

You might be able to receive your hospital care in your home with the support of a hospital-based healthcare team through an Alberta Health Services' Virtual Home Hospital.

What is a Virtual Home Hospital?

Virtual Home Hospitals allow eligible patients who need care that is typically given in a hospital to receive it from the comfort of their own home or other safe location they choose to receive care.

We do this by using virtual care technologies and community partnerships.

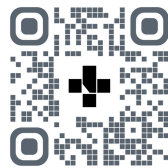
Becoming a patient

The first step is a referral from a doctor or nurse practitioner involved in your care. This might happen while you're already in the hospital or emergency department, or it might happen from a community clinic, like your family doctor's office.

Before you're admitted to a Virtual Home Hospital, we'll make sure your health condition can be safely managed from home and that you have the right supports in place.

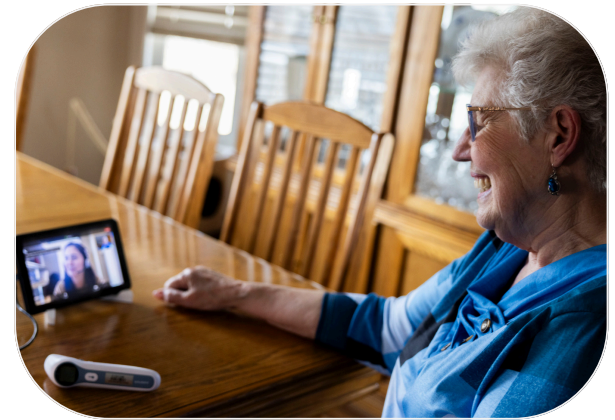
You can learn more about how we can support your care at ahs.ca/vhh.

Important Notes



For more information and resources for patients and caregivers, scan the QR code or visit ahs.ca/vhh

Virtual Home Hospital



Learn how we might be able to support your hospital care at home.



Virtual Home Hospital

Your questions, answered

Who is on my healthcare team?

The healthcare team includes doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, community paramedics and other medical specialists or healthcare providers you might need, as well as community providers like Home and Community Care.

If you have a family doctor, they'll be updated about your care. If you have family or caregivers supporting you, we'll show them how they can help. You are also an important part of the team.

What kind of care will I receive?

We'll work with you to set up a plan based on your specific needs. This will include:

- Regular check-in visits, by phone, video calls or in person at the Virtual Home Hospital site, if needed.
 - In-home care you might need is provided by our community paramedics or other community partners.
- Medicine management, including intravenous (I.V.) fluid, if needed.
- Information to help you understand and manage your medical condition and treatment plan.
- Lab work, medical tests and other procedures, if you need them.

How will I receive care?

You'll be cared for through virtual care technologies, like phone or video calls. You might need to come to our location if we need to see you in person.

You'll get a kit of digital devices that allows us to monitor your health remotely. This includes a blood pressure cuff, pulse oximeter and heart rate monitor (measures your oxygen level and heart rate), weigh scale and thermometer. We'll show you how to use these devices.

If you need hands-on care in your home, it will be provided with your consent by our community paramedics, with community partners like Home & Community Care.

Some patients need more hands-on care in their home, while others can have most of their care managed through virtual visits.

Are there benefits to this kind of care?

Yes. Many patients have told us they were highly satisfied with their Virtual Home Hospital care. They also liked having more mobility and independence.

You'll safely receive the care you need while sleeping in your own bed, eating your own food and having your own things around you. Receiving care at home also lowers your risk of complications, such as catching a virus from another patient.



Is Virtual Home Hospital safe?

Yes. Virtual Home Hospitals have been safely providing care in Alberta since 2018, and around the world for much longer. We have safety protocols in place to make sure you and your caregivers can contact your care team or get help when you need it.

What happens if my health changes?

Let us know if your health changes between visits. You'll be given our contact information so you can reach us. If it's not an emergency, we'll work with you to help manage your condition at home. If you need more care, you might need to go to the hospital.

Will I still receive high quality care?

Yes. Many past patients said they believed the quality of care in a Virtual Home Hospital was "the same" or "better" as that of a physical hospital.