

SPRING 2022

Hospital at Home



Hospital at Home began in 2012 as an ACHF-funded pilot project under the umbrella of “Improving the Cancer Experience” in the Childhood Cancer Collaborative campaign. This first of its kind program in Canada provides in-home treatment and care for children and teens diagnosed with cancer, blood and immunology disorders.

Hospital at Home supports patients and their families by:

- reducing time spent in hospital
- decreasing the burden that comes with hospitalization
- normalizing day to day life for patients and their families
- optimizing physical and psychosocial resilience in patients
- building confidence and competence in families to care for their child at home

A 2016 social return on investment analysis found that every dollar invested in Hospital at Home creates a return of \$2.48 in social and economic value.

“Hospital at Home has made a very difficult time in our family so much easier to bear and we are so grateful.”

– Tanya, Nyah's mom

The need

As compared to 5 years ago, there have been significant increases in the need and complexity of Hematology, Oncology, and Immunology patients at the Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH).

- ~ 40% increase in BMT patients
- ~ 56% increase in Immunology patients
- ~ 25% increase in Hemoglobinopathy patients
- ~ 30% increase in newly diagnosed oncology patients

As this patient population continues to grow, and more treatments become approved to be administered in the home, programs like Hospital at Home offer an innovative way of managing inpatient and day clinic admissions.

Currently, Hospital at Home nurses sees 3-4 patients per day at home, 5 days per week. Data indicates there are approximately 100 more eligible patients annually who could not receive service from Hospital at Home due to capacity limitations in the program. Furthermore, out of town patients and patients requiring blood products are currently exempt, making up an additional 100 unique patients annually. The proposed expansion of Hospital at Home services – including two new pilot programs – will ensure that all qualified patients and families can benefit from this supportive program.



The opportunity

The ACHF is currently considering a request to expand Hospital at Home services and to pilot two new sub-programs to better serve patients and families.

Hospital at Home expansion

The team is requesting support to increase Hospital at Home human resource capacity to:

- Expand the number of appointments from 3-4 per day to 6-8 per day. This will add 520 appointments per year, meaning all eligible patients should be accommodated.
- Enable early discharge from the unit (estimated 3 new patients a year, which could save 10 days of admission per patient annually)
- Offer infusion of the conditioning chemotherapy in day clinic and discharge patients home the same day. The program will provide support to patients and families with daily nurse visits for 2 weeks (estimated 6 new patients a year requiring no inpatient admission and saving 36 admission days annually)