

Can hospital at home avoid hospital admittance?

Clinical Question	Is it effective and safe to manage patients with hospital at home compared to inpatient hospital care?
Bottom Line	Admission avoidance hospital at home makes little or no difference to risk of death at six months' follow-up and to readmission to hospital after discharge from hospital at home or inpatient care within 3 to 12 months. Hospital at home reduces the likelihood of relocating from home to residential care at six months and it increases patient satisfaction. Hospital at home can be less costly than in-hospital care and reduces demand for in-patient beds.
Caveat	Increased satisfaction reported by patients must be balanced against the potential burden on caregivers. Hospital at home was also not a complete substitute for hospital, as hospital admission must remain an option if required. The success of hospital at home also rests on the level of primary care in a country, and the enthusiasm of local clinicians and healthcare managers. Some of these studies ran hospital at home as an outreach program from hospital, others ran it by supplementing existing primary care services.
Context	Admission avoidance hospital at home provides active treatment by healthcare professionals in the patient's home. This should be for a condition that would otherwise require acute hospital inpatient care for a limited time. Possible benefits of these services include releasing hospital beds, reducing the risk of adverse events associated with time in hospital, loss of independence and improved patient satisfaction and communication.
Cochrane Systematic Review	Edgar K, Iliffe S, Doll HA, Clarke MJ, Gonçalves-Bradley DC, Wong E, Shepperd S. Admission avoidance hospital at home. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2024, Issue 3. Art. No.: CD007491. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD007491.pub3. This review contains 20 trials with a total of 3,100 participants.

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Systematic review link:

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD007491.pub3/full>