

## What is hospital in the home?

Hospital in the home (HITH) offers selected patients the opportunity to receive acute care hospital services in their own home environment. HITH patients remain under the care of Bendigo Health and their respective medical team and are a patient of Bendigo Health while in the program.

HITH may commence as a direct admission from the Emergency Department, Outpatient's Department or general practitioner's clinic. Patients already in hospital may be transferred to HITH if the treating doctor thinks appropriate, the patient meets the criteria and agrees to participate.

Registered nurses deliver clinical care in collaboration with your doctor. Staff will be wearing a Bendigo Health identification badge when attending you at home.

## Benefits of HITH

- Provides quality care in a familiar, comfortable and private environment
- Less disruptive to lifestyle and allows return to normal activities as appropriate
- Less risk of infection
- Allows you to make decisions about your health and lifestyle and provides the opportunity for you to make these choices with informed support from caring health professionals
- Eliminates the need for separation from your family and friends.

## Consent

Your consent must be obtained prior to being admitted to the HITH program. Children under 18 years of age will require consent from their parent/legal guardian. A doctor or nurse will provide a detailed explanation of the program and your specific plan of care including:

- Your individualised care plan at home as directed by your treating doctor
- Planned length of stay on the program
- Organise a mutually convenient time for home visits and when they will begin
- Schedule medical reviews
- Develop an emergency plan
- Discuss discharge plan and determine and organise other services if required.

## Support Person/Carer

The role of your support person or carer is highly valued in assisting you in your recovery. In most cases, the HITH team will not admit you without one. This depends on individual conditions and circumstances. The decision rests with the treating doctor and HITH team.

Support persons are requested to notify the HITH team if they have any concerns about you.

## What are your rights?

As a patient you have the right to:

- Be informed of your medical condition and all medical and nursing interventions
- Take part in the development of your individual care plan
- Receive quality care from nursing, medical and allied health staff
- Have access to health care professionals on a 24-hour basis
- Have support from a carer of your choice
- Be informed and consulted about your progress and any changes to the plan
- Be assisted and supported in developing skills regarding management of your condition
- Be treated in a way that is respectful of your culture, religion, gender, age and privacy
- Be entitled to refuse treatment
- Have access to cultural liaison officers or interpreters as necessary
- Be medically reviewed while in the program if your condition requires it.



# HITH PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

## YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IS TO:

- Comply with the care plan that has been developed for you
- Promptly inform HITH staff of any change in your condition
- Ensure your home environment is safe for you, your carer and HITH staff
- Ensure your telephone is connected and in working order
- Ensure you are available for nursing/medical assessment or treatment at the nominated residence and times
- Ensure you provide a clean flat surface, approximate kitchen table height to assist HITH staff in administering treatment
- Remain in the Bendigo area whilst on the HITH program
- Ensure all hospital supplies and equipment are treated with care and stored as instructed
- Understand HITH services can be withdrawn if staff feel that the home environment poses any form of risk to you, your carer or HITH staff
- Understand you may be requested to return to hospital if your condition deteriorates.

# HOSPITAL IN THE HOME

SEVEN DAYS PER WEEK  
7am-9pm

PH: 0418 30 0 681

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

As a patient or carer on the HITH program you need to be familiar with HITH emergency procedures. The nurse or doctor will provide you with information regarding your specific condition and changes that may require emergency intervention.

If you believe the situation is life threatening dial 000



# HOSPITAL IN THE HOME (HITH)

Providing excellence to the community in acute care

