


Sustainability in Telehealth

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sustainability

/səsteɪnəˈbɪlɪti/ 

noun

the ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level.

"the sustainability of economic growth"

- avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance.
"the pursuit of global environmental sustainability"

Can a telehealth program sustain itself at a satisfactory level, without a dedicated leader or coordinator?

Possibly not, but the following suggestions may assist in maintaining an elevated profile for the model of care.

By looking at the bigger picture, we can ensure there are measures in place to make the model more viable over the long term.....

Communication at an organisational level

- Consider presenting at senior management forums within your health service or hospital
- Present to as many staff as possible and share the results of your work
- Utilise internal newsletters to raise the profile of the telehealth service via regular updates
- Make yourself known – the next innovation project could lie elsewhere within your organisation

Reach the next generation of clinicians

- Find opportunities to present to medical students and start the telehealth conversation
- Create linkages with universities and connect with the next generation of doctors before they are in practice
- Speaking directly with medical students will help to ensure questions are answered, myths are addressed and the modality is more widely accepted

Future planning and strategic direction

- Foster executive buy-in – consider presenting results to your Board of Directors
- Contribute to future planning by establishing the evidence
- Seek to influence the inclusion of telehealth strategies in organisational plans and statements of priority

Seize opportunities

- Seek to add value to the existing technology – for example providing medical education to remote patients
- Submit abstracts to state and national conferences
- Share outcomes at local, metro and regional forums

Diversify

- Ensure you are providing an inclusive service that gives consideration to cultural safety and accessibility
- Look at partnering with Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO) or Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services
- Engage bush nursing centres as a potential site for supported telehealth
- Connect with VicDeaf to create possibilities for Video Remote Interpreting

Thank you

<http://www.lrh.com.au/important-info/patient-information/specialist-outpatient-telehealth>

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The Telehealth Victoria Community of Practice (COP) enables collaboration among members of the Victorian health workforce who are involved in implementing, supporting, managing and evaluating telehealth access to their health services.

