

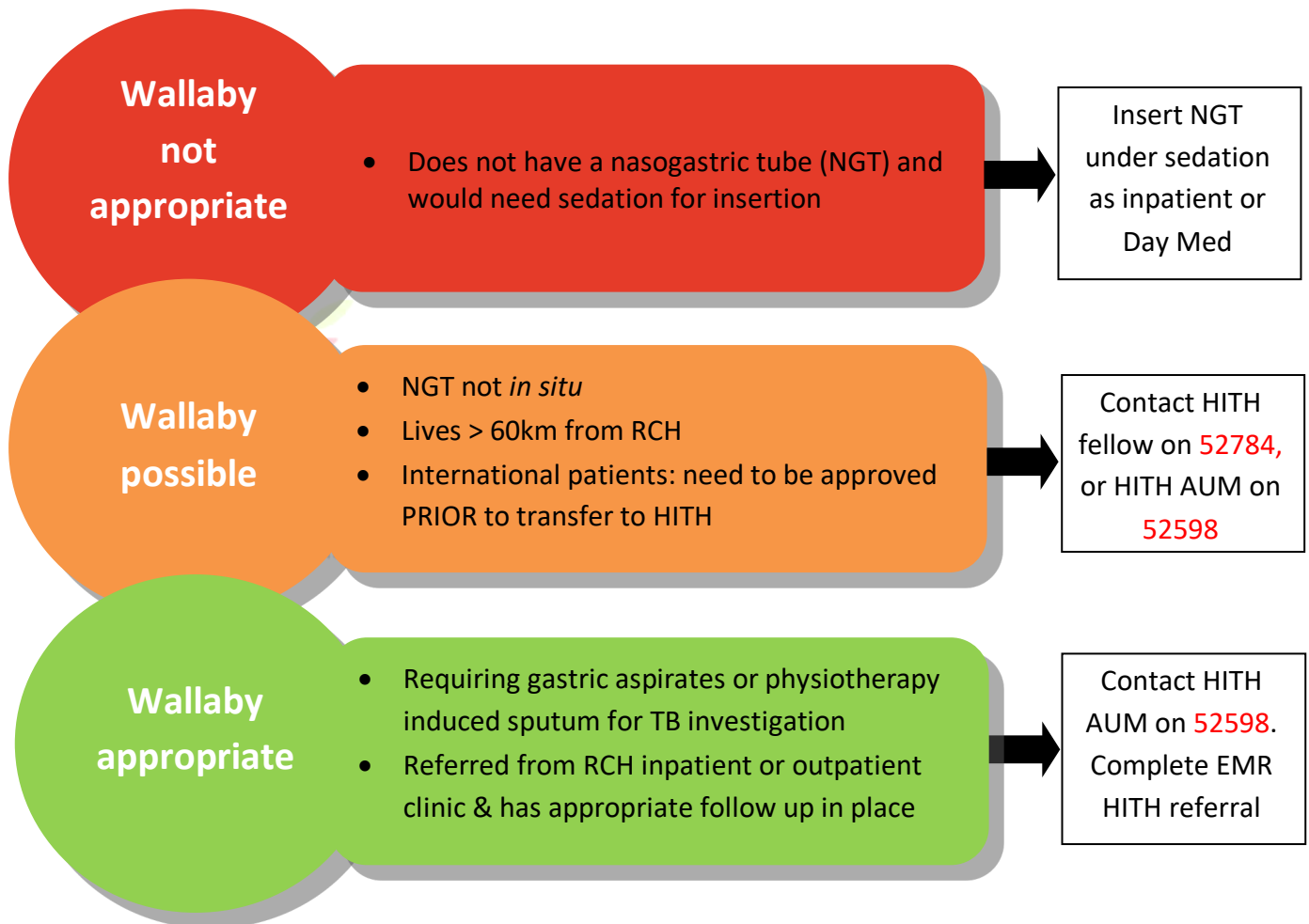


# Gastric aspirates



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



### 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
  - o 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