

8. Hospital in the Home

Hospital in the Home (HITH) is the provision of acute or mental health overnight/multiday 'admitted care' provided in the patient's home or usual place of residence as a substitute for hospital accommodation.

Models of care that are an alternative to inpatient care do not automatically qualify for HITH. Health services establishing or planning new HITH services, must contact the Department of Health for directions on recording of activity via Morbidity.Data@health.wa.gov.au.

If the care being provided to the patient would not otherwise require in-hospital admission, then provision of that care in the patient's home does not qualify for HITH and cannot be recorded as admitted care activity. For example, post-acute and community outreach care.

HITH care may sometimes initiate from a direct referral as a substitute for an inpatient hospital admission or to facilitate early discharge with continuation of admitted care in the patient's residence.

Private patients must not be discharged and then readmitted as public HITH patients⁸. A HITH day is deemed to have occurred when the patient has stayed in hospital past midnight. If a patient is discharged from a HITH before midnight, then that day will be not be counted towards the overall HITH length of stay.

Home births may be recorded as eligible HITH admissions when provided under an approved home birth program and in accordance with the [MP 0141/20 Public Home Birth Program Policy](#).

8.1 Admission criteria

A HITH admission is governed by the same rules that apply to in-hospital admitted activity and must:

- meet the [definition of admitted activity](#)
- [qualify for admission](#) and
- meet the admission criteria for the applicable [admission category](#) and [care type](#)

HITH care is the equivalent of admitted care services provided by hospital based medical practitioners or nursing staff in the patient's usual place of residence.

8.1.1 Exclusions

A HITH admission must not be recorded for:

- same day care (with the exception of home births)
- care not provided in the patient's residence
- telehealth only (non-admitted) care
- the purpose of referral and assessment only, without provision of ongoing HITH care
- care provided entirely by non-hospital based clinicians or external providers.

⁸ See Section 4.3 [WA Health Fees and Charges Manual](#).

