Trauma Services in Rural Queensland:

Solving the Tyranny of Distance

Dr Mark Elcock
A/Senior Director.
Retrieval Services & Counter Disaster Unit
Queensland Department of Health





Presentation Outline

- Queensland context
- Definitive Care
- Case Illustration
- Enablers to reduce impact of distance
- Future Direction in Queensland

Highly Integrated Retrieval System



- Patient Focused
 - Efficient, Timely, Safe & Quality Patient Care
- Demonstrated capability and effectiveness, especially for acute trauma
- Huge distances & complex logistic challenges
- Collaborative model with multiple services & partners
- Whole of Government endorsement
- Room for improvement



Enablers to reduce the impact of distance

- Statewide Trauma Bypass Protocols
- Standardised integrated retrieval and trauma processes & procedures
- Emergency Telehealth support with MTS
- Increased regional capability and support

Increased Regional Capability & Support: Future Directions

- Up-skilling & Re-skilling
 - Burrholes (retrievalists and surgeons)
 - Vascular procedures (targeted facilities)
 - Damage Control Surgery
- Fly away teams from MTS
- Enhanced Telehealth Support
 - Head mounted cameras; Surgeons in OT
 - Expansion of RSQ Emergency Model





Summary. Mitigating the Tyranny of Distance; A Queensland Model



Statewide Integrated Retrieval and Trauma Systems

- Patient Focused & Best Practice
- Enabling equity of access; Standardised processes
- Credible, Supported & Understood
- Optimise regional support
- Embrace and champion the safe utilisation of technology
- Robust system governance

Efficient, Timely, Quality & Safe Patient Care





Questions/Comments





Retrieval Services & Counter Disaster Unit