guidance endorsement of a data use agreement. performing the tele-consultation if the burn transferring a patient or An iPad, multiple educational handouts, service is unavailable. referring to a Burn Clinic. Our facility has and an accordion binder were provided to a 250-mile catchment radius consisting of the rural trauma facility for access by the some urban communities, but most of the emergency room department. Additional landified Our Burn Center in face to face education was provided collaboration with a rural trauma center emphasizing burn resuscitation, transport unnecessary of burns, and hands on training to perform A Tele- a dressing change. The Zoom app was Consultation project was designed to utilized as the platform to provide teletriage burn patients with the goal of consultation visits. A unique meeting ID eliminating unnecessary transfers and was created for the rural trauma center for easing the burden of a transfer on the use by the Burn Center Trauma/Burn service to maintain HIPPA compliance. included a Establishing the process with each facility's collaboration department, Access Center, Registration, Compliance, legal, and the trauma and

# Results

The use of burn tele-consultation to provide guidance on transfer versus burn clinic follow up supports a patient centric approach without jeopardizing burn

Conclusion

healing outcomes. Establishing additional tele-consultation programs throughout the region will allow the same resources to be available to other referring facilities. Additionally, other service lines may

minimize unnecessary transfers, cost, and travel imposed on the patient.

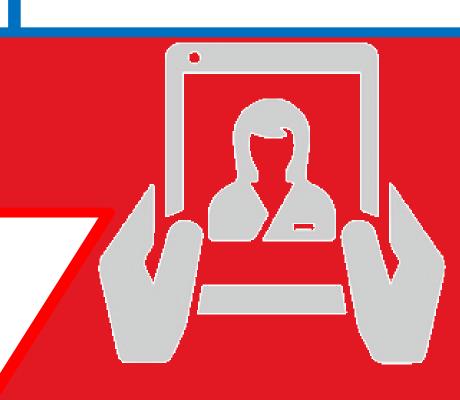
benefit from the use of tele-consultation to

Burn Patient

- Superficial 1st degree burns that do not involve the face, hands, feet, genitalia, perineum, or major joint
- 1st degree burn that does not require pain control or rehydration 2nd degree burns <1% TBSA</li>
- that do not require reevaluation\*Burns that do not require ongoing wound management
- 2nd degree burn <20% TBSA to</li> any surface
- 2nd degree burn that requires reevaluation or ongoing wound management
  - Any burn with >20% TBSA that will require fluid resuscitation per the ABA Guidelines.
  - High risk mechanism of injury: Electrical, chemical, radiation, or inhalation burns
  - Full thickness burn of any TBSA Circumferential burn of any
  - extremity 2nd degree burn <20% TBSA to</li> the face, hands, feet, genitalia, perineum, or major joint following TeleConsultation

Treat Locally with/ out Burn Clinic Follow-up



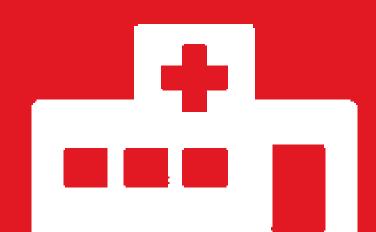














Provide patient the informational sheet. If the patient is a TeleConsultation, then the UofL Access Center will also provide the Burn Clinic with the patient information.