

24<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear colleagues,

I would like to announce to all referrers that under the current circumstances I will be offering 'free' tele-health consultative services to all patients (of all ages) with any vascular condition.

Especially given many vascular surgical patients are elderly it would be ideal for them not to physically attend elective medical appointments. To help avoid patients sitting in a waiting room and the need for in person appointments I will be offering a **bulk billed vascular surgery telehealth service** for patients. This will be open to **all** patients and this will be especially helpful for the regional cohort.

We all need to proactively work to slow the potential transmission of COVID-19. This entails reducing the need for patients to physically attend a clinic.

Once patients call the rooms on (03) 9894 5886, the tele-health platform we use will send the patient an internet link and all they will require is access to a computer or (smart)phone for a video or telephone consultation which will be promptly held at a mutually agreed time. No other apps or software is needed.

I sincerely hope that this will help in protecting and serving our mutual patients whilst providing them easy access to specialist care.

Thanks again for involving me in the care of your patients.



Mr John A. Rophael  
*Vascular & Endovascular Surgeon*