

# 2020 pandemic: System impact and adjustments on general practice

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# COVID19 GP: A fluid and uncertain situation

Unusual should be usual in GP

2020 coronavirus particularly SNAFU

New telehealth

GP frontline role

Workforce training and examination impacts



# Telehealth MBS

Introduction of conference/phone item numbers March

Same remuneration as face-to-face

Consultation, care plans, mental health

Allied health, specialist as well

Adjusted mid year

Required in person consultation in previous year

Adjusted to allow private consultation

Extended end of year for another six months



# Telehealth adjustments

Popular opportunity for patients to be seen remotely

Remuneration doctor-patient communication

Opportunity for telehealth only services

Rural patients, Fail-to-attends

Challenges

Financial implications private practice

Technology implications and risks patient safety

Medicolegal implications

Impact restrictions excluding some services

## New role: COVID frontline

Undifferentiated ill present to GP

Unaware of implications of this at start

Other work continued

Some work impeded by isolation

Some exacerbation mental health

Workload changes up and down



# New role adjustments

Physical modifications to practice

Car park screening

Waiting room management

Integration with local testing regimes

Much more frequent communication from college



# Doctor training

Key part of workplaces and medical system rural areas

Disruption to hospital training

Registrars not doing necessary terms

Examination challenges



# Doctor training adjustments

Border closures impact rural registrars

Extension of training time

Examinations done online

Written exam technological failure

Practical exam via zoom ongoing

Major modifications, but seemingly working





# When in doubt, go forward

COVID plenty of challenges plenty of adjustments

New medicare, new roles, training

Always exciting

