

Clinician information

What is Hospital at Home?

Hospital at Home, sometimes known as a virtual ward, is an innovative new service which enables the same provision of expert care and treatment patients would expect in a hospital with all the comfort of home. We know patients who are supported through an acute illness recover more quickly in their own homes, with less chance of; deconditioning, falls and hospital acquired infection, and more chance of staying connected to their communities and carers.

Across Greater Manchester, we have done extensive work with patient groups and carers. They have told us they found going to hospital, or caring for someone who is in hospital, stressful, frightening or just inconvenient. This service provides monitoring and treatment to support patients to remain at home safely.

Who is it for?

Across Greater Manchester we have two established pathways – frailty and acute respiratory infection – and are developing more during 2023, namely:

- Atrial fibrillation
- Heart failure
- End of life / palliative care

Your local service may also have a number of other pathways that have been agreed.

What are the eligibility criteria?

Admission criteria for early supported discharge or admission avoidance have been developed for frailty and respiratory by expert clinicians in Greater Manchester to reflect the needs of the local population. The criteria considers their suitability clinically and socially, as well as a patient's preference for where their care should take place, their home environment and support, whether they feel confident to use any extra equipment or technology, and whether they are happy to have care transferred to home.



Find out more:
gmhospitalathome.co.uk

How do I refer?

Local policies and procedures are being developed. The local information about your service is below.

Contact details:

Further information about referral:

What happens when I refer to the service?

When you refer into the service, the team will have an initial conversation with you or one of the care team to establish if the person is suitable and what support they might need. If it is agreed the person is suitable for the service, the team will speak directly to the patient, their carer, family or whoever else they want to be involved. The patient will be provided with a named contact as well as all the necessary monitoring equipment.

What can I tell my patients about the service?

Hospital at Home is a way of clinical teams treating and supporting patients with acute illness, but enabling them to recover at home. They will receive regular contact and have someone to call at any time if they are worried or need further support. They will be able to access and receive the same level of care as if they were on a hospital ward. Information for patients can be found online: gmhospitalathome.co.uk

Can we refer someone back to hospital if their suitability changes?

Yes. This service allows consistent monitoring to monitor a patient's recovery and allows for further intervention if and when it is needed. If it is felt admission to hospital is required for whatever reason, that will be arranged.