

Telehealth at BrizBrain & Spine

From 1 July 2011, Medicare Australia introduced funding for telehealth services, including video consultations between patients and specialists.



Neurosurgeons, Dr Michael Bryant and Dr Richard Kahler

BrizBrain & Spine has commenced this service as part of its offering, with the aim of reducing the burden of travel for patients in rural, regional and outer suburban communities.

Neurosurgeon, Dr Richard Kahler commented, "It is obviously a medium we can't use when physical examinations are required. However, if we can reduce the travel burden for follow up appointments of patients outside Brisbane, it is a worthwhile service". He went on to say, "I have a spinal patient from Mareeba and this service not only saves on travel costs, but also saves my patient's time".

The first consultation took place on 9 September 2011 and interest in the use of the service has been immediate. Whilst currently only available to patients who have access to Skype, expanding the service to include video consultations from GP rooms is something BrizBrain & Spine is also investigating.

BrizBrain & Spine also promote the use of online imaging, with Neurosurgeon, Dr Michael Bryant enthusiastic about its potential. "With access to online imaging, our on-call doctors can quickly review and comment on scans that referring providers seek our opinion on".

Telehealth is a big part of the future in medicine. BrizBrain & Spine are embracing this technology and giving patients living outside the Brisbane metropolitan area access to a convenient service.



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