

## General Information for General Practitioners and Community Service providers

### About Hospital in the Home:

Hospital in the Home - North (HITH-N) is a virtual ward launching in Northern Tasmania on 30 April 2024 that provides acute hospital care for appropriate adult inpatients in their primary residence that would otherwise be provided as an admitted patient.

Patients can be admitted and transferred to HITH-N from the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) Emergency Department or transferred to HITH-N during an admission to another medical ward. Patients must be referred by a clinician who identifies that the patient meets the service's eligibility criteria, and the admitted patient care can be delivered safely in the patient's home.

### Eligibility criteria:

Eligible patients must:

- meet the criteria of an admitted patient requiring care that can practically and safely be delivered in their home.
- be clinically stable.
- have appropriate support to be managed safely at home.
- Be aged 18-years or older.
- consent to receiving their care at home.
- should not be suitable for non-admitted care alternatives offered by Hospitals North
- live in a 30-minute radius of the LGH.
- Have a place of residence that is safe (for patient and staff), accessible for emergency care and have adequate communication facilities and access to transportation.

The service will be constantly evaluated which will inform and dictate future expansion.

### How the HITH-N team works:

The HITH-N team works from the LGH, providing care in the patient's primary residence or a community facility.

HITH-N care is delivered by an interdisciplinary team comprising Nursing, Allied Health, Medical and Pharmacy professionals. Each discipline in line with clinical standards is rostered to provide care between 0730 and 2200 hours. HITH-N patients are advised on admission to call 000 in an emergency. They may also contact the HITH-N service directly on the 24-hour contact number listed below if they feel unwell, they have new or changing symptoms or if they have concerns or questions regarding their care.

# Hospital In The Home

## What you can expect from HITH-N:

General Practitioner's (GPs) will receive electronic communication notification via the Healthcare Clinical Suite (HCS) of their patient's admission to HITH-N when the patient is transferred to the HITH-N ward.

HITH-N patients are admitted hospital inpatients and should have no claims raised against the Medical Benefits Schedule or Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Public patients should not incur any costs related to their hospital care.

The HITH-N team will contact the GP for patients with complex care needs to discuss the care plan.

HITH-N manages all patient medications while admitted to HITH-N. Medications may be self-administered or administered by HITH-N nursing staff.

A discharge summary is completed in HCS with a copy provided to the GP within 48-hours. The summary includes information regarding the whole episode of inpatient care (not just the care received whilst in HITH-N).

On discharge, a handover will be provided to the patient's GP and any other identified recipients.

## GP role:

As for all hospital inpatients, it is the responsibility of the HITH-N team to make all clinical decisions and deliver all care including prescribing and managing medication.

If patients contact or present to GPs while a HITH-N patient, please contact / ask the patient to contact the HITH-N team 24-hour number listed below to resolve their query.

## Contact Us:

HITH-N 24-hour number: 1800 317 511\*

HITH-N email: [hospitalinthehomenorth@ths.tas.gov.au](mailto:hospitalinthehomenorth@ths.tas.gov.au)\*

*\*Please note the 24-hour number and email address will be available from when the service begins accepting referrals, from 1 May 2024.*