

Hospital in the Home (HITH)

HITH is a clinical model where you receive hospital-level care and treatment at home, with a minimum daily visit from your healthcare team. This may include doctors, nurses, pharmacists and allied health professionals.

Services

HITH services include, but are not limited to:

- medical care (regular reviews and visits from doctors)
- nursing care (wound care, monitoring, medication administration)
- medication management
- diagnostic support (e.g. arranging blood tests or scans)
- allied health support (e.g. physiotherapy, occupational therapy, dietitian services)
- equipment provision (IV pumps, dressings, or mobility aids)
- interpreter services
- education and support
- remote monitoring equipment.

Locations

HITH is available throughout WA, with many hospitals across the State now offering it as an option. Services may vary slightly between hospitals, including the types of conditions treated.

For more details about HITH in regional and remote areas, visit the WA Country Health Service page.

wacountry.health.wa.gov.au/Our-services/Home-Hospital



Eligibility and suitability

To be eligible for HITH, you need to be able to safely receive treatment outside of a physical hospital setting, and must be medically stable. You should be capable of managing your care at home or have support from a carer or family member.

HITH is available to patients who are either currently admitted to hospital or are about to be admitted (e.g. in the emergency department or via your GP), and who meet the clinical criteria for home-based care. Some of the conditions HITH can care for include:

- infections requiring IV antibiotics
- respiratory conditions (e.g. pneumonia)
- cardiac conditions (e.g. heart failure)
- neurological conditions (e.g. mild strokes)
- post operative care
- complex wound care
- post surgical care

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Access and consent

Participation in HITH is completely voluntary. You can choose to receive treatment in a physical hospital if you prefer. If you're interested in receiving care through HITH, you can speak with your treating doctor. They will assess whether HITH is suitable for your condition and, if appropriate, refer you to the HITH team for further evaluation.

You can always speak with your treatment team about what options are best for you.



Carers

Before starting HITH care, we make sure that your condition can be cared for at home, that your home environment is safe, and that you have appropriate support. This includes confirming that a carer (who could be a usual carer, family member, partner, or friend) is both willing and able to assist. If your carer later finds the role more challenging than expected, you can return to in-hospital care, and social workers can help explore alternative support options.

Support may also be available to help you with non-clinical needs such as meals or personal care. These considerations are part of the discussion before someone is referred to HITH, to ensure the arrangement is safe and sustainable for everyone involved.

Quality and safety

Before being referred to HITH, you will be carefully assessed to ensure that safe, high-quality care can be delivered in your home environment. The HITH team consists of the same experienced healthcare professionals, such as the doctors, nurses and allied health staff, who work at the hospital. Your HITH team will bring the necessary equipment, medications, and expertise to support your treatment plan and monitor your progress, delivering care equivalent to what you would receive in a hospital setting.

HITH has the same escalation pathways as a hospital setting. If you have any concerns or issues with your care, you can contact the HITH team directly and at any time, using the number provided to you. HITH nurses work on a roster system, so you may see different staff members during your care. If you feel comfortable with a particular healthcare worker, you can also raise any concerns with them during their visit.

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Emergencies

To keep you safe at home, HITH gives you a 24/7 contact number you can call if you have concerns, or your condition worsens.

However, in the case of a medical emergency, you should always call emergency services on triple zero (000).

Tests

If you need additional tests while receiving HITH care, you may need to attend an appointment at the hospital or another clinic, such as a pathology collection service or imaging provider. In many cases, HITH nurses are able to collect blood samples during their visit to your home. Your HITH team will determine what is required and will take your transport arrangements into consideration.



Medication

While you are receiving HITH care, your medication will be managed by your HITH team. This includes any usual medication, and the medication required for your treatment. Management may occur through your usual pharmacy, and in some cases, medications will need to be stored in your home fridge.

Virtual care

Whether you'll use a monitoring device or have virtual visits depends on your individual treatment plan. If virtual care is part of your HITH experience, the team will make sure you have support and training before you begin and during in-person visits.

They'll help you learn how to use the device or join virtual calls, ensure you have a reliable internet connection, and assist with troubleshooting any issues. If anything goes wrong with any devices, you can phone the HITH team for help.

Other service providers

If you have other services visiting your home, be aware that some HITH visits may be scheduled by the hospital and timings may not be flexible. However, the team will do their best to consider any other services. Non-clinical support services, such as cleaning, meal delivery, or personal care, can continue while you're with HITH.

If you're receiving clinical services through other government-funded packages, the clinical team may need to temporarily pause these while you are receiving HITH care. However, they can resume once your HITH treatment ends.



Home environment

Before starting care, the HITH team will assess your home to make sure it is safe and suitable for your treatment. If needed, the team will provide you with any necessary equipment and may suggest simple changes to help support your care at home.

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Your GP

Contact your HITH team before arranging a GP visit. While you are under HITH care, you generally cannot see your GP directly due to Medicare billing restrictions. The HITH team may be able to provide the care you need, or liaise with your GP to ensure your treatment is coordinated appropriately.

Aboriginal cultural safety

We ensure HITH care is delivered with the same commitment to cultural safety as care provided in hospital. This includes following established guidelines for delivering culturally appropriate care to Aboriginal people. We consider your cultural needs and preferences as part of the initial HITH assessment, to make sure your care is respectful, inclusive, and tailored to your needs. Input and advice from Aboriginal Liaison Officers (ALOs) in the hospital's Aboriginal Medical Service will also support culturally appropriate decisions for your HITH care.



HITH for residential aged care homes

HITH is available in some residential aged care homes and other supported accommodation settings. Speak to your care team for more information on your options.

Benefits

Receiving care through HITH lets you recover in the comfort of your own surroundings, supported by family, carers, and even pets.

You'll have easier access to your hobbies, outdoor spaces, and visitors. You also get to enjoy your own food, use your own bathroom and kitchen, and avoid sharing spaces with strangers.

After HITH

Once your HITH care is complete, your local doctor or GP will take over your ongoing treatment and follow-up. Similar to leaving hospital, your GP will receive a detailed summary from the HITH team outlining the care you received and any recommended next steps, so they are fully informed and can continue supporting your recovery.

If your condition becomes worse or changes after leaving HITH, you should contact your GP or other healthcare provider first. They will assess your situation and, if needed, arrange a referral back into the hospital system. Whether you return to HITH or another form of care will depend on your needs at that time.

However, if you are experiencing an emergency, you should call triple zero (000) straight away.



Cost

HITH is part of the WA public health system – if you're eligible for free public hospital care in WA (as an Australian citizen, permanent resident, or eligible visa holder), there is no cost for HITH.