



Virtual Hospital/ Homebound Services

Hospital Homebound Frequently Asked Questions

The following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are provided to assist with questions regarding Hospital/Homebound (HHB) services. The answers supplied are general in nature and may vary depending upon other facts involved in an individual case. Please contact the HHB Contact, if you have additional questions.

1. What is the purpose of Hospital/Homebound (HHB) instruction?

The purpose of Hospital/Homebound (HHB) instruction is to sustain continuity of instruction for students who maybe absent from school for medical or psychiatric reasons for a minimum of ten consecutive school days per year or intermittent periods of time for a minimum of ten days per year and to facilitate the student's return to school.

2. Can I request homebound services for a child having mental health issues?

Yes. Students with absences due to psychiatric and/or emotional disorders as defined in the latest edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) are eligible for HHB services for a length of time as determined by the Educational Service Plan (ESP) provided that they satisfy the eligibility requirements as set forth in the Georgia State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.31
Hospital/Homebound (HHB) Services including medical documentation from a psychiatrist.

3. How do parents request HHB services?

Parent/Guardian or student contacts a GACA staff member to discuss the need for Virtual Hospital/Homebound services due to circumstances that lead to extended absence, a chronic qualified health condition or need for in home or facility testing due to a student's medical condition. The contacted staff member then directs the parent to the HHB coordinator to start the process.

4. Who provides HHB instruction?

Instruction is provided by a Georgia certified teacher.

5. Is homebound instruction the same as homeschooling?

No. In homeschooling parents are responsible for their child's education. The local education agency (LEA) provides HHB services to enrolled students with medical or psychiatric conditions that may prevent them from attending school for a minimum of ten consecutive days per school year.

6. How much instructional time is provided for a student eligible for HHB services?

Although the Hospital/Homebound Review Team determines the number of hours necessary to meet the instructional needs of the student, the student must receive a minimum of three hours of HHB instruction per school week to be considered present by the school system.



Virtual Hospital/ Homebound Services

For students participating in online learning courses such as Georgia Connections Academy, the classroom teacher may facilitate the learning process, monitor assignments and provide tutoring assistance as defined in the ESP. Participation in an online course will meet the requirement of the minimum of three hours of HHB instruction per school week for the HHB student to be considered present by the school. Time required by each student will be determined in the ESP meeting. The recommendation is 3 hours per course per week to include: watching recordings, attending live lesson time with assigned teacher, completing lessons, review for tests, working on portfolios and check-ins with the assigned HHB coordinator.

7. When students enrolled in a public school are hospitalized in health care or psychiatric facilities that do not provide education services, is the LEA obligated to provide HHB instruction in the health care facility? Yes. Each LEA must provide academic instruction to students who are confined in a healthcare facility for periods that would prevent them from attending school based upon certification of need by the licensed physician or licensed psychiatrist who is treating the student for the condition for which the student is requesting HHB services.

8. What courses are available for students approved for HHB services? Core subjects (language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies are the focus of instructional delivery with students' receiving hospital/homebound services; however, elective courses may be considered by the HHB Committee

9. Who will provide the grades for HHB students?
The classroom teacher is responsible for assigning grades.

10. Is it permissible to use medical information/referral submitted by a nurse, dentist, chiropractor, social worker, licensed professional counselor, or psychologist to determine eligibility for HHB services?

No. Only the licensed physician (or Advanced Nurse Practitioner) or licensed psychiatrist treating the child for the presenting diagnosis can provide the certification of need (medical referral form) for students to receive HHB.

11. Can HHB services be denied if there is reason to believe the medical condition identified for the student to miss school is not legitimate? Only a person licensed to practice medicine under state law can determine if a student is unable to attend school because of illness. School personnel can discuss the situation with the doctor if the parent or guardian has signed the medical release. The school may also request a second medical opinion.

Virtual Hospital/ Homebound Services

15. Can GACA provide more than three hours of instruction?

The number of hours of instruction is determined by the Hospital/Homebound Review Team to meet the specific needs of the individual student as identified in the ESP.

16. Does the LEA have to provide HHB services during the summer? Services do not have to be provided during the summer.

17. Are LEAs required to make-up sessions?

Make-up sessions are provided at the discretion of the LEA.

18. It is difficult to get doctor's input into the medical referral plan, it will be impossible to get input into a reentry plan.

The input of the licensed physician or psychiatrist regarding the student's current physical or psychological condition is important and is part of the medical referral plan; if the attending physician or psychiatrist fails to provide such information, the school team can proceed to develop a reentry plan without the input.