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 renumeraton 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