



AT THE FOREFRONT
**UChicago
Medicine**

Hospital at Home



Hospital at Home gives you a choice about where to heal

Hospital at Home brings hospital-quality care to the comfort of your home. Patients get hospital treatments and services from a care team trained to give care at home. This means patients are treated by nurses and doctors each day. You get medication, food, and most labs and blood tests in the comfort of your home.

Why Hospital at Home?

Hospital at Home is not a new program. There are hospitals around the United States that already offer it. We have learned that patients in Hospital at Home do better. They have shorter hospital stays and less medical problems. Patients also report feeling less stressed and more comfortable being in their own home.

The University of Chicago Medicine is proud to bring Hospital at Home to Chicago residents and communities.

Hospital care in the comfort of your home

Overview of Hospital at Home

How does Hospital at Home work?

1 You agree to move your hospital care to your home



Tell your nurse you want to have Hospital at Home. Be ready to name your caregiver. You will sign a consent form.

2 We prepare you to go home



Your healthcare team will make a plan to move your care to your home. This includes sending any medical equipment or medication you need.

Before you go home, a member of your healthcare team will:

- Show you how to use the Hospital at Home tablet and monitoring equipment.
- Talk with you about your medications.
- Go over anything you need to do each day to help your healing.

Medical transport will take you home. Your caregiver will need to be home to let you and the transport team in.

It may take between 4 and 24 hours before you are home.

3 You get your care in the comfort of your home



You will have home visits with a nurse 2 times a day. You will have an online visit with your doctor 1 time each day until you complete your Hospital at Home stay. If you need tests or other kinds of care, such as physical therapy, you will get this in the comfort of your home.

Patient care in the Hospital



A hospital nurse visits a patient in their room as needed or when a patient rings the call button.



A doctor visits a patient in their room each day.



Medications are delivered each day to a patient's room.



Meals are delivered to a patient's room. Meals are ready to eat.



Health equipment is connected to the hospital room. Patients have a bedside call button to call a nurse.



Patient care in Hospital at Home



A specially-trained nurse visits the patient's home 2 times per day for 30 to 45 minutes each time.

A doctor visits a patient online each day. Visits use an iPad-like tablet sent home with the patient.

Medications are delivered each day to a patient's home.

Meals are delivered to a patient's home. Meals can be heated and eaten when the patient wants.

Health equipment connects to the Hospital at Home tablet. Patients can use the call button on the tablet to talk to a nurse any time day or night.

For caregivers

To be in Hospital at Home, each patient must have a caregiver who is able to stay in the home most of the time. A caregiver can be a friend, family member or someone hired who helps with non-medical care.

What a caregiver must do:

Patient safety is important. Here is a daily checklist that will keep your patient safe:

Be there for the patient

- Stay in the patient's home for most of the day and all of the night. It is ok to leave to get groceries, walk the dog and other tasks. If you must be away for more than 1 hour, make sure someone else can be with the patient.
- Contact the Hospital at Home nurse if your patient has any changes.

Create a safe space for the patient

- Keep walking paths clear in the home.
- If your patient is using oxygen, make sure there is no smoking or vaping in the home.

Manage care items

- Let in the Hospital at Home nurse.
- Accept food and medication deliveries.
- Call if medications or food do not arrive.
- Make sure meals are served.
- Check that medications are within reach and are being taken.
- Make sure the Hospital at Home tablet is plugged in.
- If asked by the doctor, take vital signs using the Hospital at Home equipment.

Patient care at home

Are there benefits to Hospital at Home?

UChicago Medicine has learned from other Hospital at Home programs. There is strong evidence that patients in these programs do better and feel better. For example, patients in Hospital at Home:

- Are less likely to get infections from being in the hospital.
- Are less likely to go back to the Emergency Department after Hospital at Home.
- Get better sleep at home.
- Report less stress and more comfort while in their own homes.
- Walk more at home. This helps patients keep their strength and heal faster when Hospital at Home is over.
- Have no extra costs for getting their care at home. There may still be a Room and Board charge on the bill. But this is the cost of nurses and equipment. It is the same for patients at home or in the hospital.

Who are the nurses that come to my home?

All our Hospital at Home nurses are specially trained to give both hospital and home health care. Each nurse has at least 2 years experience in both settings. Hospital at Home nurses are experienced in giving IV medications and fluids, drawing blood, wound care, medical-surgical nursing and critical care nursing.

Point your phone camera at this QR code to watch a video about Hospital at Home.



Frequently asked questions

Who can get Hospital at Home?

You can get Hospital at Home care if:

1. Your hospital doctor agrees you are right for the program.
2. You have a partner, family member or caregiver who can stay with you.
3. You live within a 30 minute ambulance ride from UChicago Medicine.
4. Your home has lights, heat and water.
5. Your insurance covers Hospital at Home.

What if my condition gets worse when I'm at home?

Press the virtual call button on the Hospital at Home tablet. This call button will connect you to a nurse any time day or night. If needed, the nurse will contact the Hospital at Home doctor. Your doctor may suggest returning to the hospital for care.

What if I change my mind?

If at any time you feel having your care at home is no longer right for you, you can ask to go back to the hospital.

For caregivers

What if I cannot always be with my patient?

Caregivers are expected to stay with their patient during most of the day and overnight. If you need to leave for longer than 1 hour, make sure someone else can stay in the home during that time. Share the Hospital at Home information folder with that person.

What if I have questions when I'm caring for my patient?

You can press the virtual call button on the Hospital at Home tablet. It will connect you with a nurse anytime day or night.