

## Lessons of the Week – No 1.

### Remote Consulting with Dr Andy Eaton

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#### 1. ***Do I really need to see *this* patient ... or will a remote consult suffice?***

- Ask yourself, will seeing them change my management?
- Can I exclude all the important red flags that relate to the worst condition that this could be?
- What is it that I actually need to see them for?
  - Do I need to measure something they can't (e.g. ketones in the urine)
  - Do I need to palpate a lump that they are having trouble describing?
- Am I going to worry about them or lose sleep if I don't bring them in?

Ultimately - if you feel someone needs to be seen then make it happen, and don't feel guilty about it.

- Just make sure you document for the receiving clinician all the information they might need, including your concern / rationale for bringing them in.
- Don't forget to ask & document the Covid screening questions (or document as high / low Covid risk).
- Can you suggest anything, like getting them to bring a urine sample, to save time down the line for your colleagues?

If you need the reassurance you are doing ok, check a random sample of those you brought in (or dealt with remotely) and reflect on the outcome - but don't beat yourself up - about 25% will re-present within a fortnight for the same problem no matter how good the clinician. Some things just don't get better, and if they re-attend it means your safety netting worked!