



Hospice Waikato has an 11-bed Inpatient Unit (IPU) at the Gallagher Family Hospice on Cobham Drive in Hamilton.

Patients can be admitted for complex symptom management, respite care, and end-of-life care.



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Inpatient Unit

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Hospice Waikato's Inpatient Unit

Care provided in our Inpatient Unit is different to treatment provided in an acute hospital. Our focus is on managing symptoms and improving quality of life, rather than interventions.

Our team includes specialist palliative care nurses and doctors and is determined by your needs. Patients also have access to the wider Hospice team which includes social workers, counsellors, a spiritual care coordinator, and massage therapists.

Our team is committed to providing holistic care and respecting your cultural and spiritual needs.

Our skilled professionals provide clinical support with care and compassion. Time spent identifying the needs of you and your family will help ensure that your treatment and care is the best possible. This approach is central to our philosophy.

Our rooms are private and spacious, each with its own en suite, TV, and outdoor area. Lounge areas with kitchenettes are available for use by patients, family/whānau and friends.

The length of your stay is decided on an individual basis with most patients returning to their own homes. Our

Inpatient Unit does not provide long-term care.

How can I be referred to the IPU?

Hospice patients may be referred to the IPU by their general practitioner, specialist doctor or community nurse. Requests for admission are individually assessed.

Reasons for admission

You may be admitted for:

- Symptom management – review and control of troublesome symptoms.
- Respite care – a planned, pre-booked admission to allow time-out for patients, carers and family members. Admission, though booked, cannot be automatically assumed and is dependent on bed availability and will be prioritised according to patient need.
- Care in the final days of life. In some situations, care at home is no longer possible and it may be more suitable for a patient to spend their last days in the care of Hospice Waikato Inpatient Unit. This is decided in full discussion with the patient, family/whānau and community team including the GP.

Most admissions to the Inpatient Unit are planned in advance and can usually be arranged within a few days.

My inpatient stay has been arranged. What do I need to do?

- Pack a bag with some comfortable casual clothing as well as your nightwear and dressing gown.
- Please bring your own medications.
- Don't forget your toiletries.
- Bring continence products if you are using them.
- You are welcome to bring family photos and mementos but please don't bring valuables.

■ All bedding and linen is supplied but you are welcome to bring a favourite pillow, quilt or similar.

■ Cell phones and wireless laptops can be used in the Inpatient Unit at your own risk.

How much will it cost me to stay?

It will not cost you anything to stay in our facility. However you may be charged for certain drugs that are not funded. Hospice Waikato does not meet the cost of transfer by ambulance to and from the Inpatient Unit and your home.

Visitors

Our main visiting time is between 10am and 5pm, however visiting hours are flexible as long as visitors are considerate of other patients. This may mean that staff will ask you to restrict visitors at certain times. Family staying overnight is limited to two people due to space and security.

Please remember that Hospice Waikato site is a smoke-free environment.

