



General Information for Health and Community Service Providers

About Hospital in the Home (HITH)

HITH is a joint initiative of the Community Rapid Response Service (ComRRS) and the General Medical Unit at the Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH). The HITH ward will open on Monday 20th April 2020 starting at 4 beds increasing to 12 beds by 1 July 2020. It is a trial project running until 30 June 2021.

RHH HITH is a virtual ward that provides acute care for adult RHH inpatients that would otherwise be provided in hospital. It includes people residing in residential aged care facilities. The care required must be safe and practical to deliver at home. It excludes people who require post-surgical or pregnancy related care. Private patients are eligible however not all health funds provide cover for HITH.

Patients can be admitted and transferred to HITH from the ED or transferred to HITH during an admission to another medical ward. Patients must be referred by a medical consultant who identifies that the admitted patient care required is suitable to be delivered in the patient's home.

Eligibility

- Meet the criteria of an admitted patient (require acute care management and intervention)
- 18 years or older
- Be clinically stable
- Consent to receiving their acute care at home
- Should not be suitable for non-admitted care alternatives (e.g. ComRRS, Outpatient Parental Antimicrobial Therapy, Specialist Palliative Care, Ambulatory Care Centre, Community Nursing, Primary Care)
- Live in a 30-minute radius of the Glenorchy Health Centre
- Have a place of residence that is safe (for patient and staff), accessible for emergency care and with adequate communication facilities and access to transportation.

How the HITH Team works

- The HITH team works from the RHH and Glenorchy Health Centre (GHC). Care is provided in the patient's home and at clinics at the GHC or at the RHH
- The HITH team includes nurses, a hospital doctor and pharmacist with allied health referrals as required.
- Nursing staff (nurse practitioners & nurses) provide care seven days a week between 8am to 10pm with the HITH medical consultant available 8am-5pm, Monday – Friday and on call out of hours
- HITH patients call 000 in any emergency. For other concerns or questions, they contact the HITH 24-hour number (03 6166 6307) which is diverted to the Clinical Manager in the RHH Access & Patient Flow Unit between 10pm and 8am.

Contact Us

HITH 24-hour number: 03 6166 6307

HITH Referrals: 0474 933 172 (Inpatient units only, 08:00 – 16:30)

HITH Consultant: Call RHH Hospital Switch (Callers Outside THS: 03 6166 8308)

Email: hith.rhh@ths.tas.gov.au

Fax: 03 61730832

HITH Project Manager: 03 6166 6215



Key Points for General Practitioners

What you can expect from HITH

- GP's will receive electronic communication notification of their patient's admission to HITH when the patient is transferred to the HITH ward.
- HITH patients are admitted hospital inpatients and should have no claims raised against the Medical Benefits Schedule or Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). Public patients should not incur any costs related to their hospital care.
- The HITH team will contact the GP for patient's with complex care needs to discuss the care plan
- HITH manages all patient medications while admitted to the HITH ward. Medications may be self-administered or administered by HITH nursing staff.
- HITH nurse practitioners will coordinate discharge and clinical handover to the GP.
- GPs will receive an electronic copy of the hospital discharge summary on discharge from HITH.

GP role

- As for all hospital inpatients, it is the responsibility of the HITH team to make all clinical decisions and deliver all care including prescribing and managing medication.
- If patients contact or present to you while a HITH patient please contact, or ask the patient to contact, the HITH team 24-hour number 03 6166 6307 to discuss the care requested/required and how the patient's concerns or needs can best be met.

Community Rapid Response Service (ComRRS) role

Many GPs are familiar with the ComRRS which provides health care for people at risk of hospital admission in partnership with their General Practitioner. The ComRRS nursing team has been expanded to also provide nursing care for Hospital in the Home patients. The difference between ComRRS patients and HITH patients is described in the table below.

	ComRRS patients	HITH patients
Care type	Primary care	Hospital inpatient
Responsibility for clinical decisions and management	General Practitioner	HITH Consultant
Team contact numbers	6166 5403	6166 6307
After hours emergency support	GP Assist	RHH Access & Patient Flow Unit

Feedback

We welcome feedback about the service. You can contact the service directly on 03 6166 6307, the Project Manager on 03 6166 6215 or the Consumer Liaison Service directly on 1800 811 911.