Televi-orthopaedics
A snapshot of services in Australia

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Justification
• Tele-orthopaedics practised widely outside of Australia
• Not widely practised in Australia
• Recognisable benefits

Research aims
1. Describe tele-orthopaedic services currently operating in Australia
2. Identify barriers and enablers to implementing and running those services

How we located services:
• ACRM Telehealth Provider Directory
• ATHS Newsletter
• Telehealth co-ordinators meeting
• Academic literature
• Known services
• Snowball sampling
What we found:
Nine tele-orthopaedic services (hub locations)

We asked 20 questions including:
- Who accompanies the patient?
- What barriers have you encountered with this service?
- How do you access patient images?

Models of care

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Real-time</th>
<th>Store-and-forward</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Video consultations</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>between ortho surgeon and patient, paperwork kept on both ends</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ortho surgeon reviews radiographs and coordinates patient management via local hospital staff or GP</td>
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Characteristics of services

- fracture clinics & peri-operative
- 3 months to 10 years in service
- local medical officer, nurse or PT accompanied patient

Barriers and enablers

1. Staff
2. Imaging
3. Cost & legal
4. Process & examination

1. Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barriers</th>
<th>Enablers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive resistance</td>
<td>Orthopaedic surgeon as champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff resistance</td>
<td>Staff perceiving benefit to patient</td>
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<td>Successful initial teleconsultation</td>
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2. Imaging

**Barriers**
- Access to repositories (not central)
- Multiple imaging providers
- Miscommunication, delays

**Enablers**
- PACS
- Teleradiology

3. Cost and legal

**Barriers**
- Remuneration low vs. work involved
- Employing extra staff
- Confusion around liability aspects

**Enabler**
- Government funding

4. Processes and examination

- Disruptive — i.e. physical examination
- Coordination between sites important
- Relationship with local providers helpful

What’s missing?

- Likely more services out there
- Allied health staff-led clinics
- Emergency tele-orthopaedics

To summarise the “snapshot”

- Tele-orthopaedics – it’s happening but still novel
  - Fracture clinics and peri-operative review
- Barriers and enablers similar to telehealth in general

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Many thanks to the interviewed services!