Reviewer’s report

Title: Assessment of a teleconsultation service for General Practitioners in rural areas.

Version: 1 Date: 23 June 2009

Reviewer: Dennis Pashen

Reviewer’s report:

1. Major Compulsory Revisions - Nil
2. Minor Essential Revisions - Nil
3. Discretionary Revisions.

This paper is appropriately written and probably confirms much of the current literature about tele-consultation’s acceptability to GPs/Family Physicians and the benefits derived from the use. I would have found it more valuable to have a dissection of the actual nature of the problems, of which cardiology problems predominate, the skills transfer from Specialist to GP which resulted, cost savings and cost benefits to patient, potential reimbursement costs to GPs and savings in Specialist care. Consultation and patient numbers were adequate to gain an appropriate knowledge of the acceptability of the technology, however it adds little to the body of current knowledge on telehealth initiatives. Most of the outcomes achieved have been described in the literature over the past 15 years in the US, Australia and elsewhere.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.