



HITH: Hospital In The Home

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Definition

Hospital in the Home (HITH) is defined as the range of service delivery models providing (acute and post-acute) care that is delivered in home (including Residential Aged Care Facilities), clinic or other settings as a substitution or avoidance of hospital.



Definition

Hospital in the Home (HITH) services provide acute, sub-acute and post-acute care to children and adults residing outside hospital, as a **substitution** or **prevention** of in-hospital care. The place of residence may be permanent or temporary.



Definition

- **Substitution** – The defining feature is that if the patient is not receiving the HITH service, the patient would require hospitalisation or a longer stay in hospital.
- **Prevention** – Care that does not immediately substitute for a hospital stay, however it is provided as a preventative option to avoid an imminent hospital admission or readmission.



Definition

- A person may receive their care at home (including Residential Aged Care Facilities) or in an ambulatory setting that may include a hospital, community clinic setting, school or workplace. HITH care is short-term and preferably interdisciplinary, including doctors, nurses and allied health practitioners.



KEY PRINCIPLES

- keeping people healthy and out of hospital
- local and system level strategic planning for growth of HITH to meet acute bed demand
- mandatory reporting and data collection framework
- consistency of evaluation
- leveraging of funding streams including Activity Based Funding



Where suitable, HITH services are made available to both children and adults with certain types of conditions, able to be treated outside of a hospital setting. HITH is proven to be as clinically effective as hospital care and delivers as good, if not better, health outcomes for patients in a familiar setting.



Hospital in the Home delivers equivalent or better outcomes, at better value compared with inpatient care for specific patient groups

In a recent extensive meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials comparing HITH and in-hospital care, Caplan et al⁹ showed unequivocally that HITH is safer and more efficient. The study analysed health outcomes, costs and patient and carer satisfaction, showing:

- A 19% reduction in mortality
- For every 50 patients treated in HITH,
- one life will be saved
- A 23% reduction in readmission to hospital
- HITH costs 26.5% less than in-hospital care
- High patient and carer satisfaction.



Patients and Carers

- ✓ Preferred by patients
- ✓ Able to recover in the comfort of own home
- ✓ Reduced risk of adverse events in hospital such as falls and infections
- ✓ Individualised care
- ✓ Patients and carers report high satisfaction with service
- ✓ Children feel less threatened in own environment/ greater parental in care promotes family centred care principles.



Hospital

- ✓ More efficient use of hospital beds for acutely ill patients
- ✓ Improved Emergency Access Performance
- ✓ Reduced length of stay in hospital
- ✓ Reduced adverse events from hospital admission
- ✓ Increased staff satisfaction
- ✓ Better value
- ✓ Opportunity to leverage Activity Based Funding.



General Practice (GP)

- ✓ Improved, co-ordinated interaction with a specialised hospital service
- ✓ Appropriate care for patients in the comfort of their own home
- ✓ GPs manage patients in their own environment.



Patient Eligibility Criteria

These criteria must be satisfied to be eligible for Hospital in the Home:

- Presence of an acute, subacute or post-acute condition
- HITH service can safely provide the required patient care which meets evidence based guidelines.
- Patients must be medically stable and not require high clinical support (multi-morbid patients with complex needs are eligible)
- Medical responsibility established and agreed based on HITH Principles
- Patient resides permanently or temporarily in catchment area
- Agreement of the patient or substitute decision maker to receive HITH n Adequacy of the home environment to provide the needs of daily living
- Safety of staff in the home is assured
- Access to a reliable mobile or landline telephone



Hospital in the Home Principles

General

The following principles underpin the delivery of HITH care in:

- **Person-centred**, continuing, comprehensive and interdisciplinary care
- Ease of **access** to the service by those who need it
- **Voluntary** patient participation
- **Cost neutral to patient** and carers - as a result of receiving HITH care, a Medicare eligible person should not incur costs in addition to those they would have if receiving care in hospital
- **Full involvement of patients** and carers through taking an active role in care planning and treatment, sharing responsibility for their own care with the HITH team
- **Time-limited** care with rapid response and transfer of care
- **24/7 Emergency Response** – processes for 24 hour, 7 day per week, emergency response
- High quality, safe care administered by appropriately skilled workforce.



Overview

The approach to describing HITH service delivery models has been to firstly identify defining elements that differentiate one model from the others:

- Patient care need
- Clinical management
- Care setting.
- Secondly, elements supporting operation and data processes have been identified that are consistent to all HITH models – operations, safety and quality, outcome measurement and integration.



Overview



