

## Vantage Teledermatology (VTD)

Increasing referrals to secondary care, lengthy waiting times and cost pressures place a burden upon the effective provision of dermatology services. Since 2006, Vantage Diagnostics has been committed to researching, understanding and meeting these challenges. Providing clinicians with rapid access to dermatologist advice, Vantage Teledermatology (VTD) improves care, optimises resources and enables recurrent financial savings.

VTD includes an advanced, secure web-based system that is hosted on the N3 network and integrates with NHS clinical software. The system allows stakeholders to efficiently share, manage and control dermatology referrals.

### Share

Clinicians may capture photographs of dermatological conditions using high quality digital imaging equipment. These images may be referred electronically along with relevant patient history to a consultant dermatologist. Photographs of conditions from different intervals may also be captured, stored and compared over time.

### Manage

With a view of resources and capability available to the referring clinician, a consultant may access the system, offer a management plan and rapidly advise whether a patient will be most appropriately treated within primary care or at a local hospital. Reporting dermatologists are also able to share cases to department colleagues or other specialists for a second opinion.

### Control

A real-time online activity module (V-ROAM) ensures stakeholders access to performance analysis, referral recommendations and feedback data. Highly customisable, V-ROAM helps identify areas where the service may be optimised and whether additional training should be provided.

Additional VTD features include:

- Instant Image Transfer (IIT)
- International Classification of Diseases (ICD) coding
- Feedback module
- Clinical Audit module
- Educational module



*“Fewer appointments are needed at hospital which has led to a **70% reduction in referrals** and associated annual savings to the local NHS of around £600,000”*

- South Central Strategic Health Authority

*“Digital services to deliver greater convenience for patients and **free up face-to-face clinical time** for those who really need it”*

- NHS Operating Framework requirement

## Proven to Deliver

Working with hundreds of practices and in partnership with leading hospitals, VTD is widely implemented across and integrated within the NHS. Thousands of patients are referred through the system each year with independent audits<sup>1</sup> and reviews<sup>2</sup> reporting significant outcomes including, improved care, optimised resources and recurrent financial savings:

### Improved care

Patients are appropriately treated following a VTD referral and benefit from the convenience of a community led service. In over 95% of cases, referring clinicians receive reports within 48 hours and this rapid access helps deliver better clinical outcomes and improves the patient experience. More than 90% of clinicians are either 'very satisfied' or 'extremely satisfied' with VTD; in addition, the system is regarded as a powerful educational tool.

### Optimised resources

VTD facilitates effective triaging of referrals and consistently ensures around 68% of patients avoid a hospital appointment and lengthy waiting times. Furthermore, a large proportion of patients that require minor surgery procedures are treated at local centres rather than in secondary care. Although the current VTD referral pathway excludes suspect cancer cases, the system serves as a 'safety net' helping consultants quickly identify patients who require a two-week appointment or urgent care.

### Recurrent financial savings

The significant shift of activity from hospital to primary care has proven to deliver recurrent financial savings of around 20% on avoided outpatient appointments and a further 50% on minor surgery procedures; it is estimated that the system could help achieve annual savings of £175m nationally<sup>3</sup>. Implementation of VTD allows local stakeholders to ensure the efficient and sustainable provision of dermatology services.

<sup>1</sup> PricewaterhouseCoopers, *Evaluation of Vantage Teledermatology Pilot in Hampshire* (April, 2010)

<sup>2</sup> NHS Bristol, *Nine-Month Review of the Teledermatology Service in South Bristol provided by Vantage Diagnostics* (May, 2011)

<sup>3</sup> BBC Point West, *'Saving the NHS' Feature* (October, 2011)

## End-to-end solution

We work with each client to develop appropriate pathways, processes, and protocols and can provide:

- Project management support
- Full system implementation
- Clinician led imaging and software training
- Imaging equipment
- IT help-desk and online support
- Change management support
- Clinical reporting