

Gastric aspirates

Hospital-in-the-Home (HITH) can facilitate the collection of early morning gastric aspirates required for the investigation of tuberculosis. As with any other HITH admission, this requires a safe home environment and consent from caregivers.

HITH (Wallaby) admission criteria and protocol

Wallaby not appropriate

 Does not have a nasogastric tube (NGT) and would need sedation for insertion Insert NGT under sedation as inpatient or Day Med

Wallaby possible

- NGT not in situ
- Lives > 60km from RCH
- International patients: need to be approved PRIOR to transfer to HITH

Contact HITH fellow on 52784, or HITH AUM on 52598

Wallaby appropriate

- Requiring gastric aspirates or physiotherapy induced sputum for TB investigation
- Referred from RCH inpatient or outpatient clinic & has appropriate follow up in place

Contact HITH AUM on 52598. Complete EMR HITH referral

Prior to family leaving hospital/clinic:

- **If sedation required to place NG tube, this should be done in hospital** (usually via day med or nurse led clinic if coming from clinic)
- HITH CNC/AUM will review family
- HITH order set on EPIC completed:
 - o Referral to HITH admit under HITH bedcard unless referred from an inpatient team
 - EMR 'Transfer order reconciliation'
- Pathology requests ordered
 - o x3 Mycobacterial microscopy, culture and sensitivities
 - o x1 Mycobacterium tuberculosis nucleic acid detection
- Clear documentation of follow up plan, & appropriate referrals in place
- NOTE: Referring clinician is responsible for follow up of results
- Family advised that patient to fast (no food or drink) overnight prior to collection



HITH protocol - nursing and medical

Home team medical responsibilities

Clearly document, book and communicate plan Order and review pathology results Overall medical responsibility for patient

HITH medical care requirements

Bi-weekly case conference to review patient progress

Wallaby care requirements

Nursing staff to collect gastric aspirate sample for 3 consecutive days

- To be collected FIRST visit (early morning visit scheduled)
- Patient to fast (no food or drink for 6 hours) and to remain lying down prior to collection NG tube can either be inserted each day or remain *in situ* depending on patient/family preference and tolerance.

Potential issues

Nasogastric tube dislodged - HITH team to facilitate replacement of NG tube Unable to obtain gastric aspirate as patient not fasted – extend HITH admission by 1 day Unable to obtain gastric aspirates due to patient non-compliance/behavioural issues – notify referrer; discharge from HITH

Readmission

Not required

Discharge plan

Discharge once 3 gastric aspirates collected successfully Follow up as arranged prior to admission