**GWH facing GP Practices**

**Teledermatology advice and guidance**

**Introduction**.  Across BSW Cinapsis telederm advice and guidance went live on 1 Nov.  It is the most used service on the Cinapsis advice and guidance service – used 3,400 times to 16 Feb.  Telederm is for suspected skin cancer cases and other skin conditions where a consultant opinion will inform the GP on whether a referral is required; if so, at what priority; and if not required, the condition and suggested treatment to treat the patient appropriately in primary care.  Telederm A&G has been successfully and regularly used by almost all GP practices across BSW.

**Outcomes**.  The overall outcomes for all BSW telederm since Cinapsis went live are:

50% were able to safely and appropriately be managed in primary care, no need to attend hospital; GP provided with information by the consultant to enable management in primary care

25% to be referred as 2ww

16% to be referred as urgent, not 2ww

5% to be referred as routine referral

3% to be referred as 2ww due to poor image quality

**Variability in Uptake**.  Since Cinapsis went live, the total usage of telederm A&G by GWH-facing BSW practices has been circa 40% of the total usage of telederm A&G by RUH-facing BSW practices (929 versus 2,252).   (Comparison with SFT-facing footprint is not referenced as full roll-out of telederm for SFT-facing BSW practices only occurred in Nov, so is still being embedded, whereas for the rest of BSW, telederm had been in place for some time prior to Cinapsis going live).

**So What**.  This means there are likely to be a significant number of patients being referred to GWH either with suspect skin cancer on a 2ww, or for urgent or routine referrals for other skin conditions, who do not need to be referred, but could instead be managed safely and appropriately within primary care, far more quickly.

Therefore all GWH-facing BSW practices are reminded of the option and recommendation to use telederm A&G before any 2ww skin cancer referral; and also use for other skin conditions where diagnostic uncertainty exists.  This will help ensure more patients are appropriately treated closer to home, and do not need to wait and then attend an unnecessary hospital appointment.

**What else (1)**.  Additional dermatoscopes and ancillaries are being bought by BSW CCG, and we hope to distribute these by the end of March 2022, to supplement existing stocks within each practice.

**What else (2)**.  The BSW-funded programme of very successful and highly popular GP education and training sessions on lesion recognition, and use of teledermatology, is set to continue in FY 22/23 - level 1 and 2 training is being planned for May and September.

**What else (3)**.  During 2022 we anticipate the introduction of a process whereby those A&G requests where the outcome is “refer” can be automatically converted into a referral, thereby reducing primary care workload.

For any queries or issues regarding the use of Cinapsis please contact [iain.warren1@nhs.net](mailto:iain.warren1@nhs.net)

For any queries regarding dermatology in general, telederm training, or related issues, please contact [Lauraine.jones@nhs.net](mailto:Lauraine.jones@nhs.net) or [andyjennings@nhs.net](mailto:andyjennings@nhs.net)