



**ACADEMY OF MEDICINE
SINGAPORE**



**CHAPTER OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS
COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, SINGAPORE**

SPECIALTY SPECIFIC GUIDANCE

TELEMEDICINE

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

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Developed by

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1. Whether first specialists' consultations must be conducted in-person for all conditions, OR if there are specialist conditions which can be managed solely over telemedicine.

First specialist consultations may be conducted over telemedicine; however, a follow-up physical visit should be scheduled for confirmation of diagnosis. The first visit may be used as an initial point for ordering investigations such as X-rays or advanced imaging prior to the second visit.

For follow-up cases, telemedicine may be used where patients do not require physical examination beyond inspection.

2. Whether there are any additional patient inclusion/exclusion criteria for specialists use of telemedicine (for first, or follow-up consults).**Exclusions:**

- Patients suspected of having conditions requiring urgent acute care, such as fractures, severe infections, spinal cord compression, cauda equina syndrome.
- Patients who require physical examination beyond simple inspection.

3. If so, are there additional patient notifications to help patients make an informed choice on their use of telemedicine;

Patients should be informed that the use of telemedicine precludes a full physical examination, and may result in a delay in diagnosis or treatment. If they are concerned that their condition is acute and may require urgent care, telemedicine is not appropriate.

4. Whether there are any speciality specific clinical red flags where if observed, specialists should escalate patients for an in-person consultation or A&E where appropriate;

Red flags: History and visual appearances suspicious for conditions requiring urgent acute care, such as fractures, severe infections, spinal cord compression, cauda equina syndrome.

5. Whether there are any specific visual cues or other indications (e.g. tests or use of devices) that should be done/used when specialists manage patients over telemedicine.

Investigations such as blood tests or imaging should still be ordered as needed and reviewed in a timely manner. Where possible the tests should be obtained prior to the consultation so as to provide all relevant information to guide management at the time of consultation.

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| Co-Authors | |
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| (1) Dr Tay Kae Sian | Consultant, Orthopaedic Surgery Singapore General Hospital |
| (2) Dr Hamid Rahmatullah Bin Abd Razak | Consultant, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery Sengkang General Hospital |

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Chapter of Orthopaedic Surgeons
College of Surgeons, Singapore
Academy of Medicine, Singapore
81 Kim Keat Road
#11-00 NKF Centre
Singapore 328836