Dr Simon Abson
MB BS, BSc (Med Hons), F.R.A.C.S.
Spinal Surgeon
ABN: 32 205 094 198 Provider No: 2978695T

macspine

Lake Macquarie Specialist Medical Centre
Level 2, Suite 4, 6–8 Sydney Street
Gateshead NSW 2290
PO Box 2031, Gateshead NSW 2290
Phone: 02 4040 1139   Fax: 02 4027 5766
Email: admin@macspine.com.au

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Dear Colleague,

As General Practitioners who are in the front line of defence and vital for the health of our community we feel as a spine surgery practice we would like help with patient care. The need to contain the spread of COVID19 requires patient distancing and change in practice arrangements for all. We hope by these changes it will facilitate patient management, reduce exposure and help contain the disease.

Our plan for managing our services is as follows:

- Category 2 and 3 elective or non urgent procedures have been deferred in the Public and Private health systems. All surgical patients have been made aware of these requirements by NSW state health.

- To reduce patient and clinician exposure we will provide consultations via telehealth where possible. Patients who already have appointments will be offered telehealth consultations, or will be rescheduled to a later date.

- Any patients who have an urgent medical need for a clinical consultation or requiring a diagnostic procedure will still be seen. Please send your referral through the normal channels **(Medical Objects, Fax: (02) 40275766, Email: admin@macspine.com.au).** Referrals will be checked on a daily basis.

- I am available for telephone advice, 0421 253 289. Please leave a message if I do not answer immediately, and I will return your call.

- I am happy to continue to accept referrals for non-urgent consultations. Please inform the patient that for the present, consultations will be via phone or video link. At this stage there will be a reduced consultation fee until Medicare has reviewed their billing structure.

Thank you for your ongoing community support.
We hope that you and your families stay safe and well.

DR SIMON ABSON